THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954—55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 15th November, 1955.

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

Present:

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

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour the inform the House that the Minutes of the meeting of the 1st November, 1955, though already printed and circulated amongst hon. members are not yet ready for confirmation.

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. George a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half year ending 30th September, 1955.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: On behalf of the Hon. Premier, Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay— Message No. 30/1955 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly informing the House of Assembly of a grant of $25,000 from the Government of British Guiana to assist the Government of Barbados in its task of rehabilitation after the hurricane.

MESSAGE No. 30/1955

His Excellency The Governor
To
The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly, in continuation of his Message No. 28/1955, that the Government of British Guiana has made a grant of $25,000 to assist the Government of Barbados in its task of rehabilitation after the Hurricane.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.
14th November, 1955.

(M.P. 1726/S. 11)

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay— The twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Executive Council of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux for 1954-55.

REPLIES

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon Premier, I beg to lay— Reply to Question No. 29 asked by Mr. J. C. Tudor regarding admissions to the Preparatory Form at Combermere School.

Reply to Question No. 49 asked by Mr. J. E. T. Brancker regarding invigilation by Secondary School Teachers at G.C.E. examinations.

Reply to Question No. 51 asked by Mr. J. C. Tudor regarding invigilation by Secondary School Teachers at G.C.E. examinations.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay— Reply to Questions No. 57 asked by Mr. J. E. T. Brancker regarding loans to sugar workers in St. Lucy under the Labour Welfare (Housing Loans) Regulations 1950.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay— Reply to Question No. 63 asked by Mr. J. C. Tudor regarding the admission and death of the late Chesterfield Jones at the General Hospital.

NOTICES

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: (On behalf of the Hon. Premier), I beg to give notice of a— Reso-

lution to place the sum of $540 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955-56, Part I, Current, as shown in Supplementary Estimate 1955-56, No. 49 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House in Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with this Resolution.

Also, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1954, relating to the registration of local Government electors.

In connection with this Bill I beg to take the opportunity to say that there are some cyclostyled copies available to be passed on to hon. members.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to give notice of a— Bill to ratify the Agreement of 1st November, 1954, entered into between the Governments of certain Caribbean territories and the West Indies Navigation Company Limited.

3.25 p.m.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the Bill to amend the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1954 relating to the registration of local government electors, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Bill to ratify the Agreement of 1st November, 1954, entered into between the Governments of certain Caribbean territories and the West Indies Navigation Company Limited, was read read a first time.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE SWORN

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have made arrangements for the new Clerk of the House to be sworn in by a member of the Other Place.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, our Messenger has to be sworn in too.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not made any arrangements for that.

Mr. LEWIS: That can be done at the same time.

Preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, Hon. Dr. A. S. Cato entered the Chamber and at the request of His Honour the Speaker, hon. members stood in their places as the Clerk was being sworn in.

The Clerk having been sworn in, Hon. Dr. A. S. Cato left the Chamber preceded by the Marshal carrying the Mace.

Mr. SPEAKER: Be seated, Gentlemen.

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.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Workmen's Compensation

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, the first Resolution is a Resolution for the sum of $1,800 to be voted under this Head as compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943. The facts simply are these. On the 24th May a workman was killed by an accident while working in a well belonging to the Government on Government's property at Sweet Vale, St. George.. This man was employed by a private contractor who had entered into a contract with the Waterworks department to dig a well. Unfortunately, the contractor did not have this man covered by Workmen's Insurance as required under the Act. The matter was referred to the Crown Law Officers who are of the opinion that under Section 12 of the Act the Principal is also liable to pay compensation due as a result of an accident, and that the Principal should pay this compensation and then be indemnified by the contractor.

Under that Ruling by the Crown Law Officers, the Government has considered that it is liable to pay this sum and then recover it from the contractor. I will tell the House this: that since this case we have drawn it to the notice of all Heads of Departments who may enter into contracts of this sort that they must see to it that the workmen are covered by Workmen's Compensation Insurance in accordance with the law. We realise that the law is there to be carried out, and therefore all departments will in future ensure that the workmen are covered by insurance before they engage their private contractors. We hope that there will not be any recurrence of a case like this in the future, I now beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

3.35 p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the reasons given by the Hon. Minister for this Resolution coming before us are quite understandable; but one would have thought that the Workmen's Compensation Act which was passed since 1943 would have been amended long ago to make provision for these things: especially today when the Labour Commissioner is calling the attention of people in trades and industries to how far Fair Wages Clauses can apply. Yet it seems that no attention was paid to a matter like this and what amazes me is that we have the Quarry Act and other Acts, put into operation. The Minister has said something about a ruling from the Queen's Solicitor. I am a layman, but I know that it is not a ruling, it an opinion, because you get a ruling on a matter like that from the Court.

The Act says that if personal injury is caused to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, his employer shall be liable to pay compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Any of us who reads the Act knows that. What is strange conduct is that the Government of Barbados should take the responsibility. One must ask: how is the Workmen's Compensation Act being administered when that part of the Act sets out the matter clearly and Government itself is allowing contracts to be made and is not seeing that the provisions of the Workmen's Act are being carried out. Of course we all know that some private employers do employ people and they do not comply with the Act; and it is for that reason that one would have expected the Government to be more careful about this matter and hurry up with this same question.

Mr. Chairman, consider the amount being paid to this man's legal representatives now? Do you realise that the equivalent of this in wages would be less than $5 a week for three years? People who have some interest in this matter have been pressing that the Workmen's Compensation Act should be amended because a maximum of $1,800 cannot relate to things as they are today. You will be surprised to know that it was in September 1954 that Professor Richardson

in his Report on Social Security made a specific recommendation on Workmen's Compensation and the Government has not yet said what it is going to do on this aspect of the matter. On one occasion, a chance remark was made to the effect that the Labour Commissioner was going into the question. The Labour Commissioner cannot go into this question alone. There are Workers' Organisations and Employers Associations in this Island, and this is a matter which effects employers and workers, so that to effectively make any amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act, you must get the views of such people. That is another intimation that sufficient seriousness is not attached to improving certain legislation in this island.

I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, on the floor of this House that all the workers in this Island are dissatisfied with the Workmen's Compensation Act, and if the machinery of this House was not what it is, it would be easy for someone to bring in an amendment to the Act. Surely, one would have expected that with a Report like Professor Richardson's on this matter of Workmen's Compensation something would have been done already. All we have been told by the Minister is that Mr. Matthews of I.L.O. made certain recommendations and that they are waiting to hear his recommendations. I am not interested in that part at all. I ask again, which member of this House would regard $1,800 as sufficient money to support a family under present day conditions? How long would $1,800 last a man who has a family to support in these days? That amount would be alright for a man who dies at the age of seventy-five to give to his family; but to a man of eighteen or twenty-five years, that is nothing.

I say again that there is no point in the Government delaying this type of legislation. There can be no justifiable excuse for keeping this here all this time before coming to this Chamber and that is why I say that this is an instance in point to show Government is not paying sufficient attention to this matter and the workers are losing money as a result. They are people who think that you should have a fund for this purpose. You are losing money all the time by compelling employers to insure these workers. Large sums of money are going out of the colony because of this and that is happening because people who should know about matters of this sort do not know anything about them, and are not paying sufficient attention to them; and all the time the workers are losing as a result.

I have the Report of Professor Richardson as an Item standing under my name to be dealt with in this House; it is very difficult to get the opportunity to debate it in these days. I would like the Hon. Minister to tell me who is responsible for these contracts and why the person who is drawing up these contracts did not think in a Labour contract such as this, a clause should be made to safeguard Government. There should be people in the Government Department when these contracts that involve the engagement of labour are being drawn up who should know that there is a compulsory act on the Statute Book dealing with Workmen's Compensation Insurance. It seems to me as if contracts are made in a haphazard manner, the Fair Wages Clauses are left out and no provision made for the requisite wages or other matters properly pertaining to such a contract.

Government has been too tardy in this matter. If the Government is of the opinion that the Workmen's Compensation Act is too harsh on small people, amend the Act. I do not consider it as too harsh and the suggestion made by Professor Richardson would help the community as a whole. They are many of us who are in favour of the suggestion made by Professor Richardson. What justification there can be that Government should take so long to set up a Committee to go into the Workmen's Compensation Act with a view to having it amended to suit present day needs. If a workman of today who works for $25 a week gets injured arising out of and in the course of his employment, he can only get $12 a week as compensation. During all the time of his confinement he may have to attend a doctor or doctors, but the doctors do not charge him a lower fee. These things create a hardship on the workman, and every time this House press for something to be done we find that it takes nearly two years for Government to go into these matters. You are going to find that 1956 will begin before Government begins to do anything about this immediate aspect of labour legislation. This is one of the things about which people have been complaining for a long time. The law should have been amended long ago. Government claims to be waiting on the Labour Commissioner to say what other amendments are necessary, but there are people who have something to do with this matter. You have not appointed the Labour Commissioner as Liaison Officer to see after migrant labour; surely there should be some one else to deal with this matter.

I can tell the Hon. Minister of Labour that the Workers' Organisation is not sitting back and waiting until the Government decides to do this thing, although this is something which the Government should do. If the Government cannot do it, certainly there are other honourable members who can do it. You constantly hear the Government saying "this thing is under active consideration." I do not want that cliche to be used again. It is the sort of official phrase which is now being used on one hundred things.

I do hope that before the Hon. Minister brings down any minor matter dealing with Workmen's Compensation that he will tell the House what steps are being made to set up a Committee to deal with this matter. The Labour Commissioner cannot handle this matter alone; nor is it a matter for the Insurance Companies or the employers or the Workers' Organisation alone. You should set up a Committee representative of all these interests to go into this aspect of the matter. It is my opinion that if the Government adopts Professor Richardson's recommendation on it, it will not have to go to insurance companies to have these people insured; Government itself could undertake the insurance. Millions of dollars will be needed to build up social security as recommended by Professor Richardson. Government does not take the lead from people when they give it. It is time that better compensation be paid to injured workmen. This amount of money does not mean much to a man who has three or four children; this is only a perpetuation of a low standard of living and you are asking people to live under dilapidated conditions. I hope that this will be the last occasion that we will have to deal with Workmen's Compensation before we get a statement from the Minister to the effect that the Government intends to carry out the recommendations of Professor Richardson.

Mr. LEWIS: I think the Hon. Minister will remember that from the time this matter of Workmen's Compensation came into being, I have been asking that the Government undertake its own insurance. I have been asking that the Government undertake its own insurance. I have put forward the suggestion that somebody should come out here to teach us about this matter of insurance. You have a Control Board which wants abolishing and good use could be made

of a Clerk from that office after you have trained him in insurance matters. But nothing has been done about it.

The next thing is this. I do not know what the honourable member means about the Ministerial System affecting a private member bringing in an amending Bill. I do not think that a private member can bring in an amending Bill which would have the effect of taking money out of the Treasury. It is therefore the work of the Government as such and the Minister concerned should really get down to business and deal with this matter: especially as the Government has asked somebody to assist it with a Social Security Scheme and they have got his Report.

Another matter which I would like to bring forward under this Head is that every Tuesday we hear Money Resolutions being introduced in this House, and the work of this Chamber is being held up. At one time, Resolutions used to be brought in quarterly. We have had a hurricane, it is true, and we have had to deal with that; but it is a waste of time to bring in these Resolutions which could easily be brought in at the end of a quarter. You have an Omnibus Resolution; then you have other Resolutions under various Heads, all of which could be dealt with under one Head. Is this to advertise the Ministers? Let them use the system which they used in the Estimates; let the Premier introduce the Budget and let the particular Minister deal with the particular matters affecting him when he seconds the motion. There is too much politics in these things. One particular Minister must show that he is paying compensation; another Minister must show that he is lending the fishermen money; and yet another must show that he is buying a piece of land. All that can be introduced by one Minister and the particular Minister whom it concerns can second the motion and deal with it. Here we are spending time with separate Resolutions Tuesday after Tuesday when many things can be lumped together, and there are many other things which can be kept back. As a matter of fact, it might speed up the voting of money if we knew that at the end of the next quarter we might catch the points in your Resolutions because the Resolutions would be brought in quarterly and the House will have a definite understanding concerning them. But this procedure is only keeping back the work of the House; every single Minister is bringing in a Resolution so as to advertise himself. Has the particular Minister taken over finance just for the matter of fishing? This is merely a matter of finance and he should deal with it when he seconds the motion for the passing of the Resolution.

3 55 p.m.

Mr. GODDARD : Mr. Chairman, I do not think the Hon. Minister has explained all there is to be explained about this matter. He has not told us what steps the Labour Department has taken to bring this employer who should have insured this person to board for this matter. Is the Government accepting responsibility of paying out what this employer should have paid out? They should have told us that, or whether they will try to collect this money afterwards.

Sir, this is a breach of the law and Government has accepted this burden today. I wonder if somebody else finds himself in a position similar to that of the employer in this instance, if this act by Government will serve as a precedent; that is, Government will take responsibility for the bill. I am wondering if Government will do it in the future. Surely the House is entitled to know what steps have been taken so far to recover from this employer this money; and not only that, but also what steps have been taken to have him prosecuted for not having Workmen's Compensation taken out. One would have expected to hear that from the Minister today, or that he was making what they propose to do here to serve as a precedent. Let me ask again, if this same thing happens again tomorrow, will Government come down subsequently with a Resolution similar to this? Is Government going to ask the employer to repay this money in instalments? I would like the Hon. Minister to answer those questions.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I would like to allow the last honourable member's mind to rest comforted by informing him that instructions have been given to the Labour Commissioner to prosecute this employer; so the honourable member can rest assured of Departments entering in contracts on behalf of the Government, and the persons who would bear liability as employers under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943, should ensure that such persons have complied with the provisions of the Act; in particular that the policy of insurance required by Section 29 should be inspected before any contract is entered into. I therefore hope that the honourable member will realise that the Government is not lax in seeing that the provisions of the law are strictly complied with.

The honourable junior member for St. Peter seems to be a bit hot over what he calls Government's delay in this legislation. One can quite understand that in the recent rival flare-up he should be hot; but on this occasion, the honourable member should realise that he is unjustified in saying that we do not attach any seriousness to this legislation. Of course we attach seriousness to this legislation; and because of that we brought down a representative of I.L.O. to go into this matter and all these clauses. Mark you, I am not saying that we are waiting on his advice; I am saying we attach much seriousness to labour legislation and that is why we brought Mr. Matthews down here. Just before Mr. Matthews came down here, the Labour Commissioner was going into all this legislation and there is no doubt about it, that when you start clearing up anomalies you would find that there are many more anomalies to to the House with anything. I should say that in this case it would not be wise for me to come down to this House with a Bill to amend this Act and the next week to come down with another Bill to amend it so as to make some other provision and the following week to come down with another Bill to make provision for some other matter.

I want to assure the honourable member that we are not waiting on any Labour Commissioner. I told the hon. member on the last occasion that the Labour Commissioner had made certain suggestions not only as regards this Act, but other Acts, and that Mr. Matthews had also brought in his suggestions. We do not want to come down with a bit of legislation to-day and a bit to-morrow when all that legislation relate to the same thing. I do intend to take up this matter of the amount of this compensation. We have not yet had Mr. Matthews Report on it, but I do not intend to wait on that Report. However, to accuse us of not regarding these matters with the seriousness which they deserve is certainly not in accordance with the facts.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think you should take seriously the matter raised by the honourable junior member for the City. We are all poor advertisers of ourselves. Who would handle a Resolution simply for advertisement?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not want to prolong this debate, Mr. Chairman, but I do not want the Hon. Minister to give this House the impression that on the last occasion when he made remarks on

this matter it was a remark *en passant* and he only said it to suit the then existing situation. At that time the impression given by the Hon. Minister was that the reason why nothing was proceeded with was because the Labour Commissioner was going into this Act, and he also repeated the position as regards Mr. Matthews. The honourable member should know better than I that Mr. Matthews is an expert: but he cannot be an expert on Workmen's Compensation Mr. Matthews was brought down here to codify the Labour Laws of Barbados so that you could look into one book for them. But Professor Richardson is an expert on Industrial Relations, and at one time he was employed by I.L.O. He has made a recommendation to the Government about this matter and that must precede anything that Mr. Matthews has done.

I contend that even though there is some reason in what the Hon. Minister of Labour has just said about bringing in piecemeal legislation, it is important at some time that we make piecemeal legislation to satisfy your immediate needs. I am saying that the workers are not satisfied to-day with drawing half pay when they are injured. Let me say that they are worse off by the Workmen's Compensation Act than if they had influenza.

4.05 p.m.

Therefore the workers are suffering by this Act and if it is a question of dealing with the matter in a piecemeal manner, than deal with it in that manner. If people buy motor cars, you can tell them to pay for licences: otherwise they cannot put them on the road. I say that you must listen to people who can put you in a position as a result of which you can have money to increase your social security.

The Hon. Minister should be the last person to make any reference to what has happened recently and speaking about getting hot under the collar, he should not use that phrase to me. This is a serious matter. I am not mixing up anything at all; I am simply stating a fact that the workers are dissatisfied with the compensation as it stands.

These are matters with which you have to deal in the interest of the public; there is no point in postponing a matter and then tell people that when you were about to deal with it the session of the Assembly came to an end. You had a year to deal with this matter and nothing has been done about it. I am not putting any person in the dark by pretending that I am pleased about this matter; each day that a workman gets injured, I am facing the position more than many other honourable members in this Chamber. Thousands of pounds are leaving this island and people are not being properly compensated. Let the Government deal with the amendment in a piecemeal fashion if they cannot deal with it comprehensively. While the grass is growing the horse is starving.

Mr. LEWIS: I want to ask the Hon. Minister this: does he really believe that we can compliment him for taking an interest in presenting measures to this House when he waits until he is asked something before he says that instructions are being issued to that effect? I am asking the honourable member that question and he does not have to reply; he can sit in his office and think whether it is right that an ordinary member has to ask for information which the Minister has in his file. Is that taking one's work seriously? If he were an ordinary member of the House he would not be satisfied with that; he is hearing his own voice now. This is not $1,000 which is coming out of his own pocket; this money is coming out of the taxpayers of this colony. The Ministers do not seem to realise that they are not conducting anything which is secret. They must come here and treat the people's business as public business. You say that such and such a thing has happened; some member asks: have you taken any steps? Are you carying out the law? and then the Minister gives that information. Is that file his private file, and nothing in it concerns the House of Assembly? That is a wrong attitude; I am deploring it in the hope that it will be remedied.

