

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954—55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 22nd November, 1955.

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

PRESENT

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*); Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, C.B.E., M.D., C.M., (*Minister of Social Services*); His Honour Mr. A. E. S. LEWIS, (*Deputy Speaker*); Hon. M. E. COX, (*Minister of Communications, Works and 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 and Labour*); Mr. F. C. GODDARD, (*Leader of the Opposition*); Mr. F. E. MILLER, Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A., Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. E. ST. A. HOLDER, Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*) and Mrs. E. E. BOURNE.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 1st November, 1955 having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. BRYAN entered the House and took his seat.

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the following Documents:—

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half year ended the 30th September this year from the Highway Commissioners of the parish of St. James.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half year ended the 30th September this year from the Highway Commissioners of the parish of St. Thomas.

Financial Report of the Accountant General of the Colony for the month ended 31st October this year.

PAPERS LAID

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: (for the Premier) Message No. 31/1955 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly regarding a final Conference on Federation, to be held in London in February 1956.

Message No. 31/1955

His Excellency the Governor

To

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that the Government of Barbados, and the Governments of Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and the Windward Islands, have been invited by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to send delegates and advisers to a final Conference on Federation to begin in London on the 7th February next. The Governments of British Guiana and British Honduras have each been invited to send an observer to the Conference.

2. It is hoped that this Conference will take final decisions on the major outstanding matters, which must be settled before legislation can be introduced into the United Kingdom Parliament to enable the Federal Constitution to be embodied in an Order of Her Majesty in Council.

3. The Conference will start from the broad measure of agreement already reached in the Plan for a British Caribbean Federation (Command 8895), and will have before it the Report of the Trinidad Conference on Freedom of Movement, and the Reports of the Pre-Federal Commissioners which are being prepared for publication.

4. It is proposed to invite the Conference to set up machinery for settling all subsidiary questions, which must be dealt with before the drafting of the constitutional instruments can be completed. This machinery is likely to take the form of a Consultative Committee sitting in the West Indies.

5. The Honourable the House of Assembly will in due course be invited to concur in the appointment of the Barbados delegation to the Conference.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.
22nd November, 1955.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: (for the Premier) Message No. 32/1955 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly informing the Honourable House of the issue of a Proclamation continuing the state of emergency.

Message No. 32/1955

His Excellency the Governor
To
The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that the Proclamation issued on the 20th of October, 1955 declaring that a state of emergency existed as a result of the hurricane which struck the Island on the 22nd of September, ceased to be in force after the 19th of November, 1955.

2. As it appears to the Governor-in-Executive Committee that the state of emergency continues to exist, I have by proclamation made on the 19th of November, 1955 under the provisions of section 2(1) of the Emergency Powers Act, 1939, declared that a state of emergency exists.

3. A copy of this Proclamation is attached for the information of the Honourable the House of Assembly.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.
22nd November, 1
(M.P.—1726/S.7/T.3)

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS (for the Premier) Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for three months ended 30th June, 1955.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS (for the Premier) Quarterly Return of Transactions in Rum to 30th September, 1955.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS (for the Premier) The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 11 Order, 1955.

Hon. M. E. COX: Statement of Post Office Advances for the payment of Money Orders to 31st August, 1955.

REPLIES

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Reply to Question No. 65 asked by hon. senior member for St. Lucy (Mr. J. E. T. Brancker) regarding recruitment of Barbadians to the Police Forces of England and Wales.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows —
Resolution to place the sum of \$10,300 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. 50, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS (for the Premier) Resolution to place the sum of \$69,549 at the disposal

of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955-56 Part II, Capital, as shown in No. 51, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS (for the Premier) Resolution to approve the Order entitled "the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 11 Order, 1955.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting in order to consider the Money Resolutions of which I have just given notice.
3.25 p.m.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg, on behalf of the hon. senior member for the City, to give notice of my intention to move the adjournment of the House at its next meeting to discuss the application of an American Flag-bearing Airline to be given landing rights at Seawell Airport.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT ORDER NO. 7 CTD General Hospital