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

Post of Marine Mechanic

Hon. C. E. TALMA: The next Resolution, Mr Chairman, is a Resolution for the sum of $5,665 for the establishment of the Post of Marine Mechanic. As honourable members will recall, the question of converting the present fishing fleet from sail boats to power boats is proceeding apace. At present, there are 47 powered boats operating and honourable members will recall that the Resolution last week was for the purpose of supplementing the Revolving Fund. This Resolution is to provide the services of a Marine Mechanic whose duties will be (a) to inspect the engines in powered boats on which loans have been extended, (b) to recommend the proper servicing of engines to owners (c) to carry out such adjustments and servicing as will be required from time to time at a reasonable price, such fees will be paid into the Treasury; (d) to keep the Fishery Officer posted with the conditions of engines (e) to check insulations of engines in boats in respect of which loans have been made by the Government and (f) to recheck insulations of engines between 10 and 20 days after the launching of the boat. In addition to the above duties, the Marine Mechanic will be expected to hold regular classes for the fishermen at convenient times during the year.

4.15 p.m.

The salary of this Officer is set out in the Addendum to the Resolution. As far as equipment for this Office is concerned it will be necessary to have a Land Rover so as to enable him to go from one beach to another. The Addendum reads as follows:—

It is estimated that the following amount would be required to meet the salary of the officer and the cost of equipment for the first year:—

Salary		
Marine Mechanic ($1,920 x 120—2,520)	$2,520.00	
Cost of living allowance (maximum salary is used in case it proves necessary to offer salary above minimum scale)	156.00	$2,676.00
Equipment		
Land Rover long wheel base	$3,350.00	
Power take-off	250.00	
Canopy for Land Rover ..	200.00	
Insurance (fleet rate) (per annum)	54.24	
Driver's wages (mechanic to drive)	—	
Repairs and tyres first year	120.00	
Petrol at 12,000 miles per annum	431.49	
Oil	53.98	
Tool Kit	360.00	$4,819.71
Total		$7,495.81
Allowing for unforseen expenses		$7,600.00

The cost of certain items of the equipment e.g. the Land Rover, power take-off, canopy for Land Rover and tool kit, would not, of course, be a recurrent expenditure.

The amount required for the remainder of the current financial year, i.e. November, 1955, to March, 1956 would be $1,115 in respect of salary and cost of living allowance and $4,550 in respect of equipment and contingencies.

I think honourable members can follow that very well. I think we all should agree that the creating of the post of marine mechanic is in the interest of the fishermen, of the Government and of the public concerned. I feel that we all agree that the creation of this post is absolutely essential.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Chairman, I do not know why this Resolution did not come at the same time as the one for $80,000. The Resolution for $80,000 was for something which had just happened, but this is for something which was proposed to the Government from the time that it was proposed to loan fishermen money for powered boats: because the Minister said at that time that if loans were made, Government would have to assist them with someone to keep the engines in proper repair and that it would be in Government's own interest to do so. What I would like to know is, whether this is for permanent employment. Have we got a marine mechanic available in this Island, or is this just an ordinary mechanic who knows how to repair these engines and you are giving him this title of "Marine Mechanic"? The next thing is that I have heard the Government with some proposition about having a Government workshop. What has happened to that proposition? Is not this something which can be attached to a Government workshop, Are you now going to set up a little shed somewhere for this mechanic? Cannot this be put into a general workshop scheme? This is something which can be attached to a Government workshop. You now have buses to be repaired along with the other things you had before. Are you abandoning your proposition of having a Government workshop to repair all these things? I am sure that the suggestion was made in more than a tangible form. Has not the Hon. Minister of Agriculture heard of it? I think that this is the time when you should step up on implementing that. Government now has buses to run and Government will have to repair them. But at the same time Government is proposing to set up a workshop for somebody to come and repair engines in boats and to run all over the island. Is this going to be a separate and distinct thing? You have come for all these tools for him. Are you going to duplicate and quadruplicate the tools? Suppose, for instance, the Minister of Communications has it in mind to have a workshop for the repair of the buses; do you mean to say that the Minister of Fisheries does not know anything about it? Is this the way how you are going to do it? Are you going to have a workshop for the Waterworks Department, another for the Transport Department, another for the Highways Department and another for the Fisheries Department? Is that what you are going to do? Has nobody in the Government Water Boats got any marine machinery experience? I am not a mechanic, but is it so different that this marine mechanic will be of no use to you but for this purpose? If in time to come you must have three of them, are you going to have a Department for the three of them alone? I would like to know something of what has happened of the proposal to have a Government workshop. Has Government abandoned the idea?

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, this question of fishing has for a great number of years excited a lot of my interest and attention. I am concerned with the most rapid mechanisation of the fishing fleets from several points of view. It should be easy to check up on the total imports of cod fish and tinned meat in this country every year. I am sure the amounts would total a very tidy sum; therefore, everything we can do to make ourselves more self-sufficient in fish is to be greatly encouraged. Apart from cutting down on imports and causing the island to become more self-sufficient, I envisaged a time when we would be able to do a fairly good export trade in fish, even if it be only in flying fish. We are now approaching the flying fish season and I was hoping that there would have been more powered boats available so that catches of flying fish would have reached the point where there would have been a greater surplus for local consumption as well as for export. There are so many easy ways in which flying fish can be preserved. There are many simple ways for preserving flying fish apart from canning. You can put them in brine or in tomato sauce.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if we can continue in this manner. The light is very poor in this Chamber, and there must be some regard for our officers. I do not think we are justified in proceeding in this manner. We should conduct our business in a proper manner. It is no use our talking when there can be no report of the proceedings either official or unofficial. Until we repair our lights, I beg to move that you report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

The question was put and agreed to.

The Chairman reported progress and the Speaker resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

4.25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what we should do at this stage, whether we should adjourn for a short time or what. In case we cannot meet again this afternoon, it will be necessary for us to meet on Thursday. The reason for that is this: one of these Orders which deals with the Hospital Staff will have to be completed by the Legislature by next Tuesday. In case we cannot come back here tonight because of the lighting situation, I hope honourable members will bear in mind that if they are asked to come back on Thursday they will do so. I have just been reminded that next Thursday is another day for the Races [Mr. BRANCKER: That does not matter the business of the House comes first.] All right; I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for half an hour.

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

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

4.30 p.m.

On re-assembling.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY C'TD

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, in view of the conditions of the light I am wondering whether we should adjourn for the rest of the evening. There are some members who are in favour of

adjourning for an hour or so to see if the light will come one. However, sir, it seems to be the wish of the majority that we should continue now.

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

Marine Mechanic—*Cont'd*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On the adjournment the honourable senior member for St. Philip was speaking.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I was trying to emphasise the importance of the Fishing Industry and the importance of improving the supplies of fish in the island. In this connection, any attempt on the part of the Government to mechanise the fishing fleet is, of course, a step in the right direction As I have said before, and as I want to say again, arising not only out of my own opinion on the matter, but out of reports made to me by the people concerned —the fishermen themselves—many of them who are anxious to power their boats are deterred from doing so by the high cost of the engines which are now in use.

In this connection I have been told quite recently that it would be easy to acquire similar engines at far cheaper rates from America than from England Therefore I am suggesting to the Minister that he endeavour to get an allocation of American dollars for the express purpose of ordering these engines from America.

Mr. LEWIS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I am afraid that the honourable member is now making a speech that would have been more appropriate on the Resolution that we passed last Tuesday. That was a Resolution for the purchase of engines for fishing boats. The Resolution that we are discussing now is to provide funds to appoint someone to repair the kind of engines that we get.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The honourable member gets all of his knowledge at one time, and therefore he can release it at a given moment. Poor, unfortunate me, I only get my knowledge as I go on. What I am saying to-day, I heard subsequent to the passing of the Resolution last week. I cannot think that it would be inappropriate to refer at this stage to the possibility of getting cheaper engines for fishermen, engines which this mechanic will service. This is a Money Resolution for acquiring the services of a mechanic to repair and maintain powered boats for fishermen; and I am saying that the engines which this mechanic will be called upon to service are too expensive for the general run of fishermen.

I am also suggesting that instead of one mechanic we will need two or three of them when more fishermen have powered boats; and I am saying that we can get more powered boats by having cheaper engines. The American engines are far cheaper than the English ones, and are perhaps far better. There should be an allocation of U.S. dollars so that we could try the experiment of getting similar engines from America.

According to the Resolution, sir. there are now 47 powered boats in the island as compared with 18 last year. Let us assume that by the end of the year we will even have 80 of these boats powered. I am contending that if we find some method of reducing the over-all cost of mechanising a boat, we can treble the number of boats that will be powered in a given period. After all, sir, it is not every fisherman who can afford $1,400 for an engine even on easy credit terms, just as some can only afford a small boat in comparison with others. There are some fishermen who can only afford a boat a little bigger than a bateau; therefore it is a vain hope to anticipate the complete mechanisation of the fishing fleet as long as we stick to these $1,400 engines.

I want also to remind the Minister that there are other important factors involved in expanding the Fishing Industry which are of great importance. Going out and catching fish is one thing; bringing them ashore and handling them after they are brought ashore is another. After providing these powered boats and the mechanic, and as a result our catches of fish increase, the Ministry must take steps to see that everything is done to facilitate the handling of these catches, I am speaking now with special reference to the difficulties experienced by fishing boats, powered or otherwise, in being hauled up at certain beaches in this island.

5.10 p.m.

Bathsheba, for instance, was a well known example before they got a tractor down there to haul up fishing boats. I well remember it took about three years to get equipment installed at Bathsheba after the Government had promised to have it done. Well, that was due to the war. There are other beaches, like Skeete's Bay and Foul Bay in St. Philip, at which fishermen find it very difficult to bring ashore their catches of fish. Therefore, I make the suggestion to the Minister that simultaneously with this attempt to mechanise these boats and allow them to go farther, he must improve the shore conditions. Some sort of equipment is necessary in places like Skeete's Bay and Foul Bay and other beaches in the island. The Minister himself may be aware of beaches in his own constituency at which fishermen find it difficult to get these powered boats ashore. They are large boats and the engines make them heavier; and it is not as easy to beach them as it would be in the case of an ordinary boat without an engine.

In addition to the question of equipment for hauling up fishing boats, it is necessary that there should be a comfortable highway on which fishermen and hucksters can travel to get their catches to the main highway. I am mentioning Skeete's Bay again as an instance. The Minister knows that if a powered boat lands at Skeete's Bay with a full catch of fish, fishermen still have trouble owing to the ardous climb over difficult terrain to get their catches from the beach to the main highway; therefore, he has to concentrate on machinery for the boats, equipment for hauling them up and improvement of the byways and tracks leading from the beaches to the main highways.

There was a time, for instance, Mr. Chairman, when fishermen were discouraged from bringing in large catches of fish because it was difficult at certain places to dispose of over and above a certain quantity on the beach and the difficulty of getting the remainder on the main highway; so the Minister, who appears to have more than a passing interest in this improved industry, will find that he has his hands very full if he really intends to ensure that large supplies of fish are not only caught but that they will find their way in the market all over the island.

Mr. Chairman, there is only one more point which I want to make on this matter. I think the Government will have also to consider the improvement of certain channels among the coastal regions of the island through which fishermen have to pass to go out fishing or to return to shore. I am not a deep sea fisherman—although I like fishing—so I can only speak as a result of the representations that have been

made to me by fishermen in my constituency; and it is likely that fishermen from other constituencies will also make such representations to their representatives. In my own constituency, some years ago, the Government had to blast a channel off the Crane Coast in order to permit of a more ready ingress and egress on the part of fishermen. Subsequent to that, the coral reefs have been growing again, blocking the channel to the point that exit is again menaced and I am asking the Hon. Minister to take the necessary steps to have that channel cleared. There is also renewed growth in the channel off Skeete's Bay and as you are aware, Mr. Chairman, the entire island is surrounded by coral reefs, and fishermen can go out only by passing through certain small channels. Unless, Sir, these channels are cleared, it is very dangerous for fishermen to go out, because they are liable to get their boats overturned, and that would mean loss of life. It is said that the current is strongest in these reefs. The Fishery Officer should be asked to see about clearing these channels at Merricks and Skeete's Bay and other channels along the island's coast line which want clearing — whether they be in St. Lucy, St. James or Christ Church — in order to make things as easy as possible for the men who endeavour to provide us with our daily requirements of fish. There are so many grave hazards attached to the calling of fishermen, that those of us who occupy positions which we do should do everything we can to render the pursuit of their calling as easy and as little dangerous as possible. I do not think that even the Government itself has yet quite a full appreciation of what it would mean to have considerable expansion in the fishing wealth of this island. There is no more valuable article of diet than fresh fish. We can never have enough. All the experts who came here, — Dr. Browne and others — have said that the fish around the island are there to be caught: and since we are fortunate to have them, let us try to get them as easily as we can. There is no island in the West Indies which is as fortunate as we are in having these large supplies of flying fish, (I will mention no other) which are waiting to be caught: and there is the other type of fish like snappers which appear to frequent the waters off our coast line more readily than they do those of our neighbours.

5.20 p.m.

I want the Minister to concern himself very seriously with the question of the expansion of the fishing industry; there can be no exaggeration of its importance to the country. Before the Debate is finished, I may give the House some idea of the enormous sums of money spent on cod fish, tinned meat and what not, in this island. You would not imagine that this is an island where the waters around it abound with fish when we import so many tins of sardines and salmon with almost nothing in them; they are sold at 28 cents a tin and people are forced to buy them because there is nothing else to have. There are enormous quantities of small fish in the waters around this island which may be caught and canned. The frays and jacks are very delicious and more nutritious than sardines and they are just there waiting for a proper organised fishing industry to cure them and make them available throughout the year in some acceptable form to the people of Barbados. Therefore I am telling the Hon. Minister that he should pay the utmost attention to every suggestion which he gets, that would tend to expand the industry no matter where the suggestion comes from. If there is any advantage in any suggestion it is his business to act upon it.

Mr. GODDARD: There is one question which I would like to ask the Hon. Minister; it might seem to be a simple question but I think it should be asked at this moment. In the Addendum to this Resolution it appears that when this Officer is appointed there will be priority with regard to the Government's investments being protected. I hope it does not mean that this Marine Mechanic will only be directed to give assistance to those fishermen who are obligated to the Government by way of loans. In other words, this mechanic should be called upon to repair or give assistance to any fisherman regardless of whether he owes the Government money or not provided that he is a fisherman registered with the Fishery Officer. In other words, if a man has not been granted a loan from the Government he can still call for the assistance of this mechanic. When he pays off his loan he is not obligated to the Government; he owns his boat and engine outright. I am raising this question now because I do not want it to be said at some future time that we are not obligated to any fisherman who has not got any loan from the Government. When we are appointing this man that should be one of his terms of reference.

Mr. HAYNES: That is the same thing, Sir, in this Resolution which is worrying me; I do not like the idea of this mechanic being attached only to the Fishery Office. My idea is this; and it has worried the honourable junior member for the City too, what is there to prevent this man from going to Oistins and repairing an engine up there? If he does not feel like doing it he can tell the Fishery Officer "it cannot be fixed within so many days." The Fishery Officer is not an engineer and therefore what is the position? I entirely endorse the idea of the honourable junior member for the City that a man of this type should be attached to an engineering department or workshop with a head over him whom he cannot fool. This man should have over him somebody who could go to Oistins and see about that boat and if he says that the boat can be fixed within a few days, then this mechanic will get what is coming to him. I see that there is going to be trouble in this matter and I am therefore counselling the Hon. Minister in charge of this portfolio to see if he cannot in some way dovetail this mechanic into working in an engineering department; and later on perhaps the idea of the honourable junior member for the City of a Government Workshop might materialise. I see a lot of danger in having this man working as a free lance.

We are not all mechanics; a motor boat is like a car in some respects and we have to abide by what the mechanics tell us. Unless this man, I repeat, is under the control of some mechanical engineer, I see a lot of trouble in this matter. I am counselling the Hon. Minister to see if he cannot make some other arrangement so as to have this thing operated in one business. It does not pay to have a business like this run in that way; the same thing can be done in a different way. Let everything work together and the Government can be informed of what the position is. I will not be at all surprised if the Minister finds that the same picture which I am painting now comes true.

5.30 p.m.

Mr. BRYAN: Mr. Chairman, I feel that the Government should be commended for the idea aback of this Resolution — that of providing a mechanic for repairing and maintaining these powered boats, and particularly so for advising and instructing the owners of the boats. For some time now, Sir, people have been concerned with the risk run by fishermen who set out to sea devoid of all knowledge of these

powered boats. I feel, Sir, that this Resolution represents a worthy effort.

We must bear in mind that any improvement in the Fishing Industry by way of increasing the supplies of fish does not only affect the economy of the island, but also the general health of the community. We are now at the beginning of what is known in fishing circles as the "driving season", and already we have had an accident that has resulted in loss of life. In that connection I want to ask the Minister what progress, if any, has been made in implementing a scheme contained in an Address which I introduced here some time ago, and which was passed by the House. The scheme to which I refer is the supplying of rafts or life belts or life jackets for the use of fishermen in case of accidents at sea.

The rate of the loss of life as a result of these accidents is increasing every fishing season, and I think it is high time that something be done to implement that scheme.

Mr. CRAWFORD : I forgot to mention, Sir, but the Minister has referred on more than one occasion to the extent to which expenditure on these powered boats has already risen. The Resolution says that the sum of $40,000 was provided in the Estimates for this special purpose, and that that is shortly to be supplemented by a further $80,000. The bone of my contention has been that if we are to embark (as we rightly should) on a more rapid mechanisation of the fishing fleet we would of course have to spend a lot of money. I merely rise now to impress on the Committee that if we do this the money will not be disadvantageously invested.

According to the Report on Trade and Agriculture for the quarter April to June this year — which I think is the last report available—we have imported fairly appreciable quantities of meat and fish. Only from April to June our imports of salted, dried or smoked fish were valued at more than $106,000, while those of fish in air tight containers were worth more than $94,000. The total imports of canned, smoked, dried and salted fish in three months amounted to $251,324 — over a quarter of a million dollars in three months.

I do not think that I would be wasting the time of the Committee if I referred to the imports of meat during the same period; because I have no doubt that the expansion of the Fishing Industry will lead to a reduction in the amount of meat consumed in the island. The imports of meat for the same period were as follows : fresh, chilled or frozen meat $132,000; dried, salted, smoked or cooked meat, $409,678; canned meat and meat preparations in cans $266,321; total imports of meat amounting to $808,005; so that for three months alone we have spent $1,060,000 on the imports of fish and meat; and the greater proportion of that expenditure was for canned or salted meat.

No one will contend that either canned or salted meat, or fish in containers, or salted fish could have the same nutritional value as our own fresh fish caught in our own waters, to say nothing of what it means to keep in the country the appreciable sum which is now spent in the importation of these commodities. If we can afford to spend roughly four million dollars a year on imported fish and meat, we can afford to spend appreciably more on expanding the Fishing Industry than these Resolutions call for, or more, at least, than the Government appears willing to spend in the foreseeable future.