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take Order No. 2, as the first Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave to take Order No. 2, as the first Order of the Day and unless there be any objection leave will be granted.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I was looking for the Resolution which is the only reason why I have delayed before beginning to speak. As regards this matter of the salaries at the General Hospital, this is another round which we must face up to. I suppose the time has arrived when applications will be made from more than one quarter for increases of salary. Upon reflecting it will be seen that three years ago it started with the medical profession and the teachers simultaneously; and after they were satisfied, it was just a matter of months when the Civil Service began to seek increases. Elections were just around the corner and something had to be done; so we sought the advice of a Commissioner. The Commissioner came and as a result the entire amount of increases asked for were made. We are not against increases where they are needed and necessary; but we do feel that in certain of our departments we have (if we have not got it in this island) to attract people of ability and skill to do the job. For that matter the entire world knows that wages and salaries are always on the upward trend. The cost of living tends to rise. Although the Government's cost of living index has remained static for the last couple of months I believe that in many cases it can be shown that the Cost of Living is constantly rising. What is worrying most people today is the ability to pay their income tax, the rate of which has gone up since the last increases were made. The great burden is on the taxpayer and we do not know where that will end. It has to end somewhere. I have warned the Government in the past and I do so again today. When you carry taxation to such an extreme, there is bound to be a diminishing return, and revenue from taxation will fall. The issue today is Medical Services. We have been criticising that Department in the past. We know that some improvement has been made there, and we are now about to expand the services to an extent which will involve the building of a new Hos-

pital. But, as one doctor has said, it is of no use having a palatial Hospital without qualified men to do the work required. I have followed the advertisements for applications in the Press and realise that there is no bluff in making such statements; because the doctors can find jobs outside of Barbados in the twinkling of an eye. It is not that they are upholding or twisting around the Head of the Government; but applications have been waiting long enough and nothing has happened. We realise the difficulty which the Government is in, and we on this side of the Table will vote for the increases; but we are warning the Government that there are others to come.

As regards teachers, we all know that a Commissioner has been appointed to investigate the working of Secondary Schools. They are unhappy about their position, not only those who come from abroad but the local teachers as well. Something has to be done to attract people of ability to fill these posts. Cases have been made out for that and our Party will readily agree to these increases; but they will do so in the full knowledge that when others present an equally good case, something will have to be done for them. I have already warned the Government about the increasing cost of living. Some people relate the cost of living in Barbados to that of Trinidad. I have been told by some people that it is higher here than it is in Trinidad and I have been told by others that in Trinidad it is lower. It appears to me that it all depends upon how one lives. Evidently, it is not an easy matter to live in a strange country. If a Barbadian leaves and goes to Trinidad he finds that the cost of living goes up. That however, is no ground as to why the personnel proceeding from Trinidad should enjoy a higher salary than the local personnel with equal ability who should fill these jobs.

3.35 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, a lot has been said but I am sure on further reflection we cannot allow our services to go down. We realise we made an error when the last Medical Officer was appointed. It was not an error in raising his salary, but an error in not raising the salary of the Officer of the Office who was doing an equal job and who was doing it for the past 18 months. Nor was it an oversight. You can readily see that that caused a great lot of dissatisfaction because you could not get anyone at the salary which was stipulated; you had to increase it. While you did so, there was a similar officer at the Speightstown Medical Health Centre who everyone knows was doing a good job, yet you were paying him less. They should have transferred that Medical Officer to "Enmore" or increase his salary at the same time as they made the change in salary to satisfy the Medical Officer who was coming.

It is no use coming down with piecemeal legislation to increase salaries; because when you do so you are only delaying the day and creating a lot of heartburn. If you realise that salaries have to be increased, investigate them and come in with something, but to satisfy the doctors today, the teachers tomorrow, and the Civil Servants later on. By the time you have finished dealing with the Civil Servants, you will have to go all over again. Relate them one with the other and come down with something for all of them at once. Doctors are professional men, but there are also professional men at the Department of Science and Agriculture. However, Sir, with all that warning, I still feel this Resolution will have to be passed today and I agree to vote for it with the knowledge that this is only the beginning of a lot more to follow.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I was not here on the last occasion and I have no doubt that lots of the things I might say have already been said. However, before I get on to the Resolution and the relative Order proper, I would like to say that the acceptance of a motion for adjournment on the last occasion by the Hon. Minister in charge of the Resolution has become very baffling to me. I cannot see how the Minister in charge of this Resolution could have accepted the motion for postponement and come in here today and just sit in his chair and say nothing more. It does not follow logically. If you felt that this Resolution was urgent and you had nothing more to add, why not let the motion for the postponement be voted against? Why did you not show your urgency of the matter by voting not to postpone it? To accept the motion for the postponement on the last occasion and just sit down here today and say "Question"—I would not like to characterise it in its true way. It is silly to say the least, and that is not the way to conduct public business. You gave honourable members the impression that they had made very good points which you were going to consider; or is it because you did not have the number of votes? Why did you not show your dislike of the motion for postponement then and the urgency of the Resolution by asking for the motion? Really, Sir, I expected today to hear an appeal and to hear the Minister further. That is the logical meaning of accepting the motion for the postponement.

There is another matter, Mr. Speaker, on which I want to speak before I get on to the Resolution and it concerns Your Honour particularly. I claim that if you had to certify either a Bill or a Resolution with the purpose that is before us today, you will have to certify it as a Money Resolution. You could not do otherwise. I have been trying my best since 1947 to apprise this House of this peculiar way of dealing with money matters. What we are dealing with today is a Money Resolution and not what they call an Abstract Resolution. The proposals in this Resolution is to pay people salaries and it is involving \$21,000 of expenditure annually, and it does not matter what honourable members may say, the Minister in charge of the Resolution, dealing with it as we are doing, need not get up and say one word in reply. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, if you had to certify this Resolution, you will be obliged to certify it as a Money Resolution. But we have been going wrong in dealing with these things since the Civil Establishment Act, 1949 was passed, and I cannot get any other member of this House to support me in my contention. We are agreeing to spend \$21,000 in the House, and not in Committee of Supply; and the Hon. Minister does not have to answer you in the way we are dealing with it. This is the constitution we have today and of which we are extremely proud.

I am going to deal with the Resolution now. First of all, I would like to draw attention to the Addendum. Paragraph 2 starts off as follows:—"As a result of the recommendations of the Turner Committee in 1952." Now, Mr. Speaker, this trouble did not start with the Turner Committee, because the Turner Committee dealt with far more recommendations than doctors, and it had a wider term of reference than professional men only. The trouble started when they brought out a doctor from Jamaica whose name started with an "H" and ended with "allinan". That gentleman came out and dealt with the General Hospital only; he forgot we had medical people otherwise and had a Head outside of the Hospital and he recommended an increase for those doctors at the General Hospital; and the Director of Medical Services did

not feel very pleased, nor did all the other doctors outside of the General Hospital, nor the professional men in the Agricultural Department. The outcome of it was that the whole service had to be attended to. Imagine now the Government with that experience can come in now and say, at the end of paragraph 4 of this Addendum, that the unrest and dissatisfaction 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. They are referring to the Medical Officer of Health at "Enmore". Who forced the Government to do it? They forced themselves into that. They came in with some nonsense about some retired man who knew something about tuberculosis. They knew very well that when he does all the work he can do up there, he cannot see a T.B. patient at all. How can you say that somebody forced you to do it? He could not force you. All that there is to it is that you have these retired people who draw a big pension and want to come out and draw a big salary also without rendering service, and that is how you get all this sort of thing happening. It is time that the Barbadians get wise to these things. However, sir, the great thing about this matter is that if there is any shortage of doctors in the world, never mind how much money you put up to increase their salaries, it cannot meet the situation.

3.45 p.m.

Barbados will have to pay the highest salaries not in the West Indies, but in the world, to attract these people. You have to come to the conclusion at some time or the other as to what you are able to pay these people. When you come for money for the Agricultural Department, the economy of the island will be gone and therefore, you have to vote the money; when you come for money for the Waterworks Department it is a question of water and you have to vote it; when you come to the Hospital you have to vote the money and the people who are applying for these salaries know that and they know before they start that they will get it through the House of Assembly. They always start with the doctors, they cannot get this, that and the other. Every Civil Servant today is looking to see that this Resolution goes through easily. Election year is next year and no matter if you have three hurricanes next year, the doctors and the scientific officers will come back for more money.

When you are dealing with the service you should deal with it comprehensively; this patchwork manner is putting you in a hole all the time. You say in the Addendum to this Resolution that you are forced to make this arrangement; forced by whom? "Enmore" was not ready when this man was appointed and you could have held out the man to some hope of promotion; but he was not the right type of man.