5.40 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY : Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is welcome in as much as it makes an attempt to do something for the fishing industry. I think we all agree that the pace at which we are going on with mechanisation of the fishing fleet of Barbados, in another few years our entire fleet would be mechanised. As a result I think it is wise that we should make an early start in providing someone with the necessary ability and "know-how" to instruct and give the necessary help to those persons who have invested in some cases all their savings in their boats.

However, I must offer a couple of suggestions to the Hon. Minister and I hope he will bear them in mind. Let me say that when this Chamber votes for this Resolution, it votes for it with the definite understanding that we are assisting the Government in starting to do something to assist the fishing industry. According to the Resolution it seems to be somewhat twofold, that is, it has as its objects (1) the assisting of fishermen, and fishing boat owners in the maintenance of their engines; and (2) the safeguarding of Government investments. I wonder which is first; I do hope the Minister will tell us that.

I want to make this point very clear. I hope that in making this appointment Government will not be putting a square peg in a round hole. So often do we have people unqualified who are selected for one reason or another for posts which are newly created. To my mind, that is taking advantage of the people of this colony, therefore, Sir, when I vote for this Resolution, I vote for it with the definite understanding that we will employ someone who would not be a square peg in a round hole.

I do hope that you are not employing someone to learn something about fishing boat engines; in other words, you are not employing a novice. Remember, if it is drawn to our notice, (and it is going to be drawn to our notice if it is so) it will be aired on the floor of this House. There are quite a number of fishing boats which have been mechanised with some type of engine. First of all, let me say that the money which is voted here to pay this mechanic is not enough to get a mechanic with a sound knowledge of Diesel engines. You are going to start this marine mechanic at a salary of $180 per month, and I personally believe that to be a low salary. You must bear in mind that you are dealing with a number of people who have absolutely no knowledge of these engines. It may sound as a big salary to those persons at the top when you say you are paying this marine mechanic $180 a month because they know a certain type of person will be selected for this job. Let me say that to offer $180 a month to a man to take charge of a mechanical department and to do the practical work you are paying him a small salary. I might be singing a solo, but it strikes me that a good man who must put his hands in grease and must be trained in these special type of motors should get something like £50 a month as a salary as a start. You are paying the Fishery Officer a salary of $320 a month, and you are paying a mechanic upon whom the fishermen and the fishing boat owners really depend to teach them something, and to be able to repair their boats, a salary of $180 a month. I think your marine mechanic should be paid a higher salary.

Now, I hope the Hon. Minister will be able to enlighten this House as to what is the Government's attitude in this matter. The Addendum is mainly concerned with this officer inspecting engines in respect of which loans are made. That is how it appears to me according to the wording of the Addendum and I am going to ask the Hon. Minister to explain that part more fully to me. If the mechanic is going to be mainly interested in inspecting boats, let me say at once that I am going to vote against this Resolution. The Addendum reads as follows:—

The officer would mainly be concerned with inspecting engines in those powered boats in respect of which loans have been made, advising the owners of these boats on the repair and maintenance of their

engines, and himself carrying out such repairs and servicing as may be required from time to time, at reasonable fees, such fees to be paid into the Treasury. In addition to these duties, it is proposed to make arrangements, if possible, for the officer to hold regular classes for the fishermen in engine maintenance at convenient times during the year.

If he is merely concerned with inspecting these boats, that is stupidness. Let the Fishery Officer carry out the inspection; let the mechanic carry out such repairs as may be required from time to time.

When it comes to the mechanic holding classes for fishermen in engine maintenance, that is something new. The majority of these engines which are put in powered boats are Diesel engines, and, having to work outside in the ocean, they must require someone with the experience of handling such motors.

The Addendum also says that for services he may charge a reasonable fee but such fee is to be paid into the Treasury. What I am thinking of is that a fisherman fishes all round the island at certain points, and I am wondering if the way you set about to do it is the right approach. Would it not be better if Government come here for money to buy a lorry of some sort so that when the boats are hauled up for engine repairs, the engines can be taken from the shore upon which they are hauled up for repairs and taken to a central mechanical shop which should be controlled by this mechanic? That is why I say he should be paid a proper salary. You cannot get a well-trained experienced man in handling Diesel motors at a salary of $180 a month. Go around any mechanical workshop in the island and you will find that you cannot get an experienced motor mechanic at a salary of $180 per month. I cannot understand the attitude of Government of letting somebody send this Resolution down here as it is.

I think the reason why this salary of $180 per month is put in is because they have somebody from Barbados to do the job. I am sure that if it were somebody from England even if that body only used to wipe the grease off engines, they would have put in a salary of £1,500 per annum.

If you only had somebody who had seen a sign in a garage ——.

5.50 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of Order. If the honourable member will only take the trouble to calculate $1,115 for five months he will see that the Marine Mechanic will be paid the maximum of the scale which will be $210 plus $65 for cost of living allowance at the rate of $13 per month.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The Addendum says that the salary will be ($1,920 x 120 — 2,520). How much money is that?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am asking the honourable member to read the last paragraph of the Addendum to the Resolution it says this:—

"The amount required for the remainder of the current financial year, i.e. November, 1955, to March, 1956 would be $1,115 in respect of salary and cost of living allowance and $4,550 in respect of equipment and contingencies."

The amount of $65 taken from $1,115 will leave a salary of $210 a month for five months.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I thank the honourable member for teaching me that little bit of elementary arithmetic; but of course I am still criticising this salary of $210 a month. You are paying a Fishery Officer, and now you are going down to the core of the fishing industry and assisting people and mechanising the fishing industry of the country — you are taking a wise step—but you are putting down the salary of this Marine Mechanic at a figure which is less in comparison with what a man would get at one of the big garages in Bridgetown. You pay an inspector $28 a week—but we are talking about a trained mechanic. It is as clear as a pike-staff that they know exactly whom they have to put in the job and they have somebody from Barbados; that is why they have come down for this small salary. Anytime you work a Diesel motor in the ocean for an entire fishing period it has to be taken down and cleaned; you have to get it in order for the next season. Government has taken a wise step but they have started on the wrong foot. Why should they not be prepared to come in here with a Plan? They have to get a workshop and they have to bring these engines from the various points of the island to one point for repairs. The man whom you have at the top for repairing these engines of the fishing fleet must be a man who can go when called upon by the foreman or some other mechanic and stop the trouble right away. He must be able to say "this is the trouble" but not at a salary of $210 a month. To pay this man that salary is a joke. I can swear that they have this man in Barbados whom they thought is not worth more than $210 a month; I will swear that if Government had somebody coming down from England they would be looking for something like £750 to pay him. I will support this Resolution today, but really and truly I think myself that here is a good opportunity for the Government to obtain the services of a man of this type at a proper salary; it makes no difference to me whether he is a Barbadian, a Trinidadian, a Vincentian or what. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Government to have in its workshop a system for training Bursary Scholars who now roam from workshop to workshop, from garage to garage asking for the opportunity to learn a trade.

This salary is one for a second man. I repeat that here is a wonderful opportunity for the Government opening a workshop and taking in it these youngsters under the supervision of a good and competent man. I feel that they have put the wrong foot forward although they have made a right step; this is going to be a square peg in a round hole; and if it is so, if there is somebody in some Department who has been selected for this job, I tell the Minister that he must put his foot down on that. I know that this is a matter for the Select Committee in the Civil Service; but it is a matter of importance to the community as a whole, and you should have a competent man to assist these people. Government should see that a proper man is appointed to this post.

I would like the Hon. Minister to answer one question: Let him go to Cole's Garage and ask them what they pay their mechanic. You want a proper man to have charge of this business. The engines are new now and in less than two years you will see what is happening. The life of motors working out to sea start off in the right way, and at the right time. Now that Government has started, why not start on the right foot by setting up a Department and having a proper man at the top? I am supporting this Resolution; somebody says *sotto voce* that the man is working in the Post Office. We are not here to provide jobs for pets. I hope the Hon. Minister will see that the right man is appointed: otherwise he will hear from this House. If somebody who is *persona grata* with somebody else is appointed to this post, you will hear about it in this House.

6.00 p.m.

I am not going to vote for the appointment of someone who just wants to strut up and down like a turkey cock. Do not pick up someone and promote him to this job as against someone who has been trained along these lines. Promoting someone possibly because of social connections and on account of

It has happened already in the Fishing Industry of this island. Let the right person have the job.

This job will be a sinecure if you are just talking about inspecting boats. This is the idea of someone getting into a motorcar and driving around and lording it over some poor fisherman telling them a lot of nonsense. We want someone who can really advise the fishermen along the lines indicated. The majority of our youngsters trained in local garages are not acquainted with the repairing of Diesel engines. You are making provision not only for the fishermen themselves, but for supplying the inhabitants of this island with a greater supply of fish.

It takes a lot of courage to put money in a fishing boat, Mr. Chairman. A member says things on the floor of the House and the Ministers just laugh. But I still say what I want to say. If I make a few enemies among the socialites, I do not care. This job should not be any sinecure. It should not be a job into which you will pitchfork any favoured Clerk in the Service.

I am saying that if the Government had had in mind the appointment of someone who had just seen the door of a mechanic shop in England, they would have come down for more salary than this.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, like the honourable senior member for St. Philip I would say that the Government has not been paying enough attention to the expansion of the Fishing Industry. That expansion seems to be rather limited by the myopic vision of the persons concerned with the running of the industry, including the Minister himself.

I think it has been made clear that we do not object to the amount of money that is being spent on the industry. As a matter of fact, we would like to see more spent. But what I think is worrying most honourable members today is this: why is it that Government at the time of the Five Year Plan or in the Annual Estimates did not have a vote of this kind? Surely the business of motorising the fishing fleet of Barbados is nothing novel or new even to the Minister of Agriculture; because I believe that he was one of its strongest protagonists even before he began to grace a Ministerial Bench. Therefore, it seems passing strange that at this time, which even the uninitiated know is the time when the Annual Estimates are in the process of preparation or are about to be prepared, that the Government should come for a vote of $5,665 to provide the services of a mechanic for the fishing fleet.

Now one pattern emerges from all of the transactions of the Government in matters of this kind. The pattern is clear. First you proceed on the basis of nepotism and patronage. You find a favoured son, daughter, or nephew for whom you want to provide a job. Having found that favourite person, you come to the House (after promising the person a job) you come to the House of Assembly and ask the House to vote money, and you try to persuade them of the wisdom of the vote by introducing considerations to influence the decision of honourable members.

If what I am saying is not correct — mind you, sir, it has happened before in the Public Works Department, in the Department of Highways and Transport, in the Waterworks Department and other departments that will come readily to the minds of honourable members — if what I am saying is not correct, I would like to ask the Minister if he would like me to write down in an envelope the name of the person who is going to be given this job; then would he seal the envelope and let the Governor open it on the day of appointment, and see if the name in the envelope is not the correct one?

Most honourable members are convinced that this is an attempt to provide a job at a better salary for a particular favourite either of the Minister himself or of the Fishery Officer; therefore it would be sheer hypocrisy on the part of the Minister to advertise for the most highly qualified person to fill this post when the whole raison d'être of the Resolution is to provide a salary for a particular person and not to create a necessary post in the Government Service.

If the Government were planning their affairs in the way in which they should be planned, we would have been told at the time of the Estimates earlier this year that the Government felt that in the interest of the mechanisation of the fishing fleet it would be necessary to appoint a mechanic. When did the dim light of revelation dawn on the Minister that Diesel engines need a mechanic to repair and maintain them? Only since he has been persuaded by a particular person that the time to promote an individual has now arrived? That is the question which I would put to the Minister. The Minister knows as well as other honourable members of this House would know, that the appointee for this particular job comes readily to the mind.

6.10 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I want to make my position perfectly clear. I do not know, neither have I been informed of who would be the likely appointee for this post. It seems as if certain hon. members have more information than I have. On the question of the lack of principle of sending out an advertisement, because of knowing whom you are going to appoint beforehand, I am a stranger to that. I have nothing to do with any appointments or recommendations: so when the hon. member who just sat suggested that I as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries am conniving with the Fishery Officer, I want to extricate myself. I want to say that I am interested in the fishing industry and fishermen, and because of that I want to see the man with the best knowledge of the repair of combustion engines appointed.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, has the Hon. Minister really extricated himself from the position which he must hold collectively with the other Ministers? Has he really extricated himself when we are told that the knowledge of one is the knowledge of all? Is he saying, that the appointment is going to be made by the Public Service Commission? I want to ask the Hon. Minister that question.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Let me tell the hon. member that the Head of the Department recommends whom he thinks is a fit and proper person, and then the appointment is made by the Public Service Commission.

Mr. BARROW: I want it to go on record that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is saying that the Director of Agriculture is going to recommend a fit and proper person, not a list of persons, to the Public Service Commission—and from that list of one selectee the Public Service Commission is going to make the appointment. I would like hon. members on this Committee to write down the name of the hypothetical appointee whom they have in mind and who will be appointed in that peculiar way.

It would seem to me, Mr. Chairman, that they are not going to advertise for the post and even if as a matter of form the advertisement is put in the newspapers of this island and other newspapers abroad, the Director of Agriculture will act on them as if he were the Public Service Commission, and nothing will percolate through his hands and go to the Public Service Commission. We know that sort

of thing happens in the Public Works Department and the Department of Highways and Transport, and that is true because some time ago there was an advertisement in the Press for somebody at the Public Works Department and it was taken that you had to apply to the Public Works Department and not the Public Service Commission.

Now, sir, this is a very peculiar state of affairs which we have arrived at in Barbados. What I am objecting to is not necessarily that the person appointed would not be the proper person to do the job but I am objecting to the method in which the appointment is to be made, and the way in which these posts are created to suit persons and not the interest of Barbados. That is the structure which I am levelling at members of the Government, and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture knows what I am driving at. Officially, he has no knowledge of it; but he has doomed the Ministerial Benches by outlining the procedure which would be used for the appointment of this officer. That is not good enough. Not only do we need someone to maintain these engines, but we want one or two or three mechanics to act as floating garages for these motor boats. We should advertise for a fit and proper person for this post to be appointed by the Public Service Commission; and we should not countenance having a man who wants promotion.

It is not a good idea at this time of the year to create a new post. This is not a supplementary vote at all; this is a Resolution to supplement the Estimates of 1955-56; there is nothing supplementary about this Resolution. This is a new charge which is being created on the Treasury of this island, which can be legally created, but which should be created at the time of the Annual Estimates. It should not be created at any other time except in extraordinary circumstances. This is not an extraordinary circumstance, because in the Addendum to the Resolution you have stated that you had engines; therefore it is not a question of your having a mechanic and that mechanic was overworked on the engines which you had last year. That is the reason why I am levelling charges of nepotism and patronage at the Ministerial benches. If you want to avoid suspicious dealings you should have brought this matter in at the beginning of the Financial Year and not in the middle of the Financial Year. The very nature of the Resolution hampers the action of the House.

As regards the proposal that the need for this mechanic is incidental to your safeguarding the Government's investments, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Agriculture whether the boats and engines are not insured and whether the Government does not have a charge on the total amount of insurance in the event of loss or damage. I would also like the Minister to explain whether any kind of instruction is now given by the firms from whom the engines are bought or by the Fishery Officer or anyone attached to the Fishery Office, because it would be a rather peculiar position for a new engine to be put into a boat with two or three fishermen who know nothing about it and to tell them to go out and fish in that boat, when for all their lifetime they have been accustomed to sail-fishing.

I would also like the Hon. Minister to explain clearly why this question of safeguarding Government's investments arose if the boats happen to be insured.

6,20 p.m.

As regards the question of the payment of fees, it is either that you are going to allow the garages or free lance mechanics to assist the fishermen and be remunerated for their services, or you are providing a Government service for the fishermen. You cannot have a half-way house in this manner; you cannot charge people fees for repairing their engines and preclude their freedom of action in going to a garage or an engineer in whom the particular fisherman may have confidence. Therefore I am suggesting to the Government that they should take out this question of repayment of fees: because the fees would never be enough, even if they were paid into the Treasury, to reimburse the Government for the expenditure for the services rendered by this Marine Mechanic. If it is your investment that you are looking after, I am suggesting that it is a bit effrontery on the part of the Minister or anyone else to suggest that the fishermen should pay for the Government's investment. I am suggesting that there should be a free service: otherwise you are going to have a ridiculous situation in that a fisherman might rather tinker about with an engine himself rather than pay a mechanic. If a fisherman considers it necessary to pay for looking after his engine, you cannot restrain his freedom of choice in calling in any mechanic whom he may like.

I am now going to sound an entirely different note. I am entirely in agreement that requisite classes should be held for fishermen in the case and maintenance of these engines, especially during the hurricane season; but I would like to ask the Minister whether he does not consider that it should be done in extension of the Evening Institute rather than put all these duties on a single officer. If he is going to work for 8 or 9 hours a day repairing the engines of boats for fishermen, inspecting these engines and so on in the normal course of his job, I am suggesting that teaching is an entirely different thing from looking after an engine and you may get an excellent mechanic to repair engines but that particular person may not be a good teacher. You have the Evening Institute, you have the facilities there and so I suggest that the teaching should proceed independent of the appointment of a mechanic to look after the engine.

I would like to ask the Minister of Fisheries if he does not consider that classes should be held for fishermen at all the fishing villages of the island, on fishing itself. The only rationale of the engine is to get more fish; but for all the years during which we have had the Fishery Officer, we have not heard of regular classes being held in each and every fishing village by the Fishery Officer or any person outside that Department, on the art of fishing itself. When you are padding out your Resolution with all these elaborate proposals, I think you should go down to the crux of the problem and I think at the same time you should consider the point that the fishermen should attend classes run by experts on the art of fishing and receive charts and instruction as to navigation and location of the major fishing banks around the island as well as to these other classes for fishermen in engine maintenance. I hope the Minister will pay attention to the suggestions I have made in the latter part of my remarks and that he will take my earlier remarks in the spirit in which they have been made.

Mr. BRANCKER: I only want to emphasise in connection with this Resolution that I share the view of the honourable members who have spoken earlier that the services of this Marine Mechanic should be made available not only to those fishermen and fishing boat owners in respect of whose craft loans have been made, but even more so in respect of the poor fishermen and poor boat owners who need the services of a mechanic and who would find it difficult to raise the funds with which to pay for these services. In fact, after all, the whole purpose of encouraging fishermen and helping the fishing industry is to ensure that a supply of fish is available to the people of this colony, and we should not begrudge the services of this Government Mechanic to the owners of fishing craft who do not happen to owe the Government any money.

I want to say that whoever wrote the Addendum to this Resolution is guilty of something which is very

unsocialistic; it is suggested that it is only a matter of protecting our interest or the Government's interest when it says "the officer would mainly be concerned with inspecting engines in those powered boats in respect of which loans have been made." I have no doubt that the honourable senior member for Christ Church, the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, who had no part in the wording of the Addendum to this Resolution, will take pains to ensure that the services of this Marine Mechanic will be available to every person, to every fisherman or fishing boat owner whose engine requires the services of a Marine Mechanic.