The whole thing was what you would expect. The doctors come first. Years ago, the Government said that the payment of this personal allowance was wrong in principle and therefore, let us pay basic salaries; and now you are going right back to the payment of personal allowances. If you have an abnormal situation, that has not been caused through any cost of living; it is a matter of supply and demand. If you could say that these doctors cannot live on what they are getting we would be robbing them; but do not tell me that these people want private practice. Do you mean to say that it is a right thing to allow doctors private practice and not the Income Tax Commissioner? Is it right to deny the Veterinary Officers in the Agricultural Department private practice? Do you not think that they will come in on the basis of this Resolution? You must have a principle and

policy and talk to these people properly. At the same time if you say you must increase and retain the Hospital staff, you have to increase the others. The then Head of the Administration, at that time he was Mr. Alfred Savage, said that Barbados could pay the same rates as British Guiana was paying and he went to British Guiana and increased the salaries. But did he send back here and ask you to increase your salaries? If you have not increased these salaries, well then do that; otherwise you will have dissatisfaction throughout the Service.

Mr. Speaker, it appears as if I have not made it clear that this second paragraph of this Addendum gives a wrong impression. I do not think it is true to say that the Turner Committee did nothing with the doctors' salaries in 1952. The Turner Committee picked out technical, scientific and administrative Heads and I fail to see how the doctors were out of that. At least, these Medical people outside the Hospital were dealt with; the ones at the Hospital had caused the Turner Committee to be set up because they had been dealt with already. The great thing is: have you got the doctors? If you have not got the doctors, you are only wasting time; you should not listen to people who are telling you something which is illogical; you are throwing your service out of order by this illogical action. A rich place like Trinidad is able to attract people and you have not got the people. I say increase your Scholarships along this line and encourage people to come in; I feel that you can help yourself to some extent. You have your own University now, and at an early stage they were training doctors.

I have a suggestion to make and while I have not given it as much consideration as I would have liked to give it, I know it must have very serious and far reaching ramifications. I am wondering whether the time will not come when we will have to devise some means by which we will give these doctors tax-free salaries. If you are giving them an increase in salary and then increase the income tax you are taking it back from them and they will feel frustrated in the same manner. Then you will have to increase their salaries again. If, as a temporary measure—I suppose you will create more dissatisfaction—you consider giving these people tax-free salaries let us see if that will be any inducement to them. We claim we have a good climate and other things which some other places cannot offer by way of comfort and still we are forced to pay these salaries.

The Government has come to the conclusion that these salaries must be increased; it is not for me to say otherwise because I have not had all the facts before me and I must judge the Government by what they themselves have written in this Addendum.

They seem to me not to have good reasons or that their reasons are not altogether what they should be. They are backing them up with little excuses; little things that are not bringing out the whole truth; as for instance, this little twist which they have given to the Turner Committee. All these things make me feel (if I have to depend upon the same set of people) that they are likely to be definitely fooling themselves. That is all we can say about the matter. If you vote against it, that will make some of the doctors leave and it will be said that you cannot get medical men to attend to the patients at the Hospital. That is the opinion which I have of the Government, and I believe I am correct; therefore, all we have to do at present is to criticise the matter. Let us hope that one of these good days we will be able to get doctors all-a-penny. Then we can get our salaries equitably rated and more in keeping with what we feel we can pay.

I sincerely hope that with the fulfilment of these increases we will not turn away from appointing our own people.

Mr. Speaker, while we are on this question I do not think it would be out of place if I commented on this aspect of the matter. While there has been some improvement (and I offer my congratulations to those responsible for these improvements at the General Hospital) there are still serious complaints regarding the Casualty. I do not know if the trouble is that more people are going there than should go there. However, it is a good sign that people have sufficient confidence in the Hospital to go to it; but of late the manner of attending to people in the Casualty is a constant source of complaint, and the complaints have not abated. It seems as if the more that is being done, the more it will be necessary to do; or else that the right finger has not been as yet put on the cause of the trouble. However, I sincerely hope that we are going to see an improvement in that necessary Department of the General Hospital which operates under the name of the Casualty.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, first of all —

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member can only speak again by asking for permission to do so.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Alright, Mr. Speaker. I ask permission to speak again.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to speak again, and unless there be any objection leave will be granted.

There being no objection leave was granted the honourable member.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I just want to answer one or two questions if Your Honour does not rule against my speaking again.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not made any ruling at all. I put the question and stated that leave would be granted the honourable member to speak again unless there was any objection. I repeat that I have made no ruling against that and I want it to be made crystal clear.

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

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT ORDER, NO. 8

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I should like to finish the Resolutions to sanction the rest of these Orders if Your Honour will permit me to do so. I should therefore like to proceed to Order No. 3 as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to proceed with Order No. 3 as the next Order of the Day, and unless there be any objection leave will be granted.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This next Order reads as follows: to move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 8 Order, 1955".

The Order itself deals extensively with Laundry Staff and other staff of the Hospital. I am sure hon. members would like to know that the new Laundry for the Hospital which is now being built at "Stockton" will be ready for occupation in a short time. Consequently we have come down with a Resolution to approve this Order No. 8 which contains a comparative table showing the present and proposed staffing position and the immediate additional cost.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, rising upon a point of Order, I should like to point out that this Order

is not printed in the form of an Order at all. The Resolution states "Resolved that the House of Assembly approve the Order entitled "the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 8 Order, 1955" etc. Then there is an Addendum immediately following this and after that there is the comparative table Headed "Laundry Staff".

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Both the Resolution and the accompanying Order are here. As I said before, this Order is for Staff to work in the new Laundry which will be opened in a short time. This Order makes provision for, first of all, a Manager of the Laundry; that is a new title. There is a gentleman who occupies the post of Clerk of Works. He will be attached to the post of Manager of the Laundry and will be required to perform the duties of both these posts simultaneously; viz: that of Manager of the Laundry and Clerk of Works. An increase of salary is therefore, recommended for his simultaneous performance of the duties of those two jobs. There is a keeper of clothing that post is not a new one. There is a person who is employed in the dress making department of the Hospital and she will continue to perform the duties of the office of Keeper of Clothing.

4.05 p.m.

In short, most of what you see here are just new names, but the offices will be occupied by people who are at present employed at the Hospital. The only new items are Foreman, and Plumber, Grade A. They are new posts and their rates of pay are set out as follows:—

Foreman—\$1,320x72—1,680

Plumber Grade A—33c.x1c.—41c. an hour

(key scale rates)

There will also be a Driver for a van which would bring in the laundry.

As I have said, most of the people are at present employed at the General Hospital. What you see in the Schedule to the Addendum of the Resolution are just new names of offices for people who are doing the same work.

I should point out that the laundry workers were formerly called washers and their numbers will be reduced from 30 to 23. The seven other people who are at present occupied as washers are people who are on the pensionable scale, so when we are reducing their numbers we are really not putting anybody out of work. These seven other people are pensionable and they will be retiring. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is complementary to the other Resolution which has just passed this House. It is a bit ironical that you come in one Resolution and say, that to keep the General Hospital going, you must increase the salaries of doctors. You are saying in that Resolution that there is a shortage of doctors; but in this case with washers, you are saying there is no shortage, there is an abundance of them; therefore some have become redundant and you are going to reduce them.

What I do not understand about this matter is your giving new titles to these posts. One of the worst things you can do in Barbados is to put a title to a post when the salary does not relate to the responsibility. You have here "Manager of Laundry". The General Hospital is not a commercial concern yet you are using the word Manager which can only connote that the person who holds the post is Head of the Laundry Department. We also do know that the type of work which he will be called upon to supervise in an institution like this is not the type of work that is suitable to a man; it is the type of work which is more suitable to a woman unless you have a man

who prefers to be associated with jobs that are more feminine than masculine. This is only done so as to have the offices of two officers together. The Clerk of Works is still the Manager of this institution. In my humble opinion if you are retaining this man in this job you should let the name of the post stand as it was. Is this a matter of giving him more money or is this the present salary? You are not saying you are putting more duties on him and therefore you are calling him Manager. What is the point of calling him Manager of Laundry when in truth and fact he is Clerk of Works. The salary scale of the post is \$1,800 x 120 — \$2,400. It does not appear to be any increase on his present salary, but you are changing his name. As soon as you call him Manager of Laundry he is going to relate his duties with that of a manager in some other place.

The main point I rose to make is that I hope that the Government will not look upon the savings here in the light that all of these salaries and wages paid to these people are reasonable and are at present day standards: because I am sure if you take a critical look at the salaries and wages paid here to the people, you will realise that that is not so. You are paying \$30 a month to a maid. I hope you realise that it is time that you should look into this. You are paying a basic wage of less than two dollars a day in many instances and I make bold to say that it is impossible for a man to live honestly on something less than two dollars a day. I think this is scandalous because this is meat for private enterprise to feed on. A director of private enterprise is going to say that if the Government go on to pay salaries of less than \$30 a month it is nothing wrong for him to pay a salary less than that.