6.30 p.m.

I, Sir, agree with the hon. senior member for Bridgetown that it is hard to contemplate the acquirement of a first class man for the proposed salary. He will be required to perform two duties —not only the duty of being a marine mechanic, but that of holding regular classes for fishermen on engine maintenance. So, Sir, a salary of $180.00 a month even though it rises to $210.00 along with cost of living bonus of $13.00 a month seems inadequate pay for a skilled marine mechanic for these two duties which he will be required to perform. Of course, if the Government can get a good man for this salary without taking advantage of him, I would be the last person to suggest that they should pay more. I do think, however, that the proposed salary seems too small for a really skilled man.

I hope, Sir, that the hon. senior member for Christ Church, Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, will bear in mind that this man will be paid from the funds in the Public Treasury to which all subscribe directly or indirectly, and that the services of the mechanic should be absolutely free of charge to every fisherman or owner of a mechanised fishing boat. Of course, if Messrs. Goddard and Sons have a fishing trawler, I am not suggesting that this mechanic should be available to them free of charge. It should be just as in the case of the Medical Specialists who perform free services where the need for such is indicated.

I am sure that the Minister will be sympathetic to any suggestion which will benefit the fishing industry. He realises that to the south and west of Christ Church you have the equivalent in the west, east and north of St. Lucy — all sea and all fishing boats. He should not allow any of his Christ Church fishermen to keep their boats on the beach out of repairs because the services of this gentleman are not available or because they will be required to pay him and they have no money available. I know that there can be no discrimination, and therefore what inures to the benefit of Christ Church must inure to the benefit of St. Lucy also.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I suppose that this Resolution will be welcomed by all members of the House. I think it is rather long overdue. We have been changing our system of fishing from the sail boat to the motor craft. I do not know why the appointment of this mechanic was not decided on before. I would like to suggest a further service to fishermen — the provision of a fund to help those whose boats go adrift to bring those boats back here. There is a boat which I think is still in St. Vincent, owned by a relatively poor man who cannot find the money to bring it back. What is the point of spending money to build new boats and when a boat goes adrift there is no money to bring it back? Such boats have to stay on a beach and deteriorate on account of exposure. Quite recently one had to be brought back from St. Lucia at a cost of about $3,000.

Another suggestion is that fishermen deserve a launch which would be available in cases of distress. With the assistance of the "Investigator" or any other available craft and an engineer with tools and equipment and especially spare parts, the service would cost less than having to bring a boat back from St. Lucia.

There is another suggestion that I would like to make to the Minister. If the Government is sponsoring the mechanisation of the boats they should standardise the type of engine to be used in these boats and make sure that the necessary spare parts are available. At the moment these boat owners have to hunt wherever they can for spares.

Now I think it is a fact that the average mechanic is not likely to be attracted to the Fishing Industry. Most of these craft with engines happen to fall into the hands of people who can only toy with the engine. Then it is also a question of waiting until the close of day when a mechanic has left the garage where he works, to repair an engine—most likely under bad lighting conditions.

I will repeat that it is important that the engine should be standardised and a good supply of spares guaranteed. The engineering firm in Bridgetown which orders down four of these engines for fishing boats is not likely to carry all the necessary spares. Lack of spares may expose fishermen to awkward hazards. I also want to stress again the importance of assisting fishermen to bring back their boats which have drifted to another island. A year ago there was a boat which drifted to St. Vincent or Grenada and was there for almost a year. It was only after much agitation that the man got $100.00 that was resting in the hands of the Fishery Officer for several months. Now there is another boat in St. Vincent and the owner is unable to find the first $20.00 to say nothing of $150.00 to bring it back.

I will say, Sir, that the Fishery Officer has been very enthusiastic in recent months, and has been forcing his way with the hope of expanding the industry. But the Government cannot persuade people to build more boats and increase the quantity of fish caught. They must also provide the cold storage facilities for the fish that the boats will bring in.

6.40 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I have just a few points to make on this Resolution. Since the acquisition of food for the population is one of the principal occupations of the Government and since the Government has invested so much money in the fishing industry, I feel that no fees should be charged for the advice and inspection which will be given by this official who will be appointed as marine mechanic for keeping these engines in order. What I notice from the Resolution is that enough provision has not been made, taking into consideration the increase in the number of motorised fishing boats. We have got an increase from last year to this year of 29 powered boats, and with the further addition of some such fund from which people can acquire loans to put in these engines in their boats, obviously the number will be increased considerably. Therefore, I cannot see the usefulness of having only one Diesel mechanic. What I hope to see is a separate mechanical workshop staffed with a number of men and boys who would be able to expedite any repairs, whenever they occur to these engines so as to inconvenience fishermen as little as possible. Can you imagine, if you have 47 powered boats at present and you get three or four of them coming in with their engines broken down, your having this mechanical engineer alone to effect such repairs? He would not be able to effect them speedily enough; therefore, you can see that the scheme would not bring in the benefits which are expected. It is definitely useless to go about it by barely appointing a Diesel mechanic for the purpose of giving advice and to inspect such boats which have nothing to do with the repairs which this Reso-

lution says he has to carry out himself. This is a waste of time.

However, I must commend the progress which is being effected in the fishing industry today. My colleague, the honourable junior member for St John, and even the honourable senior member for St. Philip, were the principal agitators in this Hon. curable Place for the extension of assistance to the people who have to produce food for the people's consumption. I must appreciate the progress which has been effected to the fishing industry. Although it is not as extensive as it should be, yet some measure of progress has been made towards the end which we envisaged sometime ago.

What I want to impress upon the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is the necessity of not having to depend on one mechanic who would have to inspect and repair these Diesel engines, but that we should have a separate workshop staffed by a couple of efficient mechanics who would be able to expedite repairs to these boats so as not to cause any undue delay to the fishermen.

I do not know if such a repair department can be added to the already existing one carried on by the Government at the Department of Highways and Transport. I do not know if it can be done like that or if it would be necessary to have one instituted at the Fishery Department on the Reef. However, whatever is done, it will still need more than one mechanic. In my opinion, it needs mechanics and apprentices and I hope that the Hon. Minister would observe the reasonableness for not compelling fishing boat owners to pay fees for advice or inspection which they might get from such an officer; although I agree that they would have to pay for the repairs if and whenever they are effected by any mechanic appointed by the Government. The mechanical inspection and advice which will be carried out by the appointed officer will be similar, in my opinion, to those instructions which are now given by the Fishery Officer, I hope that the Hon. Minister who is handling this Resolution will take these points into consideration.

I would also like to emphasise what was stated by the honourable junior member for St. George, with respect to the fact that at present there is a motorised boat in one of the other islands. It is a fact that these engines do not afford the amount of safety which is desired. I will again repeat that it is very necessary for the Fishery Department to demand that a portion of sail should also be used along with these motors which are put into these boats. I have seen some of these boats although they are built with motors still have a bit of sail in them. There should be a jib or something of that sort which should be kept on those boats to be used in case of an emergency. It is not sufficient for Government to make loans of that magnitude for the extension of the Fishing Industry without making sure that all adequate precautions are taken not only to safeguard the lives of fishermen but also the properties in which the Government has invested. It is very necessary that such precautions should be taken. There should also be a regulation to enforce fishermen to carry life belts or life jackets.

I must say that I appreciate the increase in the number of powered boats but I hope to see the number continue to increase, because the catching of larger supplies of fish means a substantial improvement in the diet of the population. I hope the Hon. Minister would take all these points into consideration when he finalises the appointment of such a mechanical officer or officers.

6.50 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA : I have listened carefully to the various points which have been made and I shall examine them all very carefully. I should like at this stage to give the assurance to hon. members, the hon. junior member for Christ Church, the hon. senior member for St. Lucy, the hon. senior member for St. George and one or two others that the services of this Marine Mechanic will be made available to all and sundry fishing boat owners and fishermen. I want to say that the poor boat owners to whom these services are offered are not necessarily the ones who owe the Government money; we are interested in the advancement and development of the fishing industry as a whole and in launching this Scheme. I repeat that these services will be made available not only to those boat owners who are indebted to the Government but to all boat owners.

I want to assure the hon. junior member for St. George that an amount will be provided in the next Estimates for the purpose of defraying expenses in connection with the return of boats which have drifted to the neighbouring islands and in connection with which in many cases, the owners of those boats are not financially sound enough to pay for their return here. The procedure in the past is that a separate Resolution was brought forward in that connection; but if the money is put in the Estimates the boat owners will be assisted more readily. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: What has happened with the boat which is down there in St. Vincent now?] I only know of one boat which was destroyed.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY : On a point of Order. Is it not a fact that repeated applications have been made to the Government in connection with this boat and the man's boat is still down there rotting? Can you not do anything to help him?

Hon. C. E. TALMA : There is a boat which has been transferred from Carriacou to Martinique but it was in Grenada when the hurricane struck that island and the boat was destroyed.

As to the appointment of this Marine Mechanic that will be made in the normal way. The post will have to be advertised, applications will be received by the Head of the Department and the applications will be gone through in the normal way. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY : Take care that the man who is driving the Fishery Officer's car gets the job!] The Public Service Commission will recommend for appointment the person who is most suitable for the post.

Relative to the point made about the setting up of a separate workshop in order to expedite the repairs and that no inconvenience whatever will be meted out to the fishermen, I regard that as the second phase. The units of powered boats are being extended. We realise that the time has come when a real mechanic should be appointed who will spend his whole time in preparing and maintaining these powered boats. The job is becoming a big one at the present time and we must have a specially qualified Diesel engineer who will go around the island with the Land-Rover,—which will be a mobile workshop—and this engineer will go from beach to beach and repair these launches on the spot. It is not a question of removing the engines; it is a question of repairing the launches on the spot. The stage will be reached where a separate workshop will be set up: you do not jump from the initial stage to the final stage. If I had come down with a Resolution for $50,000 for the setting up of a workshop, hon. members would have asked why do we not start with the appointment of an engineer; now we have started with the appointment of this officer, hon. members are asking about the setting up of a workshop. If we had started in that way, some hon. members would be here trying to defeat the Government in its proposal; but now we are acting discreetly, you

hear opposition to it- I am assuring hon. members that the next step will be the setting up of a workshop, but we are starting with the appointment of a Marine Mechanic of the proper calibre as this person has to be.

I have noted all the points which have been made and I will examine them further. On the question of the payment of fees, these fees are for actual advice, inspection, repairs and servicing. These fees are for actual work and labour performed on these engines and it is suggested that such fees should be paid for that. I will examine the point further and see whether any fee should be paid at all because these are services rendered to the fishermen or fishing boat owners and no one should suffer because he is unable to pay the fees.

As regards the extension of the Evening Institute, that is quite a good point made by the hon. senior member for St. George and it will be examined. As to the question of instructing the fishermen in the art of fishing and so on, all these points will be brought to the attention of the Fishery Officer.

In connection with the point by the hon. senior member for St. Philip and other hon. members too, they are now beginning to appreciate the Government's point in expanding the fishing industry in the interest of the community as a whole.

7.00 p.m.

Where the point raised in connection with Skeetes Bay is concerned, the honourable member knows that that Bay is at present receiving my consideration. As far as Foul Bay is concerned, that will soon be done, and the question of providing equipment for hauling up fishing boats will be further examined. The question of improving the roads leading from these fishing centres to the main highways is also being considered. He knows that. I will bring to the attention of the Fishery Officer the question of improving the channels. They have been done previously, and we have had no complaints from fishermen that the channels want doing again. If that is so, they should have let us know. The fishermen have not brought to our attention that the channels are still dangerous. There is a danger in opening the channels too wide, just as there is a danger in having them too narrow. There are many problems that may not meet the eye.

Mr. Chairman I do not think there are any more salient points. I think I have covered them all. I have made notes on the points that have been made by honourable members, and I assure them that the salient ones will receive my close consideration and implementation where necessary.

Mr. ALLDER: The honourable member is wrong if he thinks that if he had come with a Resolution for a greater number of mechanics, it would have been opposed. I would not have opposed at all because honourable members would understand that if you are aiming to increase the number of motorised fishing boats to 94, and that these 94 boats will be distributed at various beaches all around the island, no one mechanic could be of any use to all the boat owners who will be depending on him to inspect and repair the engines and to advise on their maintenance.

We were merely trying to suggest to the Minister that it is very necessary and expedient that a work shop be set up and that more mechanics than the one that this Resolution provides for be appointed. If the Hon. Minister does not want to accept such a suggestion at the present stage, he will be compelled to come back in the future for provision for the appointment of additional mechanics. The Minister knows that all of these boats are not going to be berthed at the Reef. They will be at beaches all around the island. What is more, I see that you will have to make provision for travelling allowance for the Mechanic. The Resolution does not contain that provision. I do not see it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Travelling allowance is included. The Addendum mentions the anticipated travelling of 12,000 miles per annum, or 1,000 miles per month.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and agreed to without division.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. Cummins seconded by Hon. C. E. Talma the Chairman reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA in each case, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and then agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I think this is a convenient time when we should adjourn for dinner; therefore, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for three quarters of an hour.

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

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

7.12 p.m.

On re-assembling,

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take change of the Orders standing in the name of the Hon. Premier.

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

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT, ORDER NO. 7

Medical Officers

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day now stands under the name of the Hon. Minister of Social Services; to move the passing of the following Resolution; Resolution to approve the Order entitled the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 7 Order, 1955.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I am sure, Sir, hon. members are aware that within the last year and a half to two years, there has been some uneasiness at the General Hospital with respect to the Medical Staff, especially the Medical Officers as well as some Medical Officers on the permanent staff. There has been uneasiness owing to a desire for an increase to their salaries. We have had at the General Hospital Medical Officers coming and going and just staying for a short period; and as the matter stands now, we have three of our Medical Officers actually going, and three have sent in their resignations pending the passing of this Order. That time expires on the 21st instant.

In consequence of all this, the Government appointed a Committee to go into the salaries and conditions of services of the Medical Staff. As you know there has been vacancies there over a long period. The Bacteriologist and Pathologist has resigned for almost a year, and although the post has been advertised since that time, we have not got anybody interested enough even to enquire. There is also the vacancy of the Assistant Pathologist, and that post has been advertised for even a longer period that that. We have not got a duly qualified Anaesthetist. All of these things have caused an uneasiness on the part of the Government; and as I have said, a Committee was appointed and it went into all these matters—the condition of employment,

as well as the salaries. As a result, the recommendations of that Committee are set out here in the Addendum to this Resolution.

First of all, there is an increase in the number of House Officers from two to four. These House Officers are newly qualified men fresh from the University. They are qualified but are not permitted to register until they have done their year of internship. Our Hospital provides for the employment of two, but we are now asking to increase that number to four. Owing to our shortage of staff, we would have more of these newly qualified gentlemen to help us. [A VOICE: Do you call them interns?] Yes, we call them interns.

The second phase, is with respect to the re-organisation of the Medical Officers' grade and the institution of career grades. Medical Officers at the Hospital at present are all of one grade and after a year or two of service, especially in recent years, these Medical Officers get fed up and resign. The local officers go into private practice and those who come from abroad go back: and it is all because there is nothing to encourage a young Medical Officer at the General Hospital to stay on; as a matter of fact, this institution became a blind alley. This recommendation provides for career grades. You may have a Medical Officer who does not desire to go into general practice he may prefer to do Hospital work all the time. This recommendation makes provision for that. First of all, there is the pre-registration grade, then Medical Officer, and after a number of years as a Medical Officer, you can go to the Registrar grade, that is, doctors who are desirous of specialising. You will remain until you want to specialise in medicine or surgery, so that this Registrar grade provides the training ground for those who want to become specialists. After a couple of years they will be able to go abroad and specialise in the field of their choice. With the introduction of this career grade, we hope to retain those doctors who prefer to remain in Hospital and become specialists rather than to go into private practice.

Another recommendation of the Committee is the division of the Anaesthetist Services to provide for two whole time posts of Anaesthetist — an Anaesthetist Specialist and an Assistant Specialist. As I have said earlier, the post of Anaesthetist was filled, but was vacant for about a year and a half to two years. The salary and conditions of services of which we would hear something later on were improved and provide that in as much as we are now on the eve of extending the General Hospital and making provisions for more patients, we intend to have two full time Anaesthetists to serve the General Hospital.

8.10 p.m.

Sub-paragraph (d) of the Addendum is the payment of a pensionable allowance to Medical Specialists who are denied consultation practice. When we come to No. 10 Order, 1955 we will find that that is not correct; we have agreed to an allowance which is nonpensionable. The reason for this allowance is that the Specialists—for instance, the Medical Officer of Health is a Specialist, and it is true that they get a salary; but in Trinidad, Demerara and Jamaica within the last couple of years, they are giving a special allowance to these Specialists who are in office and are not allowed to enjoy private practice. In the case of Trinidad, I think the allowance is £200 a year, but we, of course, cannot afford to compete with Trinidad; we find ourselves in a position where we are only able to offer £100. That is nonpensionable and as I have said it will be corrected when we come to No. 10 Order.

Sub-paragraph (e) of the Addendum is raising the remuneration to the lowest level necessary to ensure the recruitment and retention of suitably qualified staff. That refers to the Medical Officers of whom I have just spoken. The final paragraph of the Addendum says this: "The annual cost of implementing the above proposals is estimated at $21,000. Funds for the payment of the two additional House Officers (Pre-registration) will be sought by a separate Resolution."

In the Order hon. members will see the salaries which are set out. I want to say that this is in truth and in fact not a salary revision; it is a question of supply and demand. This is a question in which if we do not do something by way of increase allowances so as to attract Medical Officers, we will find that we will have a Hospital without Medical Officers. There is one gentleman who has been offered a post in Trinidad not so long ago, but we have prevailed on him to remain with us and we will do what we can to increase his emoluments. I repeat this is a question of trying to obtain and detain Medical Officers at the Hospital; it is not a question of salary revision. In the Order which is attached to the Resolution, hon. members will find the suggested figures. This Order No. 7 is amended as I have said, in some parts by No. 10 Order which corrects the mistake as to the payment of the pensionable allowance.

The Director of Medical Services now receives $7,440 per annum and he is going to $8,160. I will say that we are dealing with the Office. [*Laughter*]; it is said that the present Director of Medical Services will be resigning in a short while [*Cheers*] and we are trying to attract somebody to the Office when this gentleman goes. The Office of Deputy Director of Medical Services in Trinidad and Demerara is paid $9,600 per annum[Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Look at the Revenue of that country]. I am aware of the revenue of that country but at the same time we have to try and attract somebody to this Office and therefore we have to look ahead if there is a vacancy in this Office. As I was saying, the Deputy Director of Medical Services in Trinidad gets $9,600 per annum; our Director of Medical Services is paid so much below that that we would be wasting time in advertising for somebody below that rate. In order to attract somebody to Barbados when this Office becomes vacant we thought it best to advance the salary with that object in view.