Mr. LEWIS: I think the post of Supervisor is something new and the number of them is three. The laundry workers are now 23, because of the laundry which you are now building. When it comes to the kitchen staff, you are increasing the housekeepers by two and I am wondering if the Hon. Minister in charge will tell me while I am on my feet if what I see here at the bottom of the offices on page 2 of the Schedule is a misprint. You have Servant, Matrons' and Sisters' Quarters, and opposite "Servant, Matron's and" you have 312 and opposite "Sister's Quarters" you have 360. Is that last figure for the ward Maid? I do not understand it at all. You have ward maids with nothing opposite it; I cannot follow it Mr. Speaker, I do not think this Schedule should be changed after we have passed it.

4.15 p.m.

[A VOICE: Why don't you sit and get the explanation?]

Mr. LEWIS: If I take my seat, I will lose my opportunity of speaking.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I should like to explain this to the hon. member. This staff that will be required is for the extension of the Hospital. One or two of these proposals will be implemented right away in order to give assistance in the kitchen. Under the Head "Housekeeping and Kitchen Staff" the hon. member will see Assistant Dietician and Housekeeper, present number none; proposed number, one. Assistant Housekeeper, present number two; proposed number, nine. When we come for extended kitchen staff, we will need an Assistant Supervisor. We are asking hon. members to pass this Resolution now in view of the proposed extension. We will need an addition in staff, and we are therefore asking hon. members to pass this Resolution now rather than to come back to deal with these proposals.

Mr. LEWIS: The top part of these proposals is understandable, but it is the bottom part which I do not understand.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: There are at present six maids and people in that class and with the proposed extension there will be only two. The title "Scrubber" will be changed to "Ward Maid."

Mr. LEWIS: What is the number 38?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: That has been wrongly placed. That number should be next to "Ward Maid."

Mr. LEWIS: That is all right. I take it that all the new posts which are proposed are not yet in this Order.

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

LEAVE TO TAKE ORDERS

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, while we are dealing with these Orders, I think the House will agree to take Orders Nos. 26 and 27 as the next Orders of the Day. I am sorry that we have to dodge about the Order Paper, I am asking leave to take these Orders as the next Orders of the Day.

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

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT, No. 9 ORDER, 1955

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in 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. 9 Order, 1955.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This Order deals with the creation of two new posts of Senior Laboratory Assistants, one for the Bacteriological and Pathological Department and one for Health Centre, St. Michael, at a salary of \$2,280 x 120 — 3,000, and the abolition of the posts of Laboratory Attendant in the St. Michael and Speightstown Health Centres. In short, we are seeking to 'up-grade' these posts in order to obtain a better type of officer. We are aiming towards the certificated grade to be trained in laboratory and pathological work. There are two people here from the World Health Organisation for that purpose. When these Officers are trained, they will be of a higher type than at present and we are hoping that they will prove beneficial to the Laboratory and the Hospital Laboratories which are at the Health Centres. They will not be merely Messengers and Porters but will be trained to do this type of work.

This Order deals with these posts and the Resolution follows. The Addendum says this:—

"The Assistants in the Laboratory should be capable of performing, under the supervision of a pathologist or other qualified physician, the various chemical microscopic, bacteriological and other medical laboratory procedures used in the diagnosis, study and treatment of diseases and it is considered that their grading should be similar to that of the Analytical staff in the Department of Science and Agriculture."

It is the intention of the Government to obtain boys who have been trained in Science at Harrison College to do this type of work. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I take it that arrangements are being made to have these Laboratory Technologists trained. At present they are not trained. If I read the Addendum correctly it says:

"Increasing importance is attached to the work of the Laboratory Technologists and arrangements are being made under the Technical Assistance Programme for them to be trained in Laboratory work."

Is it that these salaries will be paid as an inducement to them to study or they will not get these salaries until they are trained? Or is this a different office altogether?

I see in this Order "Senior Laboratory Assistant" and "Laboratory Attendant" the rest of the Addendum has "Technologist." Does that mean that they are not the same people or is it that in that particular paragraph you link these people together and call them "technologists."

4.25 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I thought I had made that point plain. We are now seeking authority to recruit people of the particular type to be trained. I did not say that they are already trained.

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

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT ORDER, NO. 10

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The next Order of the Day is Order No. 27. It reads as follows:

To move the passing of the following Resolution:—Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 10 Order, 1955.

This is a very simple Order. In the beginning a mistake was made regarding the allowances to certain officers to the effect that these allowances were intended to be non-pensionable. The error occurs in four places of Order No. 7 under Items 2, 7, 11 and 13 respectively and reads: "plus a pensionable allowance" in each case. This Order No. 10 seeks to correct the mis-statement which was made in Order No. 7. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. GODDARD: I understand the Hon. Minister to say that Order No. 10 corrects the error which was made in Order No. 7. Whereas "Registrar" is mentioned in Order No. 10. I do not see it in Order No. 7.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry; I ought to have said that that is only to correct a change of title. In the first Order, viz: No. 7, the Titles "Registrar" and "Senior Registrar" are mentioned. Since then, it was thought that that would be conflicting or confusing. As a matter of fact, it is not usual to have both those titles. They have therefore, changed that title from "Senior Registrar" to "Senior Medical Officer." It is only a change of title.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I hate to interrupt the hon. member again, but I still do not follow the explanation. In the second Order I see mention of a "Registrar."

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, if you will permit me to speak again, the hon. member will see upon returning to Order No. 7 that there are under Item 5 (a) "Senior Registrar" (b) "Registrar" (c) "Medical Officer."

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am now asking leave to revert to Order No. 1

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to revert to Order No. 1, and unless there be any objection leave will be granted.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

The question that Mr. SPEAKER do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

Erdiston College

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to take Order No. 1 which stands in the name of the Hon. Premier.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is asking leave to take Order No. 1 which stands in the name of the Hon. Premier who is absent. Unless there be any objection leave will be granted.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the Resolution reads as follows: that the sum of Five Hundred and Forty Dollars be granted from the Public Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1955-56, Part I—Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1955-56 No. 49.

This is a very simple Resolution. Hon. members will remember that in the beginning of Erdiston College there were 32 Barbadian teachers who studied there for that one year. That period was subsequently changed to two years, and the 32 students who were studying there during that time consisted of 16 male teachers and 16 female teachers. In its subsequent extension to a period of two years provision was made for the number of students which now generally attend viz: 64. Since then the Windward and Leeward Islands have applied to have their teachers trained at Erdiston, and 16 came from those islands last year. That has consequently called for an increase in staff. This year, an additional 16 have come: and there are now 32 students in all from the Windward and Leeward Islands now in residence at Erdiston. I forgot to add that in respect of the 32 students on the senior class there was not enough accommodation to serve them and consequently they had to lodge outside the College. But they take their meals, especially their mid-day meals at the College. This increase in the number of students plus the boarding accommodation has called for an increase in the domestic staff of the College. Paragraph 2 of the Addendum states:—

"In order, therefore, to cope with the additional volume of domestic work it is proposed to increase the number of maids at the College from 6 to 9."

Accordingly, this Resolution is asking for a vote in the sum of \$540 in order to meet the additional expenditure of those three maids.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it is sometime now—at least many months have passed—since any matter connected with the training of teachers in this island has been brought to the notice of this Assembly; and while it is true that every honourable member of this House is glad to see the expan-

sion which has taken place at Erdiston College, he must nevertheless, be disturbed at certain administrative features which have accompanied that expansion. If honourable members would look at the Addendum they would see one or two of them. The Addendum states that Erdiston now accommodates 64 trainees, and of that 64 trainees, 32 have come from other Caribbean Islands—and that is a good feature—and 32 are Barbadians. It also says that 32 local students are not living within the College although they take their mid-day meal at the College.

Now, Mr. Chairman, one of the values which spring from an educational institution like the Teachers' Training College is the opportunity which it affords to all these students who partake of the training to get to know each other and live a common life. The corporate life in a College, especially a teachers' training college is one of the very best things that you can have.

4.35 p.m.