As regards the senior Medical Officer of Health, at the moment he is paid $6,480 per annum; he will be increased to $6,720 and he gets $480 as a non-pensionable allowance. It is not pensionable. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Why?] Allowances seem to be the Order of the Day in this area; in Trinidad they get $960, in British Guiana the same Officer gets $1,200 as an Allowance and I am not sure if Jamaica is giving an allowance or a higher salary. We call it professional allowance, rather than call it, as they do in other places, an allowance in lieu of practice.

8.20 p.m.

There is the Senior Health Officer and then the Health Officer. The Health Officer now gets $4,560 and he will go to $5,320. He already gets practice in the port and so you will notice that there is no allowance recommended for him. The Government Bacteriologist and Pathologist gets $6,480 and he is recommended to go to $6,720 plus $480 non-pensionable allowance. As I said earlier, that post is now vacant. The last holder resigned about 10 to 12 months ago and there is still an acting appointment to the post. We have advertised but we have got no replies. Similarly in the case of the Assistant Pathologist, that post has been vacant even longer. That post now gets $5,280 x 240 — $6,240. We are changing the title and it will now go to $6,480 plus the non-pensionable allowance.

With regard to the Medical Officer of Health, his scale is now $5,280 x 240 — $6,240. It is to be increased to $5,520 x 480 — $6,480 plus $480 non-pensionable allowance. The one on agreement is getting more. He gets £100 more. As a matter of fact, that is what started the row even though it was pointed out that one was pensionable and the other not. It was a question of money and they became dissatisfied.

As regards the Surgeon Specialist it will be noted that these specialists get the maximum increase. They get half of the fees for consultation and full fees for work done outside office hours. Formerly the Government got half of that as well. A non pensionable allowance equal to half of the fees is paid. The same thing applies to the Radiologist. That post gets £50 more, full fees for consultation outside the hospital and half fees for consultation inside the hospital. The Medical Superintendent gets $720.00 more.

8.30 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: What about the Registrar?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: You will see in No. 7 Order, Senior Registrar, Registrar and Medical Officer. We are making provision for the institution of those grades. I said in my opening remarks that formerly these were Medical Officers.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: What will these Registrars do?

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: They are of a higher status than Medical Officers. As I have said earlier, a Registrar is a Doctor advancing to a Specialist grade. He may come in at first as a pre-registration officer, then go up to Medical Officer and this No. 7 Order, mentions Medical Officer, Registrar and Senior Registrar, but if you look in the No. 10 Order, with which we will deal later on, you will see a slight change and I think at this juncture it is useful to clarify that point. There is a change in the titles of "senior Registrar" and "Registrar" to ' Registrar and "Senior Medical Officer," respectively. You will still have three grades, that is, you will have Medical Officer, then Senior Medical Officer and then Registrar. As I have said, these grades have been instituted in order to attract these Officers.

These are the salaries attached to the various grades:—

Registrar, $5,280 x 480 — 6,240.

Senior Medical Officer, $5,040.

Medical Officer, $3,720 x 240 — 4,920.

[Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: What is the overall increase per month?]

Well, the annual cost of implementing the overall proposals is estimated at $21,000. You will see that at the end of the Addendum to No. 7 Order. As I have said, these three grades of Officer may come in as interns and go up to the following grades of Medical Officer, Senior Medical Officer and Registrar; that is if they intend to make the Hospital their career. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: What is the salary of an intern now?] An intern gets $2,280 for the first six months, then $2,400 for the next six months.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am wondering if the Hon. Minister in charge of this Resolution is aware of the Resolution to approve the Order entitled the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 10 Order, 1955, and in that Resolution it sets out that the Resolution seeks to give effect to a change in the titles of "Senior Registrar" and "Registrar" to "Registrar and "Senior Medical Officer," respectively. That is the opposite to what the Hon. Minister informed the honourable senior member for the City. I think we should get the position clarified. Although I am not a Medical Officer and there is no explanation in the Addendum to the Resolution, I think one of those Registrars would be a Medical Registrar and the other would be a Surgical Registrar.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I thought I made it quite plain. I did point that out. I even said that any doctor who wants to make the Hospital a career can go in as an intern and after spending his year of internship, he can become a Medical Officer and then advance from Medical Officer to Senior Medical Officer and then to the Registrar grade, and I further stated that when one realised that stage he was going on to be a Specialist.

We come to the salary of the Specialist Anaesthetist which is $5,520 x 480 — 6,240. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: By what amount has that been increased?] It has been increased by $240. He will also get full fees in respect of consultations outside the Hospital and a non-pensionable allowance equal to one-half of the fees paid into the Public Treasury on Specialist services rendered within the Hospital. The Assistant Anaesthetist is slightly below him in salary. He gets $5,280 x 480 — 6,420. He does not get any fees. In the case of the Lunatic Asylum, the Medical Superintendent there will get $7,200 plus consultant practice outside the Hospital. He formerly got $6,720.

The same thing applies to the Assistant Medical Superintendent who will get $6,480 and they also get consultant practice outside the Hospital. That covers the ground of Medical Officers; I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

8.40 p.m.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: I really do not see how as reasonable men we could agree to these proposals. I think the *impasse* in which we find ourselves today is entirely to be laid at the door of the Minister of Social Services and that of the Government. Some time ago when he suggested here that we should allow the Medical Superintendent at the Hospital outside practice, we opposed it from this side of the Chamber. I was antagonistic to it because I felt that if he were to devote proper time to his hospital duties he would not have any time for outside practice, and the Government's proposal carried the day. Now we find that every single Medical Officer at the Hospital is clamouring for the same facility and you really cannot blame them. The Surgeon Specialist, the Specialist Radiologist, the Specialist Physician the Specialist Anaesthetist and the Assistant Anaesthetist are all now entitled to outside practice with full fees and one half of the fees of inside consultation paid into the Treasury.

Apart from that, I do not see how we can pay them reasonably good salaries and pay them in addition non-pensionable allowances. They are getting one half of the fees paid by private patients into the Hospital and they are still allowed outside practice for which they get full fees. The Hon. Minister of Social Services says that although these officers were paid a general increase in wages in the Turner Report, there is still some dissatisfaction and therefore he proposes today the handsome increases set out in this Resolution. The first thing that springs to the mind is this: does he think that the demands for increases in the service will stop at this? He will find that in other branches of the Public Service people will be demanding increases too, and the full, vicious circle will start again. They found that the demands for medically trained men exceeded the supply — realising of course that in time to come the West Indian University at Jamaica will rectify the position;

because they are turning out doctors at an appreciably rapid rate. What should have been done is this: you have numbers of highly qualified men with American degrees, men who have passed the New York State Board and who are willing to come back to the West Indies to practise. [Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: At what price?] You have a number of young doctors who have passed through American Universities which are just as good or better than English Universities, who are willing to come out to the West Indies to practise.

In other parts of the British Caribbean they have had to consider the necessity for lowering barriers against well trained American doctors; and therefore I do not see why when there is a big reservoir of highly qualified men in America who are willing to come out to the West Indies, we should allow ourselves to be held to ransom by the graduates of U.K. Universities.

I fully appreciate the importance of having a sufficiently large number of highly trained doctors at the Hospital to attend to the sick; nothing is more important than to have at the Hospital the necessary staff with the requisite training to attend to people who need medical attention and who cannot afford to go abroad for it; but we cannot afford to do more than what should be reasonably expected of us. I said before and I say again that there is a certain amount of professional jealousy on the part of these Hospital officers to seek to make handsome incomes outside.

8.50 p.m.

It is a well known fact that doctors in Barbados in private practice earn tolerably handsome incomes. No one grudges them. But the Minister of Health himself will admit that medical practice today is a highly lucrative field in Barbados; and these officers in the Public Service expect the Government to pay them what those in private practice are making. You cannot eat your cake and have it too. If you do not want to run the hazards of private practice, if you want to receive a steady monthly income, and get a free house and all the privileges attached to the Government post, you should be satisfied with the lesser salary until you have the courage or the experience to enter the private field. But these officers want everything. They want a secure Government post, pension rights, a free house, leave, outside practice and all sorts of perquisites, and the Government is complacently agreeing with everything that they want.

I am fully conscious of the fact that it is the Government's responsibility to see to it that the Hospital staff is maintained at a proper level. I am not so stupid as not to realise that. At the same time the Government has other responsibilities. It is their duty to see that the public funds are not frittered away unnecessarily or that they do not create unnecessary dissatisfaction throughout the Service by taking out one section of employees and giving it specially favoured treatment.

All of us who have listened to what the Minister has said, and who have read the Resolution will realise there is a specially favoured class of Government Servants in the persons of the Medical Staff of the Hospital. I grant that there are not many of us who can afford to go abroad for medical treatment, and there are even more who cannot afford to go to private practitioners; but bearing all that in mind, it does not follow of necessity that we must increase these salaries to the point mentioned in this Order and at the same time grant all the facilities and perquisites which these officers are demanding. If they want to earn an income which approximates to a greater extent to that earned by private practitioners, let them go outside and earn it.

I do not agree that you should grant them everything they demand purely on the contention that British Guiana, Trinidad or some other neighbouring island can do it. I am not at all satisfied in my mind that I have heard anything to make me convinced that every possible avenue to fill these vacant posts has been exploited. I am not satisfied that mere threats to resign on the part of certain officers should be enough to stampede the Government into granting these abnormal increases. I am further of the confirmed opinion that in the same manner as British Guiana with all its wealth and natural resources in comparison with ours had to consider getting from America medically qualified men we should do the same thing here. There must be a time in the near future when the University College of the West Indies will be able to supply our needs of medical men. There is nothing wrong in removing the restrictions against American medical men until U.K. or Commonwealth trained men are in sufficient supply to satisfy our needs. I am going to move that the Resolution be sent to a Select Committee.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have always advocated from the time that I have been in public life that if there is one thing in the community that you cannot measure in terms of dollars and cents, it is the health of the people. I have not changed one bit from that principle. That is still my feeling, and I believe that during my time in public life, I have in my humble way contributed without obstruction to any debate on public health or any matter dealing with the health of the people.

In this matter, Sir, I still feel the same way. I remember what caused me many years ago to feel the way I feel. Many years ago I used to sit in the gallery of this Chamber; and on one occasion I heard the now Premier make a bitter speech, he was wrong in my opinion, in opposition to Mr. Douglas Pile who was then discussing and supporting on the floor of this House the appointment of a Radiologist for the Hospital. One of the most brilliant speeches that I have read or heard was that made by Mr. Pile on that occasion. I was struck that a man of his affluence could have seen the wisdom of having at the hospital a well trained and efficient staff and the best that money could secure. I was struck by that because the wealthy and well-to-do could always go abroad and get attention, while the poor and needy could only go to the Hospital.

I have always taken the stand that the Surgeon and Physician Specialist and the Specialist Radiologist should be well paid for the reason that I have given. I am sorry to say that I have always had to say that since the days of Dr. Salmond, a very able man, I wonder why they have never been able to get a top ranking Radiologist. There is one hospital in Barbados for 200,000 people. If there is going to be only one hospital, it must be the best. You must pay to get the best; but you must not pay to get second rate people. That applies also to the Surgeon Specialist and the Physician Specialist.

9.00 p.m.

Now, although I am one of the strongest critics of the Hospital, when it comes to paying doctors properly I have always supported that. Let me say at once to the Hon. Minister of Health that I am satisfied in my mind that this Resolution should go to Select Committee, and for many reasons. I am not saying that because I want to hamper it. I think it should go to Select Committee so that we can know more of it on many things. Years ago, when the system at the Hospital was changed and a Physi-

cian Specialist appointed some people thought he should not be given fees. I smiled at that suggestion. You bring a Fellow from the Royal College of Surgeons, — Mr. A. G. Leacock, and put him in that Post. He may have as a patient a Domestic Servant or a porter with some kidney stone trouble who needs an operation. It takes the same knowledge and the same interest to perform the operation on that sort of person as it would take to perform it on a person who can pay the full fee for it. That is why I like the American way about this thing and it is this: the people who can pay must pay. Therefore, I agreed with the idea of allowing the Surgeon Specialist to have fees. I am at one with the Government with that; I never disagreed with it. On the other hand, what do we find happening today at the General Hospital on the broad principle? The doctors at the Hospital are part of the Government Service of this island and they are among those people of the Government service who are clamouring for higher salaries. What do you find happening in the Government Service? You find Specialist School teachers are among those of the Government Servants who are also clamouring for higher salaries. We had the Adams Report and the Turner Report, and all those persons were given increases. Why I have come to the conclusion that you should send this Resolution to a Select Committee is because this Medical Department is one section of the service that is singled out for an increase; others have been clamouring and their request has not been granted. It is a fact that the teachers are dissatisfied. Am I to understand that, because you are now dealing with a set of people who can kill people, that is the reason that you have brought in this Resolution? I am a member of the Harrison's College Board and I know that representations have been made about giving an increase to Specialist Teachers; but nothing has been said about them. Now, you have doctors dissatisfied and because they are doctors you want to change the system up. If you institute a new department for the health of the people and you have to get a good man to fill the post, you must pay him a good salary.

Sir, I am prepared to say that what you have brought before us today is in many respects an attempt to blackmail and I am going to prove it. Some people in this country feel that you should not criticise doctors at the Hospital. I can say that I am one of the burnt children. You are not only asking for more money for doctors at the Hospital now, but you are doing something on the eve of the departure of the Director of Medical Services.

I will start from the post of Registrar which you say you are instituting. Of course, I will say that you should have another Surgeon Specialist. Do you think one Surgeon Specialist can do all the operations that this country has to do? The answer is "No." Long ago the Director of Medical Services said that he wanted this post of Registrar, but I am surprised that the Hon. Minister of Health does not realise that we had a system in which our Barbadian Registered Medical practitioners used to do the minor operations and gave of their best. I know what is the result of this: deep down in the heart of the Medical Officer in charge of this island, he wants to get rid of these Visiting Surgeons. He wants to get rid of people like Dr. Cato, Dr. Skeete, Dr. Massiah and Dr. Manning. I well remember that one night there was a meeting at a certain doctor's house when all those boys talked and said that you have brought in legislation to say what fees they should charge. At the meeting some of the Barbadian boys got rude and started to abuse and the next thing you heard was that they fired Dr. Ashby from the Hospital. I have told my children to try and work for themselves; never mind that the Labour Government says that it does not take brains to sell fish and pork or to do something of that sort. That is better if they do something like that because they will be independent.

Sir, what do you find? Long ago they wanted to bring in something to make provision for these Registrar Officers so as to get rid of the Visiting Surgeons.

9.10 p.m.

We have our Hospital and these gentlemen went there, got some experience and gave of their best. The Director of Medical Services wanted this post of Registrar to be instituted. The Surgeon Specialist gets paid for his operations and he gets one half of the fees paid into the Treasury. You have Drs. Massiah, Stuart, Skinner and Cato and nothing is said in this Resolution about any of them. If anyone examines the number of operations performed at the Hospital, it will be found that the majority of them are performed by these Visiting Surgeons. You have a Surgeon Specialist, and nobody could expect him to work for twenty-four hours a day. I will always support the payment of a proper salary for the Surgeon Specialist. You have in this Order every Medical Department, from the Director of Medical Services back to the Medical Superintendent at the Mental Hospital.

Let me ask you this: have these Visiting Surgeons not been of any use to the country at all? Are you bringing in this idea of the Registrar and putting him on a permanent basis? All these officers have been at the General Hospital; some of them have been given £50 a year and allowed to use our Nurses. They make a handsome living; but nothing is said about these gentlemen here at all. What do we find? If a man chooses to go in for Public Health, that is his business; if you choose a specialist in a wheeled chair for a public health job, that is your business. Therefore do not accept the jealousy which exists in this country; the Director of Medical Services feels that the Surgeon Specialist should not get as much money as he is getting, but can we say that the Surgeon Specialist should not get as much as the Director of Medical Services who is not worth anything and displays all the ignorance possible? A man who can get some high falutin qualification, can go up to the United States and tell you that he is a Master in Public Health; he calls on people and says that he must get the same salary as the Surgeon Specialist in whose hands are the people's lives. The Director of Medical Services cannot say that of all salaries, his is the highest. You had your Adams' Report, and you had your Turner Report, and since then you have had an exodus of teachers and now you come to the doctors. If I am wrong, I may be forgiven; but the Minister has not said today that they have the greatest difficulty in recruiting a Surgeon Specialist for the Hospital. In order to be a good Radiologist you must be qualified as a doctor and then you must put in another ten years; but the Director of Medical Services can get an L.R.C.P. and put in six months' post graduate and say that he is a master in public Health.

If the Minister had come here today and said we find that there is difficulty in getting a Specialist Radiologist at the Hospital, and that the Government intends to bring down a special Resolution to pay him so as not to interfere with the Government's salary scale, I defy any member of the Opposition to oppose it. What are you giving the Director of Medical Ser-

vices $60.00 a month more for? What more has he got to do? Are you satisfied that you cannot get a Director of Medical Services in Barbados for the salary that you are paying now, or are you saying that the reason why you offer him this increase is because you cannot get a man to take his job? I know that that could not have been hatched in the brains of the Minister. It is not right. If he wants to leave, let him leave.

When certain offices become vacant and you cannot get them filled we have to accept that you have to try all about to get someone to put into those offices. Take the Senior Officer of Health. Lest any one should say that the senior member for the City has loosed an onslaught on Dr. O'Mahony my remarks apply equally to Dr. Grannum. What are you going to offer him $60.00 a month more for? Will he leave if he does not get more money?

How does this idea of non-pensionable allowances come in? The whole idea of personal allowances was cut out when the Adams Report came up. Why do you not increase the salary of the Doctor of the Prison, and that of the Doctor at the Leprosarium. Are they not doctors too?

I repeat that if this were merely a case of trying to get a Specialist Pathologist or a Specialist Radiologist I would be voting with you. But you could not get a vote from me for increasing the salary of the Medical Officer of Health. in St. Peter. I have nothing personal against that officer. I think that he is one of the most amiable, decent and humane persons I have ever known. There is not his match. He He loves human beings. He is what I would call "a human man." You have only got to go to the Health Centre at Speightstown, and stand behind him; do not let him know that an M.C.P. is there, and watch him handle the poor and the unwanted. When you had the other job at Enmore I asked why do you not promote him. I said that from what I had seen of him he was the type that would listen to reason. If he continues that way he will get the co-operation of all concerned. He will not only give of the best of his services, but he will not try to force things down our throats.

While all that is true. I must ask a question of principle ask on what grounds are you going to pay him $20.00 a month more? Why are you going to give Dr. Grannum $60.00 a month more? He has not asked for one cent. [Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: You say that he did not ask for an increase?]

Now we come to the General Hospital. With regard to the Surgeon Specialist and the Physician Specialist I agree with the Government's decision. You are not giving them an extra £100; but you realise that for a specialist job the present salary is low. You give them therefore £50 more and allow them half of the fees now paid into the Treasury. I agree with that, despite the fact that you may get the position arising that they are entitled to the non pensionable allowance along with half of the fees.

9.30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am entirely in agreement with the Government on this matter. If you recommend that this Officer is entitled to half of those fees to make up his salary, then it appears to me that he should be pensioned on that. That seems fair and equitable and if I stand alone I am going to vote for it.

Now, you have increased the salaries of the Medical Officers by $20 a month and I cannot see any justification for increasing their salaries. If you came in here and said that those Offices were vacant and you could not get people to fill them, and because of that you had to bring in a Resolution to employ them on contract and had to pay them a higher salary I could very well agree with you, but I cannot agree with you in increasing their salaries because you are destroying the entire principle of your service. As I have said, I agree with the Government that the fees which you now propose to give him should be pensionable, because I acknowledge that the salary which we pay is non-commensurate with the job of the office.

I am going to say something with respect to the Radiologist. I may say, in passing, that whenever you are dealing with the rights of a woman, you must be mild in your criticism. On this question of Radiologist, I will repeat that I have always been in favour with the suggestion that it is a scientific branch of medicine to-day, and one which you have to recognise. I am not parsimonious in paying out money, especially to medical men. I still do not believe that where you have one General Hospital to serve over 200,000 people that in terms of salary for the Radiologist you are paying a handsome salary. You really are not paying a handsome salary. I do not know how your Radiologist can get fees for work done outside that Hopsital. I am a bit confused on the part when you say "plus fees in respect of consultations outside the Hospital and a non-pensionable allowance equal to one-half of the fees paid into the Public Treasury in respect of Specialist Services rendered within the Hospital." Does a Radiologist work outside the Hospital? I may be foolish, but I am a bit confused over that. I cannot see why it should be done in that way. Let me say again, that it is not a question of my being parsimonious. As a matter of fact, it is my opinion that the work of Radiology has now become so important at the Hospital that I am wondering if it not possible to have two Radiologists. If you come in here for two Radiologists, I would be bound to support you on it because I see the necessity for them. As Churchwarden of St. Michael I have had the experience of seeing the Parochial Medical Officer sending people to have chest pictures taken at the General Hospital, because they were suspected of having tubercolosis and many other ailments; and I can tell you that we have sent up people to the Hospital in the months of, let us say, May or June this year, and we were told that we will have to come back in September. It is for that reason that I say that one Radiologist is not enough. You are increasing the salary of the Radiologist by $20 per month. Is he overworked? I am prepared to go as far as to say that rather than disrupt the services to this extent, if you see that it is in the interest of the community that you need another Radiologist, get another Radiologist or an Assistant Radiologist. In some countries you have the office of Assistant Radiologist with some other post in the institution.

I will use the same argument as I have used with respect to the Surgeon Specialist and in the case of the Physician Specialist. You are increasing the Surgeon Specialist by $40 per month. As it appears to me your policy of increasing the salary is absolutely wrong, but on the question of pension your policy seems to be right.

9.40 p.m.

I am going to say something which I hope the Hon. Minister will take in good faith. I know that when I make these remarks some doctors, not necessarily the Hon. Minister of Social Services, will feel that I am impudent and rude and that I should not even discuss things of this nature. As regards the argument which I have used in connection with our Visiting Surgeons, the Hon. Minister has not told us anything, but am I to understand that the Officers whom he has mentioned are to take the place of the Visiting Surgeons? I am saying here now that that

is the intention; but the Hon. Minister knows that the idea of the Registrar was that of the Director of Medical Services.

The Hon. Minister says that these gentlemen will be internees who will come here. Quite recently we passed a Bill giving the right to all internees who qualified in British and United Kingdom Hospitals to put in their internship in Barbados. In other words, a man shows that he has done a course and he is qualified; but he is required to put in a year at a recognised Hospital before he can be registered as a Medical practitioner. I want this House to listen carefully to what I am saying. Just about the time when that was happening, I was taken ill and was unable to attend the House, but I saw where an argument was put forward for better conditions and better salaries. These internees had to put in their internship in Hospitals, work for 18 hours a day and they were getting £10 a month in England; and in the United States they got $50 a month. I got the literature and read it at first hand. One requirement was to be qualified and the other was to find a Hospital in which to put in your internship; I will go in the Park with that. This very month we passed an amendment here; this is your training ground and the best training you can have is to be put into the casualty on an 18 hours a day shift and gain experience.

I ought to have said that these Medical men were fed and given £10 a month. I want to say this: the Barbados Hospital has been recognised as a place where Doctors can put in their internship before they become registered Medical practitioners.

In connection with these younsters the Hon. Minister of Social Services says that the salary should be $3,720 x $240 — $4,920; these internees are not provided for in this Order. The Minister has said that they can put in their internship.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: On a point of Order. There are already two internees and the salary for the first six months is $2,280. The Medical Officers are a step higher.

9.50 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Am I to say that the internees are not provided for here?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: They are not in this. What they are getting today they will continue to get. They get the same thing that is paid to internees in the U.K. and all over the Caribbean.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am telling the Minister that what they get here is not the same as what they get in the U.K. It may be what they get in other islands of the Caribbean. I am not a doctor but I can read. The Medical Officers are those who have already put in their internship apart from this Hospital, and they can go up to $3,720. There are no increases for the internees.

I now come to the Registrar. I am not satisfied with how this system is to work. The whole idea of this Registrar business is that doctors would come in as internees, and after they had put in their internship they could go on to being medical officers. Then there could be promotion to Registrar. The Minister says that these are officers who, if they want to make a career in surgery at the Hospital, can gain that necessary experience and then go back to England and specialise.

I am telling the Minister that that is nothing new. That was put up before Ministerial Status. You are trying to deprive those who would normally qualify outside and come back with the necessary experience of the opportunity of staying at the Hospital for a number of years, going out and doing private practice, coming on at the Hospital according the old system for a small retainer and doing operations free for those who cannot pay, and those who can pay, and those doctors have to perform operations free for those wh cannot pay, and those doctors have to perform operations free for those who cannot pay. According to the new system proposed the internees can go on to be Medical Officers, then Registrar or Senior Registrar, and as such they will be responsible for operations and then you need not have all these visiting surgeons that you have today. The time was when we did not have Surgeon Specialists, but we had surgeons who gave yeoman service. [A MEMBER: And they killed a lot of people too]. The difference is that the surgeon who had been practising for 15 years and who was visiting surgeon was likely to kill less people than the boy who has come with three years experience.

This new system was mooted when there was no Ministerial system, and the suggestion met the fate it deserved. I am at a loss to understand how the suggestion has come up again.

Let us deal now with the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum. You are increasing his salary by $40.00 a month, and the Assistant Superintendent by $100 a month. Both of these men are in office. It is not a question of a vacant post that is difficult to fill. I know an officer who walked out of the Hospital, and who is trying to get back there now. I counsel these youngsters who are trying to blackmail the Government by threatening to walk out not to continue with that form of blackmail. They are holding pistols at the heads of the people of this colony, and they may have to come back to Barbados and use our hospital, our instruments and the services of our nurses. The time is coming when there will be a federated West Indies and the undignified actions of these doctors will reflect upon themselves.

To return to the Medical Superintendent at the Mental Hospital—he is getting £1,500 a year now. Will you give him more money? You have given him a house which must have a rental value of at least $60.00 a month. He has free servants down there, free water, free light and free telephone.

10.00 p.m.

I have passed and seen them and have seen that everything is kept spick and span, therefore, you must take all that into consideration. You know when you are finished, that is a lot of money. You are raising one officer by $100 a month. He is getting $5,280 per annum now and you are going to give him $6480.

Mr. Speaker, there are some of the recommendations in this Resolution with which I agree, but not all. It is no question of embarrassment or any question of being disinterested. I am going to end on the point where I began. The health of the people of this colony cannot be measured in dollars and cents, but surely there must be some justification in spending money, and you must show me justification I agreed with the honourable senior member for St. Philip that this Resolution should go to Select Committee, because we want to find out certain things. As I have said, you have had your Adams Report and the Turner Report and as a Result of these Reports you went into the salaries of your entire service. Since then, you have come to this House time and time again and said, that you have found it difficult upon the salary fixed for a particular officer to get an appointment, and because of that, you are asking for so much money by such and such a Resolution to get A or B by contract. We have always agreed with you in those circumstances. We have seen in the Press and have heard otherwise that the people in your Agricultural Department which is a very important department of this country are dissatisfied; the teaching fraternity is dissatisfied with

what salaries they are getting, and you have not picked any of those Departments out, but you have picked the Heads of the Medical Department out *en bloc*. I am going to ask him this: how will the nurses of the Mental Hospital feel when they see that the Assistant Superintendent is increased by $100 a month and their salary has remained at the same thing? How would they feel to see the Assistant Superintendents' salaries increased by $40 a month and they who are getting $40 a month are not increased? You have done this on the departure of the Director of Medical Services. Where is the justification to come in here on the eve of a man's retirement and say, that you are going to increase his salary? He has not said, I am going to leave if you do not give me more money. Do you think that the nurses and the Sisters at the General Hospital are going to feel satisfied to see that you have picked out doctors and have given them an increase in salary? How do you think they are going to feel? They cannot feel well. I repeat, if the Government has come in here and said, that they were trying for a long time to get the post of Medical Officers filled and could not get them filled at a salary set out and had come for an increase so as to try and get them filled, we would agree with you; we would say, yes; but because the doctors have got together and have said, that they want more money, you cannot on account of that give them more money. They may say so, but Trinidad cannot employ all. They may find if they think that Trinidad can employ all that some will knock at the door and bounce back. I repeat again, if you had come in here and said you could not get a Bacteriologist for the money that we were paying and you had come to get one by contract we would agree with you. Let me say that you hold your seat in here if you do the right thing and that would be the right thing — not this. What on earth is the justification for your raising the salary of the Director of Medical Services? What is the justification for raising Dr. Grannum's salary? You cannot show me any justification for doing so. Would it be fair to raise the salaries of those doctors who say they are going to leave? As a Government you are responsible for all Government employees of the island. I say again that we will be willing to agree with you to fix the salaries of persons whom you cannot get; but we do not see the justification in raising certain people's salaries. I therefore second the motion that this Resolution should go to Select Committee. I will counsel the Hon. Minister of Health to let it not appear after all this argument that there is any rush or any hurry, or any means of hush-hush to get this Resolution through. What is the rush? If there is a rush over a particular office, pick it out. I will tell you something now. I doubt whether with the shortage which you are getting all over the world with respect to certain Specialists that with this increase which you want to give these people that you will get them. There is just a shortage of Medical Specialists and you can do nothing about it.

10.10 p.m.

There is a shortage of Surgeon Specialists but the salary provided here does not make that right. I am suggesting that a Select Committee be appointed to go into this matter. You will find that with a little sweet reasoning a lot of these things will go through; but there are certain Offices relative to which you can show no justification for salary increases. If there is the feeling that the Physician Specialist must not get the same thing as the Director of Medical Services, if there is a feeling that the D.M.S. is not to get less money than these other people then we are living in a fool's paradise. Public Health is something for which you must have a love; this is not like a man qualifying and preferring to become a teacher. Some doctors who get all they can get from the University and lectures are not paid as compared with other people. However, I say that I am in agreement with referring this matter to a Select Committee and I therefore beg to second the motion which has been made to that effect.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am sure that I will not be as long in my remarks as the last honourable member who has spoken. If you read the Addendum to this Resolution you can see that this island is about to experience very difficult times. This is what the Addendum says:—

"As a result of the recommendations of the Turner Committee in 1952 there was a general increase in the remuneration of medical staff save in the cases of the Physician and Surgeon Specialists and the Medical Officers whose salaries remained unchanged.

Despite the adjustment and in consequence of more attractive conditions of service in other parts of the West Indies and elsewhere, grave difficulty has been experience in recruiting medical personnel and it has been impossible so far to fill substantively the posts of Bacteriologist and Pathologist, Chemical Pathologist and Anaesthetist. Posts of Medical Officer have often been filled, only to be rendered vacant in a year or even less when the holders resigned to accept more financially attractive appointments in other territories.

The unrest and dissatisfaction already existing among medical personnel as a result of the wide gap between salaries in Barbados and the salaries of medical personnel in other parts of the West Indies have been further aggravated by the action which the Government was forced to adopt in securing the services of a Medical Officer of Health on agreement terms at a salary above that attached to the post."

When you read that Addendum, is it not fair to say that Government was aware that these posts with which they are now dealing would lead to this position? The position was ignored and now the Government has created a condition for itself. It has aggravated the position because there is a shortage of doctors. I do not know if it is the Government's intention to regard the Medical Service as something distinctive out of the whole structure of the people you employ and that there is no relation to anything else you do. That is not so. The Minister of Health is a Medical man and what would be the position if you had a teacher on the Executive Committee? What would be the desire of teachers on behalf of this island? There are 14 British Territories in this area; there is no point in mentioning the Windward or the Leeward Islands and the only islands you can compare yourself with would be British Guiana, Trinidad or Jamaica. Well, Jamaica is out of the question and £1,500 in Barbados means more than £1,500 in Trinidad. I have visited most of these territories and one is better off in Barbados in working for £1,500 than he is in Jamaica or Trinidad working for the same amount.

That is not my only difficulty. In looking through this Resolution, I say that the increases are not exorbitant but they would seem to be a sop. It has been the policy of this Government and they have undertaken to give personal allowances which they do not like to give and when they come to these allowances they call them by another name. Last year the Government said that it is opposed to giving personal allowances: therefore it cannot use the term "personal allowances"; but what it has done amounts to the same thing. They cannot give these

people personal allowances but they give them non pensionable allowances.

10.20 p.m.

Do you know why I say that this is a sop? I believe I have had some experience in the actions of Government. They are afraid that the Legislature would not agree to a personal allowance, and so they introduce it as non-pensionable allowance with no intention of ever removing it. When a certain amount of time has elapsed, they will integrate it into the officer's salary. For practical purposes what is the justification for having six senior medical officers, and all of them permament? You hope to carry on a building programme for the next five years that will enlarge the hospital. Within this framework of expansion you are introducing non pensionable allowances to permanent posts in your establishment.

On the face of it, it is illogical at this stage to say that in order to give better emoluments you have to give non-pensionable allowances. In so far as an officer who is going to draw his emoluments is concerned, it does not matter if you improve his salary by so much and call it non-pensionable allowance. What matters is that you have more dollars to pay out to him. If I had this Resolution to deal with as a member of the Government and I had reached the conclusion that the salaries of these officers should go up, I would say put them up; I would not talk about non-pensionable allowances. As I have said, it is only a matter of time before these allowances are integrated into the officer's salary. It has happened before. I challenge any Minister of the Government to show me a salary that carried non-pensionable allowance before the Turner Report and in which the allowance has not been integrated into the pensionable salary.

I am distressed to hear and read that the Government intends to carry out a policy of comparing local salaries with salaries paid in other West Indian islands for the purpose of increasing local salaries. There are thousands of posts in the whole Colonial Empire that cannot be filled merely by salary adjustment. If there is a shortage of doctors, lawyers or scavengers an increase in salary cannot put an end to that shortage. The Government knows that this policy is not a sane one. A sane policy would be to realise that there is a shortage in Trinidad, in Jamaica and elsewhere in the West Indies. You are providing a lot of money for the University College of the West Indies. If this argument about shortage is being used in favour of the doctors, then it is a pity that there are not members of other professions on the Executive Committee who could plead the case of their brother professionals or to whom the latter could plead their case in the same way that the doctors plead theirs to the Minister of Health. It is an undoubted fact that the doctors at the Hospital have had more increases during the Minister's regime than in their whole career in Barbados. Examine from the time that this Minister began to deal with the Medical Services portfolio and you will see that doctors have had more increases than members of any other profession. Look through the Estimates since the Turner Report in 1952 and you will see all the adjustments that they have had since then. This is not the first adjustment that we are making.

If the Government is arguing that a shortage of officers makes these adjustments necessary, I would like to ask what are they going to do with the other people when the same argument shortage can be put up? We know that today it is more difficult to recruit an Honours Graduate in Mathematics in any part of the world than to recruit a Medical Specialist. The reason is, as the universities have stated, that in recent years it seems that the scholastic tendency of boys and girls did not seem to run along mathematical lines, but more along classical lines.

What will the Government do? Will they pick out the mathematical specialists and give them salaries far above those of anyone else because a shortage exists? I do not agree with the hon. senior member for the City in so far as the structure of the Service is concerned. I agree that you have a Surgeon Specialist at present who, to use the hon. members phrase, is a "humane man." Fortunately, money is not the only thing that matters to that officer. But we do know what is happening in this island is that the Medical Profession feels that less than £3,000 a year is not a reasonable income in this island. That is at what they are aiming. They are aiming to give a doctor the minimum of £3,000 per annum. I do not agree with the hon. senior member for the City saying that the Head of the Department should not as the Head of such department get as much as the Surgeon Specialist.

10.30 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I did not say that the Director of Medical Services should not get more than the Surgeon Specialist. I said that there was a feeling that no Surgeon Specialist or Physician Specialist or for that matter any other Medical Officer should get a bigger salary than the Director of Medical Services, but I do not agree that anyone doing the administrative part as against one taking the grind should get a bigger salary. I feel that the one who is doing the grind should get a salary similar to that of the person who is doing the administrative work.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Well, that is not a burning question with me. I made the point that there is a general feeling that £3,000 per annum is a reasonable salary for doctors to earn. I am not protesting against that feeling by the Medical fraternity, but what I do feel is that within our economic context we must inter-relate the salaries of people in our services as to what we believe is reasonable and what we believe the community can afford to pay.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not one of those persons who make comparisons for the sake of comparison or for political purposes, because I feel when a man reaches a certain stage in public life that is his political armour. I do not think any member of the Government can ignore the important fact that all salaries paid out by the Government in the various services are related to one another and are not separate. We came in here and found it so. We cannot also ignore the general economic position of the island, and to look at one thing in a given sector and to believe that it is not in relation to the other. In dealing with these people fundamentally, there is no difference between a man who is a good doctor and a man who is a good scientist. For instance, our boys at Harrison College should be taught by qualified people; therefore you should aim at getting qualified people to teach them. You cannot get good doctors unless fundamentally they get a good education. It is true that you get the person who may be a genius without having a broad education, but you must aim at giving boys and girls a broad education. It is true that the teaching profession has been regarded as the Cinderella profession, and therefore insufficient care is taken of them. Therefore, you get the instance where teachers have to threaten the Government to get something done for them.

Now, when this House was considering the Turner Report some honourable members fell into the trap of thinking that the House was only considering Specialists, engineers, doctors and people like the Scientists at Harrison's College. Are we not on the same road as that today? I will read this statement to show the Government in what position it is placing this

House. It is this: "The unrest and dissatisfaction already existing among Medical personnel as a result of the wide gap between salaries in Barbados and the salaries of Medical personnel in other parts of the West Indies have been further aggravated by the action which the Government was forced to adopt in securing the services of a Medical Officer of Health on agreement terms at a salary above that attached to the post." Just as doctors on the last occasion looked to see what was done to the teachers, on this occasion the teachers, the Director of Highways and Transport and all the other people are going to look to see what you are going to do to the doctors; therefore, you are going to have that vicious circle starting again. Let us look at the matter from the point of view of shortage. That is a phrase which the Civil Servants are likely to use, the capitalist and the employer. If there is no shortage, there is no need to look into the needs of the people; that is to say, if there is an abundance of labour, the labour can be cheap.

Now, you have not reviewed the salaries of the Civil Service since 1952. You have not yet made a general review of the salaries of the Civil Servants of the island as a whole, but you have given a 20% cost of living to some of them. Now, within the same context you want to pay Medical men £1,500 per annum and you have come here with a Resolution for that. I will pause at this junction to point out that when you examine this Resolution you will say, that everyone is entitled to the medical service you provide, but do you know what you are providing with this? You are aware that some private practitioners have established private hospitals. In staffing and equipping the General Hospital as you are, you are substantially saving them any expensive personnel or equipment, because your personnel and equipment can be used in those private hospitals according to what you are saying now and may be at the expense of the poor people who are forced to go into your General Hospital and who are not able to pay for the services of a private hospital, because they cannot pay the prices which would be charged them. You say in the Order, with regard to the special Radiologist you are paying him a salary of $5,520 x 480 — 6,480 plus full fees irrespective of consultations outside the Hospital. That means he can enjoy private practice outside. Why should a Radiologist in a small place like Barbados be called upon for consultations outside? I mentioned that because there is a growing number of these private hospitals — to which we have no objection, but we have no control over them nor of the charges which they make. Therefore, when we are doing what is stated in this Order we have to be careful that we are not encouraging, building and subsidising outside service at the expense of the service for which the Community is paying a high price. It may be in the interest of the community, but it is something which you must watch. All this is happening in a community where the people have to pay fees to doctors and where the fees of doctors have been increased; yet, the Government is still paying men and women in their service between 17 and 21 cents an hour which is something like seven shillings a day, many of them not guaranteed a week's wage. There is this wide disparity within your own economic system, and it is something which you should watch.

10.40 p.m.

I can say quite frankly that even with a system like this, you are creating trouble in the sense that there is nothing to prevent an ambitious politician, one who has not yet been here, and who wants to come here, to use this matter to show what you are doing now. In 1952 you reviewed the doctors' salaries, you improved them and there is no doubt that Barbados has become so medical conscious that the average doctor today finds it difficult in private practice to accommodate all his patients. The Barbadian is still a "bush tea" person; he is looking for his "Circe", pomegranate and all the herbs which we know proverbially as bush tea. We do not begrudge Medical men good standards of living; the medical profession is regarded as an expensive profession and it costs parents money to provide their children with a medical profession. Do not let us forget that in Barbados we cannot afford to pay salaries which some of our neighbours in the West Indies can pay. In the United States of America which is one of the richest places on God's Earth (and the highest salaries are paid in that country) it is amazing to find the salaries which are paid to Doctors at the famous New York Medical Centre and what you can regard as modest salaries comparatively speaking for which Doctors work. I am not talking from hearsay, I am talking from my experience as I have had to pay something which is infinitely cheaper than what I would have been charged in the West Indies for the same thing which was done.

I say that because there is a growing tendency that in spite of the socialist concept attached to medicine brought here it seems that we are taking up the old capitalist idea and trying to say how much the community can pay for medicine and not how cheaply medicine can be supplied. The Government of this island has come very near to this problem of reviewing the best means of giving the public satisfaction.

I disagree with the honourable senior member for the City on the question of an internee of a certain category not rushing to get in a Hospital in Barbados as he would rush to get in one in the United Kingdom. Two thousand dollars cannot attract a Medical Student who wants to go far because the normal student would not be looking to come to the West Indies to get that amount if he wants to go far in the profession. Our position is this: we have to be glad for the ones we get because they will help out the position. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: They send them here.] It is not to say that it is their choice but the places they want to get in they cannot get in. The position is like the barrister's; a barrister passes his Bar exams but he has not finished until he eats his requisite dinners.

In this Resolution I share the view of some honourable members who feel that we should test out the feelings of the House; if it is a question of postponement it may be agreed upon. Sometimes you hear the vulgar remark made that you do not want to help the people at the Hospital; but at this hour it does not make any difference between passing this Resolution now and dealing with it next Tuesday. In so far as I am concerned, I do say that the time has come that if the Government intends to review the salaries and conditions of employment of these Officers there is no point in believing that you are going to satisfy the people. There is one sure thing: namely that the public is not going to support you on it because the masses of the people you have working within your own boundaries will feel that you are giving more favourable treatment to people who are already in receipt of favourable salaries, but because certain circumstances exist outside you are giving them more not based on the fact that their needs are greater than others, but based on the fact that a shortage exists.

10.50 p.m.

I do feel that other sections of the Service should not suffer because a shortage does not exist in their sections., so that there is no intention to give them any redress. As I have said earlier, in my dealings with employers in this island when I am seeking

higher wages for people, the Government's salaries always give me a headache; because employers say they are paying salaries and wages which are better than the Government's Key Scale. With this argument about shortage, what will happen if sections of the Service in which there is no shortage ask the Government for a salary adjustment?

The Addendum says: "The payment of pensionable allowances".

All that I will say is that the Government is following the practice in Trinidad which has given rise to a vicious thing. The result of it is that some Medical Specialists believe that they have the right to have all the consultation practice, and that when it comes to the question of an operation they alone can do it. There is a Trinidadian whom everyone respects for his skill; but the man himself is one of those selfish individuals who believes that none of the younger doctors have any right attending to people, and he tries to hog up the whole practice for himself at the expense of the suffering of the people. It is not always good to follow the practice of another country without knowing first how the practice is working in that colony.

After making all these adjustments in favour of the doctors, what are we going to hear from the other people? I understand that the Colonial Engineer has been complaining. These salaries have been getting very near to the Governor's. They are also getting very near the Ministers' salaries. With all the increased work that the Ministers have been called upon to do, and with their meagre travelling allowances, we will soon hear that if you can give the Senior Medical Officer of Health £1,500 a year, why should the Ministers who are not only superior to him but superior to his Chief get the same as he. Soon and very soon you will hear that it is necessary to increase the Ministers' travelling allowances and bring them up to that of the Governor, and to increase the Ministers' salaries from £1,500 to £2,000 and carry the Premier from £2,000 to £2,500. Obviously then the Governor's emoluments will have to go up too. I have a lurking suspicion that the salary adjustments proposed in this Resolution will not end there.

As regards the Director of Medical Services, all that I will say is that he has been in the West Indies for the last 17 years; and the West Indies is no heaven for salaries. Such a man cannot be so hot or he would have tried to get to Nigeria or the Gold Coast where they pay big salaries. What I am saying, however, is that £1,500 a year in Barbados is not a salary to sneeze at or to regard as mere pocket money.

11.00 p.m.

I can say that because those of us who pay Income Tax will know from the amount which we pay what one would have to pay if one got £1,500 per annum. I say that, Mr. Speaker, because I want to draw to the attention of the House that while I do not be grudge the salaries that are paid Medical Officers or any Officer in the Service, I do feel that those salaries should not be isolated or in a vacuum, but should be in relation to what exists.

Mr. Speaker, personally, I do not agree with the system that exists in Barbados, because it is unscientific; but the Government agrees with it. If I had to deal with these salaries I would deal with them on a different basis. I would necessarily have to tie people of the Unestablished Staff to people in the incremental scale. I say that, because you have a system where you get people working for 17 cents per hour for 44 hours per week but do not work every week in the year. In this same structure, you get people who are working for $720 per annum. That is unscientific. The next thing is that the man who is getting 17 cents an hour as a labourer will get that all the time (there is no raise for him; the man who comes in as a cantoneer will die a cantoneer) there is no raise for him. When you have a structure which is unrelated to reality the whole thing becomes a monumental joke.

The wheels of Government work slow and I say that as a means to point out to the Hon. Minister that with these salaries which Government proposes to give Medical Officers he cannot expect to make favourable treatment to the medical profession without giving the same treatment to the other people in the same service. When this is done, he must be willing to face whatever criticism may come from the other people.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, it is true that since the 18th of last month we have had this Resolution before us for consideration, but, Sir it is only this evening that we have had the opportunity of listening to the Hon. Minister who is in charge of the Medical Services to give his dissertation on this subject matter, and speaking for myself I must say, that I do not feel justified in deciding definitely one way or the other on this issue without further consideration and my having the opportunity to digest the great deal of information which has fallen from the lips of the Hon. Minister in charge of Medical Services.

I may, sir, congratulate the Hon Minister on his solicitude towards the profession of which he has the honour to belong and the manner in which he looks after his professional brethren, because there can be no gainsaying of the fact that although the honourable junior member for St. Thomas may have left the Medical Profession for the time being, he is ever watching and vigilant in their interest and always pressing to safeguard their present and their future. While I am on the subject of congratulations, I would also like to congratulate the honourable junior member for St. Peter on the commonsense and logic which he exuded over the past half hour while he was speaking on this Resolution. But sir, it is a pity that this Resolution comes before us in such an omnibus form. Without further consideration, I would have had no hesitation in passing that aspect of it which deals with the Anaesthetic Service, because I entirely agree that there can be no properly run hospital with a Surgeon without an Anaesthetist. I am told by a certain medical friend of mine that we are making history at the General Hospital by allowing Anaesthetics to be administered by internees. I hope it is not true, but rumour has it very strongly that actually at the General Hospital Anaesthetics are being administered by internees and if I am not mistaken there are one or two cases in which deaths have occurred within a very short time after the hour of the administration of the anaesthetics. Sir, the administering of anaesthetics is one of the most highly technical matters in connection with surgical operation. I am told again, by a medical friend that it is more likely that an Anaesthetist can kill you by mistake than a Surgeon, because a Surgeon would have to be a butcher and one who does not know his job to kill you. You either die through your poor state of health or through the improper administration of anaesthetics. We have been without a proper Anaesthetist for so long that I have no hesitation and certainly no misgiving in voting for those items, Specialist Anaesthetist and Assistant Anaesthetist, in order that operation can be properly performed in this island. We have our specialist in surgery, Mr. Leacock, but without the necessary accompaniment of a capable Anaesthetist it is hardly likely that one can look forward to a successful surgical operation. But, as I have said, we have this omnibus Resolution before us and the honourable junior member for St. Peter struck a

note which occurred to me and which cannot be too strongly noted that as soon as you pass this Resolution, you will get people coming to tell you, (and rightly so) from the two opposite classes and categories, from the humblest and the needy class to that numerous yet hopelessly unpaid middleclass in this community having regard to the present cost of living, that they want a raise.

11.10 p.m.

And you dare not refuse them when they come to you — those in receipt of 17 cents and 22 cents an hour — and they will come in considerable numbers. Then there are other classes, people like the Specialist Teachers. You know, Sir, the trouble which we experienced in another sphere from this when we had to consider applicants for mechanical specialists for the school with which we are connected. We got then an airmail letter from one applicant saying that since applying for the post he had been offered something else and he regretted having to decline the appointment. Just as a case has to be made out for Medical Specialists there is a case for Mathematical Specialists because there are too rare a type of people; one has to be born a mathematical genius. You may be able to make a classical scholar but it is impossible to develop a mathematical genius.

As I have said, I am afraid that if this Resolution is passed, you will get other people calling for an adjustment of their salaries. We only have to remember what was said of the future of Harrison College (on the occasion of the annual Speech Day) if there was not the adequate teaching staff. Automatically, Sir, the Government should realise that with this Resolution which they are asking us to sanction for these increases, they will have applications for increases from every Branch of the Public Service in this island. If this Resolution is passed it means that you have to proceed with a general revision in the upward grade in the salaries of other Public Servants. That position confronts the Government and they cannot get away from it.

Sir, the wording of the Addendum to this Resolution is very unhappy; in one or two cases the sentences could hardly have been worded more tactlessly. When it is stated that "the unrest and dissatisfaction already existing among medical personnel as a result of the wide gap between salaries in Barbados and the salaries of Medical personnel in other parts of the West Indies have been further aggravated by the action which the Government was forced to adopt in securing the services of a Medical officer of Health on agreement terms at a salary above that attached to the post." That unrest and dissatisfaction has manifested itself by the indifference and apathy of certain members of the staff with regard to the performance of their work. It is not good enough if more money is asked for and your mind is demonstrated by the treatment of people who go into the Wards of the Hospital or the Casualty. People sometimes die before they receive Medical attention. I think one of those cases has been the subject matter of a query in this Chamber. One can recall other instances as to how they have been performing their duties. Even if people are not satisfied with their remuneration, it is their duty to do their work thoroughly, conscientiously and efficiently even if they feel they should be paid more money. In this country it is not only the question of salary but there is the question of our climate, the Barbadian way of life and the social surroundings which go to make Barbados attractive and popular to people who come from overseas to our shores.

There is a Clause in the Addendum to this Resolution to the affect that three Medical Officers at the Hospital have given notice of their intention to determine their engagements unless reasonable salary increases are granted. When you have increased your salaries for the Specialists, people like Police Officers can easily be provided for if you want to increase their salaries. All you have to do is to let the Commissioner of Police get promotion and the Deputy Commissioner will get more money. Having regard to what the honourable senior member for the City has said, to increase your Assistant Medical Superintendent at the Mental Hospital at $100 a month is to open the door to a spate of complaints from the entire Civil Service of this colony. The increase proposed for the senior man is $40 a month. There is no doubt about it that certain of these officers have not the slightest intention of resigning their posts if these increases are not given.

Reference has been made to the Senior Medical Officer of Health and the Health Officer. I have already spoken about the Anaesthetist and even if it is felt that this Resolution should go through tonight it will only be reasonable for the Government to force it through by separating certain of the offices which are absolutely necessary to be given increases. It is no wonder that we find birds of passages in respect Anaesthetics and Bacteriologists; and Pathologists are also rare. The fact that we have had that speech from the honourable Introducer tonight should have given us food for thought; I suggest that a week more, far from doing any harm, would be in the interest of the community to allow us to consider this Resolution in the light of what the Hon. Minister of Social Services has said and in the light of the whole Public Service of this colony.

11.50 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, a lot has been said about salaries. I do not think the House could ever be so blind as not to realise that if we touch one we have to touch all. I am referring to the Medical Services. I repeat that the situation with junior staff is very serious. There are three that have gone already and three have sent in their resignations to take effect from the 23rd of this month. As far as the allowances are concerned, I am sorry that the hon. senior member for St. Philip is not here to hear that those getting these allowances will also get fees.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution be adjourned.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I accept that.

The Resolution was postponed.

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL

Animal Feed

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr Speaker, I am asking leave at this stage to deal with Order No. 6 standing in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture.

There being no objection leave was granted.

Order No. 6 was called as follows:

Second reading of a Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Objects and Reasons of this Bill clearly set out its intention. For some time the Government has been examining the question of mixing animal feed locally. Government regards it as of great importance to the agricultural economy of the island that stock feed should be available locally in adequate quantities and at a price within the reach of peasant propri-

etors. Up to the present the relatively high cost of stock feed has proved to be a major obstacle to the development of such projects as the expansion of the dairy and pig industries.

Government therefore considers it desirable to encourage the manufacture within the Island of animal feeding stuffs, using as far as possible either local ingredients, or failing them, ingredients from within the British Caribbean area.

This Bill seeks to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, to authorise the importation free of duty of machinery to be used for the local manufacture of stock feed. Hon. members will recall that similar concessions already exist in respect of machinery imported for manufacturing a variety of products locally. I hardly think that hon. members can disagree with a Bill of this nature. Unless and until animal feed is produced and sold at economic prices it means that such industries as the dairy industry will suffer.

Mr. Speaker, I hardly think I need say anymore. This is one of the things we have been trying to do for some time. Now that we have an opportunity of having animal feed produced locally at reasonable prices, I think we should all agree that it is highly desirable.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a sec ond time.

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

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture was rather presumptious when he made the statement that hon. members would hardly disagree with a Bill of this kind. I do not think it is satisfactory for a Minister to get up and say "Order No. 6 etc." The ordinary member of the public, reading the rather garbled and distorted account of the debate, even if it was reasonably accurate, would not be in a position to understand the implications of the measure which happened to be debated in the House on the particular occasion.

Firstly the Minister should state what the Bill is. Secondly, he should go on to say how the Public Treasury would be affected by a Bill of this kind. Then he should go on to state what benefits would inure from the Bill either to the stock breeders and poultry raisers or the general population of Barbados.

Now, I therefore have to do these things which the Minister has not done.

12.01 a.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. All those points which the member is making are stated in the Objects and Reasons. He read them.

Mr. BARROW: I wonder if it is really worthwhile replying to the point made by the Hon. Minister because that is exactly what I am criticising. The Objects and Reasons of a Bill is not supposed to be a Minister's speech on the introduction of an amendment. Some hireling in the administration dishes out something which is reasonably grammatical but which is rather terse and lacking in full information. Therefore, the Minister is supposed to come in the House and give a fuller disclosure on the material facts pertinent to the particular issue.

This Bill, according to the copy which I have before me, seeks to amend the Custom Tariffs Act, 1921, to make it possible for machinery, apparatus and equipment imported for the purpose of manufacturing or mixing feeding stuff for animals, on proof being given to the satisfaction of the Comptroller, that such machinery, apparatus or equipment is to be used solely for the purpose aforesaid is to come into the island free of duty. This is another one of a long series of measures which are designed to help a particular group of persons in this community and which has been initiated by a so-called Socialist Government. When you look at the Objects and Reasons to which the Minister has referred, they state that the Government regards it of great importance to the Agricultural economy of the island that stock feed should be made available locally in adequate quantities and at a price within the reach of peasant proprietors. Let us stop there for a moment and let us examine what Government states. My first question is: is the Minister stating that the present supplies of stock feed coming into the island are inadequate? Is he stating that because a number of Government members allow the virtual Minister of Trade — not the *de jure* Minister but the *de facto* Minister to set up a blind in Barbados which makes out that the Government regards it of great importance that stock feed should be available locally in adequate quantities — is that an admission on the part of the Minister of Agriculture that we have not had adequate supplies of stock feed in this island up to the present moment? Is he further stating that the price which peasant proprietors, not to talk about the people who are amateur poultry keepers and other householders who raise chickens in their back yard, pay for stock feed up to now is an unreasonable price? If he is saying that, I would be inclined to agree with him. If he is saying that, I would like to ask him, not as Minister of Agriculture because he did not do anything about it by way of subsidy or otherwise, but why have they agreed to import $8,000 to $9,000 additional stock feed in this island to buttress what they had without any fall in the price from the increased use. Why was not any effort being taken by the Government to bring down the price of stock feed by making use of the manufacturing plant at Lancaster to process local ground raw materials, or by way of a subsidy if the Minister of Agriculture felt that the price was too high?

Let us go on further with what the Objects and Reasons to the Bill have to say. It is stated that up to the present the relatively high cost of stock feed has proved to be a major obstacle to the development of such projects as the expansion of the dairy and pig industries.

Is the Minister of Agriculture saying that despite his pig subsidy the pig industry is a failure? Is he saying that the failure of the dairy industry to expand is due to the price of stock feed rather than to the lack of initiative on the part of the Government to implement the dairy scheme that was before the House sometime ago? All that is what I would like to know. The next question is: whose fault is it that the dairy industry has not been expanded? Is it the fault of the Minister of Agriculture because they have not formulated plans for the expansion of the dairy industry; or, is it the fault of the same merchants for whom the same Minister is holding a brief and who have kept the price of the stock feed at the high level which he has stated in this Bill up to the present moment?

The Objects and Reasons go on to say: "Government therefore considers it desirable to encourage the manufacture within the island of animal feeding stuffs, using as far as possible either local ingredients, or failing them, ingredients from within the Caribbean area."

It is added: "This Bill seeks to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, so as to admit, free of duty, machinery, apparatus and equipment to be used in the local manufacture of stock feed. Similar

concessions already exist in respect of machinery, imported for manufacturing a variety of products locally, including for example, machinery for manufacturing and manipulating cotton, cotton seed and the by-products of cotton seed."

They are only thinking of particular individuals, but if they went through the Customs Tariffs Act, as amended in 1923, they would see that there is hardly an industry in Barbados not to speak of a restrictive group of persons which do not enjoy customs free duty for their machinery. An old established industry like the Sugar Industry gets customs free duty. He does not have to go to cotton seed; he will find almost all industries get their capitalisation without any interest and all those things are diametrically opposed to the real tenets of socialist doctrine.

Let us leave that for the minute and let me ask the Minister this question: is the Hon. Minister of Agriculture prepared to give this House an undertaking if this Bill is passed that poultry and animal feeds would be cheaper in Barbados? That is what I want to know.

12.10 a.m.

The history of the Government in matters of this kind in this country does not bear inspection in getting things done for manufacturers, but if we were in a position to give the public an undertaking which could be published in the newspaper tomorrow morning, that the price of stock feed will be reduced as the result of our allowing this machinery into this colony free of duty, perhaps my lips be sealed until they did contrary-wise. But the Hon. Minister is not prepared to do that, otherwise he would give some indication as to the cost of production and as to the manner in which duty-free importation would affect cost of production. Let us say that there is a charge of $9.00 per hundred pounds for stock feed: if the Minister were in a position to say that the cost of stock feed would be reduced by 25%, that is a statement which would be welcomed by members of the general public; but in order that stock feed might be reduced by two cents, they would have to make a reduction by about 25%. I do not see how a mere tax relief concession on capital equipment could give rise to a 25% reduction in the selling cost of the particular product unless the members of the public were not being fleeced at present by the merchants who are responsible for mixing and importing and selling animal feeds.

Mr. Speaker, the mere fact that similar concessions exist in relation to certain other commodities manufactured in this island does not mean that we must go on indefinitely like Mr. Huskisson in the late 1820's or early 1830's, when he went through the Custom's Tariff Act with a blue pencil and struck out some 800 commodities which were subject to Customs Tariff. Every single time that certain people make overtures to the Government in the name of relieving unemployment, to have tax-free concessions on machinery and raw material, the Government seeks to accede too willingly to their requests. The next thing we will have from this Government is that a Bill will be introduced into this Chamber to absolve all those persons who are company directors from Companies tax. If you follow this kind of argument, they will be able to say that company directors are working for industry which provides employment in Barbados, —that is how they usually put it,— and therefore you should not tax them. In other words, capitalists in a place like Barbados do not need to have political control over the island; they control the island through the Government of the day by pursuading them that everything they do is in the interest of the community and they can save time by not contesting elections at all. In these days they can have things done for them in the name of pioneer industries or industrialising the colony; they can now get things done which in the old days they would not have been able to accomplish.

I will give you a single illustration of what has actually happened in Barbados and nobody will be able to keep quiet on this matter until I receive a satisfactory explanation from the Ministerial Bench. Sometime ago I asked the *de jure* Minister and not the *de facto* Minister of Trade to give a break down of the cost of the manufacture of margarine in this island; after a considerable lapse of time, the figures were provided in the reply and the Minister had refused to give the cost of production figures because that was a matter which was a secret between the manufacturers and the Government.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: On a point of Order. What is the hon. member speaking on? Certainly it is not in relation to this Bill.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, that is not a point of Order and I do not think you should entertain such frivolous interruptions.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has risen on a point of Order and I had to hear his point. That should be obvious.

Mr. BARROW: I know the hon. member does not like the truth repeated, but I would like him to say that he did not admit in the printed reply which he gave to my question that the cost of margarine and coconut oil had gone up by 4 cents a pound in certain respects. The Minister at that time refused to give a break down as to the cost of production; I felt that that was unfair because here was an industry enjoying tax-free concession in respect of the packages in which the commodities were contained and tax-free concessions relative to the production. This is an interesting situation; the Minister of Agriculture is now suggesting that the cost of animal feeds may possibly be cheaper to the present proprietor of Barbados as a result of our passing this measure. By now the public should be well aware that the person interested in the importation of this machinery to manufacture animal feeds is the same person who was interested in the manufacture of edible oils and margarine.

Some time ago, about September or October last year the price of edible oil and margarine went up by approximately 4 cents per pound. No commission was set up, no banners were waved, no drums were beaten and no campaign was conducted in the Press or on public platforms and no explanations were given and none were asked. We had the spectacle of a considerable rise in the selling costs of these commodities: margarine, lard and edible oil, and I would like to refer the Minister to the Reply to Question No. 8 laid in this House on the 22nd February, 1955.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member now making that particular point in his speech?

Mr. BARROW: I am only making an analogy. The rise in the selling cost was four cents per pound on Margarine and lard. At the same time the Minister made this concession, a certain company consented to warn the public, (a single shot in political or economic campaign was being fired then,) that the selling price of these same commodities in British Guiana, St. Lucia and other West Indian islands, commodities manufactured in Barbados were cheaper before the rise than the price paid by the consumer in Barbados.

In some cases there was an eight to ten per cent rise than before which consumers outside Barbados were paying for commodities exported from this country.

12.20 a.m.

In September last year, questions were laid: and what happened in Barbados was that a commodity manufactured locally was sold to consumers outside of Barbados cheaper than to the consumer in Barbados; and then the Minister of Trade *de jure* allows the *de facto* Minister for Trade a 4% or in some cases a 10% rise on that commodity. Having settled that, I can predict that when we allow the importation free of duty of machinery for mixing animal feed to be manufactured in Barbados you will find that the Barbados consumer, far from getting a deduction in price, will be faced with a rise in the minimum price of the commodity, and only people outside of Barbados will benefit from the measure which we have before us.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, the poor, starved and underpaid Barbados workers will have to satisfy the greed and avarice of a few capitalists in Barbados and benefit consumers outside of Barbados As long as people know what is happening and can read and understand what is going on in the colony, I will have no fear. Therefore, I would very much like something much more specific from the Minister of Agriculture than the vague general statement that the Government regards it of great importance to the agricultural economy of the island that stock feed should be available locally in adequate quantities and at a price within the reach of peasant proprietors etc.

My answer is that once bitten twice shy; because on the occasion on which we have made these concessions benefit has not inured to the consumer, or to the peasant, or to the working class man in this colony. The same thing has happened with sugar. We have given the Sugar Producers the concession of importing duty-free machinery, and as soon as we have done that we have found that we in Barbados have to pay the same price for our sugar as the consumer in Great Britain, although there are no transport cost or anything like that involved.

This kind of legislation is really not a public Bill at all. No matter how cleverly they try to word the Objects and Reasons of the Bill, they cannot convince any member of this Chamber that it is a Bill in the interest of the public unless they are more specific. Until they can show that every one in the Community will benefit directly or indirectly from the implementation of a measure of this kind, I am submitting respectfully, Your Honour, that this Bill is a Private Bill, private in the sense that it is a Bill to benefit only a restricted class of persons, the class of persons to whom four years ago the Government were bitterly opposed. The power of office and their own incompetence have made them become strange bed fellows with the very persons whom they exhorted the electorate to put out of office on the occasion of the last election. Perhaps their motives are mixed, perhaps they are not bed fellows at present, but are preparing their beds for some future time when they will have to lie in them. Whatever might be the motives of the Government for the introduction of a Bill of this kind which must of necessity result in a curtailment of the revenue of the island, they must be more specific before they can convince us that we should support this Bill as being not only of a public nature, but being one that will inure to the benefit of all.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, if a further word need to be said of the shortsightedness of this Government's policy, we have had it here tonight. Time and again, we have been asked in this House to amend the Customs Tariff Act in order to do this, that or the other, and all the things that we have been asked to do by amending the Act have been matters of far-reaching importance and of grave consequence to the people of this island.

Indeed, Sir, it is a grave indication of their unwillingness and inability to have a policy that they have proceeded to produce this measure. If they could have swallowed even more than they seem to swallow, at least they would have told us that this is almost a pioneer industry; but even that, Mr. Speaker, would have been too much for them. They could not come tonight and ask us to give pioneer status to the feed-mixing industry, and so they do what is the next best thing: ask us to curtail the revenue of this island in order to allow them to do what they had been told to do.

The facts of this matter are simple, but they are not known to all the members of this House. I doubt whether they are known to all the members of the Government. Certainly, the Minister did not speak as if he understood the facts when he read the printed Objects and Reasons of this Bill. It appears that in the Mercantile world in Barbados there are two distinct groups who now want to crush into the feed-mixing business. There is on the one hand, those interests who are backing the Purina horse, and the other much larger and more powerful group who are prepared to put all their money on Pillsbury.

12.30 a.m.

The Pillsbury side consists of Mr. Hunte, and certain other interests, such as Messrs. DaCosta and Co. Ltd., and Messrs. Jason Jones and Co. Ltd., are holding the reins on the Purina side. They have both realised that unless they can befuddle this Government, neither side will get what it wants; and as good strategists of the business world they have decided to pool in so much of their interests, and to bombard the Government and fool it into making the concession in the interest of feeding pigs with a cheaper feed and the Hon. Minister does not even know that this would not be their limit to their request in this matter, because very soon from now, if they get this concession, the next thing will be that they are going to ask someone above him (and he would be told what to do,) to introduce legislation on similar lines as the Ordinance passed in British Guiana in 1891 so as to have a tax free holiday for the first five years for their business. That is what they are aiming at.

Well, now, if you have a Socialist Government with a clearly outlined body of social and economic principles to uphold every new measure and every new proposition, if it is to be acceptable to you, it must bear some relation to the principles you hold. You cannot say, on the one hand, that you are in power to uphold the interests of the people, and on the other hand, you are persuaded to give concessions to minority groups of business men who themselves are unwilling to convince you that they are working in the interest of larger groups than themselves. It is fortunate for these people who want these concessions that there is still a little time left for them to get them; because as I have said, with all emphasis I can command, if the party of which I am a member were in power, this thing could not come to this House: because we think differently on these matters of people who want these concessions and who force these concessions on the Government. I say that it could not happen if they had a distinct body of principles which they work by; but they believe that as long as anything can bring them profit, no matter what it cost to human discomfort and human disadvan-

tage, it is alright, and who can blame them for having those principles and acting upon them in this way if they can get away with it? They may have principles (we on this side have principles) but it is left for the Government in power if it possesses any political principle of its own to stop this nonsense.

If, Mr. Speaker, this Government is interested in any proper scheme to increase the quantity of feed consumed by animals in this island and to make that feed become available to consumers, the very first thing they should do is to satisfy themselves as to the facts and figures of the matter and not to rest until an answerable case is put by the persons who wish the Customs Tariff Act amended in their favour.

Mr. Speaker, do you realise whither this process will lead if half a dozen times a year, and possibly two dozen times in the whole course of a single legislative session, the Customs Tariff Act is amended with this significant drop in revenue. Do you realise the damage it would do? I wonder if the Minister really understands what is involved in all of this?

We have seen—and when I say that, I mean some of us who dabble in it would know — that in extraordinary cases and instances where concessions have been given to a person or persons for a particular use, they are used in a far different way from that conceived about them and in a way that would offer greater profit to those who receive them. If for instance you take the Soap Factory, you take Messrs. K. R. Hunte and Co., and you take the Biscuit Factory, you will notice that one or two of the inside things which one of these firms import are tins and pails and the same tins and pails find themselves distributed for lard on one side and biscuits on the other. That is, they are sold and resold between the various concerns and yet it can be claimed that soap is a pioneer industry and that lard is also a pioneer industry; and I doubt very much whether the Hon. Minister has ever troubled himself to discover how much revenue he is losing merely because he does not know what is going on.

Mr. Speaker, there is this side of these matters which you cannot ignore. Is there any limit to the number of times that those people who have their eyes on a particular bit of business can tell the Government that something which they want done is in the interest of all of us? Is there to be no scrutiny and no study when a particular measure is recommended? Is there nobody honest enough to say to them that if a concession is to be made to this or that business, it should be in their interest but it would also give you a certain amount of ease politically? If that were done, it would be understandable; because if you are going to play ball they are certain things which you can give and certain things which you can receive.

I have every sympathy with persons who through their own enterprise have built up businesses and tried in their own way to serve the community. There is something laudable about it. I have no sympathy whatsoever with interests who use all the knowledge and power at their command to extend or even to bring things cheaper to people who have to eat and drink, but more often than not have to seize every advantage to accelerate their profits and to swallow up every other interest which tends to threaten them. I therefore cannot consider giving my support to this Bill and my principal reasons for withdrawing it, Mr. Speaker, are that the Minister in introducing it has not convinced anybody that he knows the far-reaching nature of this matter; secondly, that the principle of amending the Customs Tariff Act ever so often because somebody wants it done is politically unwise and economically unsound; and thirdly, that in introducing a Bill of this nature, the Minister responsible ought to be in a position to say without being prompted or being asked, that he examined every aspect of the matter, that he had carefully scrutinised all its points and therefore he could give us the assurance that so far as he was concerned, he had no personal reason to doubt its wisdom or practicability.

12.40 a.m.

All of these elements, Mr. Speaker, are missing, and therefore the Bill nor the manner of its presentation can commend itself to honourable members What is more, matters of this nature have far-reaching economic consequences; and this House as the guardian of the people's interest ought always to be in the position of receiving categorical assurances on the matters which trouble it most.

It does not look as if the Minister can be able to assure this House that the price of animal feed will be cheaper, or to assure this House if this financial concession is granted and feed is mixed so plentifully, that even if some of it is sent out of the island, other people will not reap the benefit of what the consumers in this island are paying for. These are assurances which ought to be given; and if they are not given, it means that the Government itself is not aware of all that is involved. That, Mr. Speaker, I think, is the most telling argument against this Bill

If the feed mixing industry of this island in the opinion of those who are to carry it on is going to be so big a thing, I am at a loss to understand why they did not claim pioneer status for it. That is what they should do. But I assume they did not claim pioneer status for this industry because they felt that such a claim would not hold water even with the present Government in power; therefore they worked the other way.

Both sides have asked for concessions because you could not give one without the other, and it would be left to them to fight out the issues between them. Coming to such arrangements should normally mean in the business world that the Government feels itself that because two distinct companies are going to receive this concession the competition will redound to the benefit of the consumers, and also the pig rearing industry which the Hon. Minister has at heart. Nothing of the sort is going to happen; the Hon Minister will come here in the Estimates next year and he will ask for more money for his pig subsidy scheme; he will ask for more because he will tell us that the number of of litters has increased since. But what he will not be able to tell us is that more pigs are eating more and cheaper feed.

If he can tell us that, then he ought to have the assurances from the people who are now seeking these concessions. He cannot tell us that Messrs. Da Costa & Co., Ltd., and Messrs. Jason Jones & Co., who are embarking on this question have not yet gone into their cost; and even as a matter of courtesy they must have told that to him. You see, the difference between some of us and the Hon. Minister of Trade is this: we understand a little as to cost in the business world and we read our newspapers and we listen to people who talk, and we hear things; and we cannot therefore take the complacent attitude which the Hon. Minister takes because we know that the mistakes he makes is just one more mistake for him, and it may not be noticed among the galaxy of his failures. But if it is a mistake on his part, it is a social disaster to the people of this island: but when the Government gives a concession which allows people to make a lot of money without their being asked for corresponding guarantees in the shape of services performed——

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I hate to interrupt the hon. member. I want the hon. member to realise that the basis of concessions being granted is on the undertaking that the price of animal feed would be reduced. [Mr. ALLDER: Why did you not say that ever since].

Mr. TUDOR: Would the Hon. Minister be able to say by how much the price of feed would be reduced? He has not said anything which harms my point of view in any way. Why did you have to amend the Customs Tariff Act? The people who have asked for these concessions are those who believe in free enterprise; do you mean to say that their position is such that they ask for concessions which they could not obtain in the ordinary course of business? You have to discover all the information and you need not be wrong; but I must say that the time at which the assurance was given did not take account of all the facts.

12.50 a.m.

This is an old story in this House. Ever since this Government has been in power we have had assurances from them; and in the light of after events they have had to modify and eat their own words because they have had to admit that they did not know all the facts at the time that they asked the House to do this or that. It is all very well for them to say blithely that if the hon. member would sit he would hear everything. That would be all well if the matter was such a simple one that all it required was a grin on the part of the Minister of Trade to set each member's mind at rest. My contention is, that they not only waste the time of the House, but do the people irreparable harm because they do not understand these things. Until they do, they will continue to make the same grievous blunders. Happily, they do not have much more time at their disposal to make those blunders; but it is still our duty to save the people of the island from a fate worse than death by trying ourselves to modify some of the blunders that the Government makes between now and the time that we throw them out.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time was put and agreed to.

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by by Hon. R. G. MAPP the SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went in Committee on the Bill Mr. SMITH in the Chair.

The three clauses of the Bill were called and agreed to.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. R. G. MAPP the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: There being less than nine hon. members present, I now declare this House is adjourned until Tuesday next at 3 o'clock p.m.