It is very, very regrettable that the expansion of the Erdiston College has taken place at the cost of the actual physical displacement of the Barbadian Students. I have already said that teachers from other colonies who have to be trained can come here for training and that it is one of the best things that can happen: but at the same time very much will be lost if you have to accommodate 30 West Indian teachers at Erdiston College and at the same time have to push an equal number of Barbadian teacher Students out of Erdiston, and only allow them to live the corporate life of that College by coming in for a midday meal. When you have done that, you have spoilt obviously the whole purpose for which a residential teachers' Training College exists. While the Barbadian Students might certainly do as well as they are expected to do, they would not be able to enjoy much of the spirit and the feeling which go hand in hand with living together in an institution. The exchange of ideas and opinions somehow flourishes better when students in a residential college live under the same roof. It is not enough for Barbadian teacher students to have one meal a day with the students from the other West Indian Islands in order to provide that corporate feeling.

This is a matter of this Government's shortsightedness in this matter of administration of Erdiston College when it has to accommodate the requirements of other West Indian Islands at the expense of Barbadians for whom it was most permanently intended. I would have thought when they accepted the principle of expanding the teachers' Training College and had acceded to the request of the other Governments to take their teachers, some arrangement would have been entered upon to solicit the help and assistance of the other Governments to make the preparation necessary for the physical expansion. It is true that you do not need any more teaching staff to train double number of teachers, because they are adults and not children: but if it is a question of wanting more roof to house Barbadian students. I think that should have been seen to and no hon. member of this House would have refused to grant the Government the supplies to make the physical expansion because he would have realised that it is something most commendable.

Our Government cannot be congratulated on allowing the expansion of Erdiston College to take place so far as actual numbers admitted are concerned, and to allow that expansion to take place at the expense of the Barbadian teacher students. It is difficult to find language to express the keen regret and disappointment which persons who take an inter-

est in education must feel about this matter. Here it is, our Barbadian teacher trainees have to sleep outside while the teacher trainees from the other islands occupy the dormitories of the College.

Let me emphasise what I have said before. We are glad to have our fellow West Indians being trained over here. There can be no objection to having them here, and the standardisation of teachers training throughout the Caribbean is one of the best things which can be done for primary school teaching; but it is a weakness not to grasp that if you are expanding, you are expanding all over; and since there has been no physical expansion, it makes one think that there is no intention as yet on the part of the Government to facilitate the greater training.

This brings me, Mr. Chairman, to the second point which is with respect to the administration of Erdiston Training College. Time and time again it has been brought to the notice of honourable members of this Chamber as individuals that there is great dissatisfaction in the Teaching Service with respect to the employment of what is called relief teachers. The very existence, Mr. Chairman, of Relief Teachers is an indication of what has gone wrong with primary school education in this island. It must mean, first of all, that there are few teachers for the average class and fewer therefore per head of school population. Then correspondingly, the training of the teachers at Erdiston has not yet kept pace with the growth and rise in the school population: and with that, Government has employed a very disreputable method of staffing the Teaching Service and at the same time not necessarily increasing its financial commitments.

What they are really doing is that if they employ a Supply or Relief Teacher, they pay him a daily wage. He is not paid on Saturdays and Sundays or on any Bank-holidays or during the school vacation period. That is shameful. Yet at the same time, he has the same responsibilities in the school. He is called upon to work for the same hours and the same duties are assigned to him as teachers on the Establishment. Bear in mind also that all this happens and he is not yet appointed. If he is appointed, it takes two years before he begins to get an increment.

4.45 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is straying again. We are dealing with Erdiston Training College, and I take it that the hon. member is dealing with teachers otherwise.

Mr. TUDOR: That is really a matter of which I know a little: and it is difficult for me, Mr. Chairman, to see why you should not discuss in a Resolution dealing with the Teachers' Training College, the lack of training among teachers. I think that it is very relevant with great respect to you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: This is nothing to do with salaries.

Mr. TUDOR: If you will listen to me for a little, you will see how relevant it is. I was saying, Sir, that you have a Training College established: you are expanding it according to your policy not only if you get more students, but also you want more domestic staff. You are now asking us quite rightly, for extra money to be given to you to pay two or three cooks or maids which you propose to employ in view of the fact that the work which is distributed among the servants at that Institution is becoming too much for the numbers you now employ. Yet, Mr. Chairman, with all the expansion you are talking about, you are not making any expansion in relation to the real expansion which

should take place; that is, the increased training of teachers. That is the problem. If the Government asks today for money to pay servants or even as it might do, ask for money to employ an extra tutor or whatever it may be, hon. members must be concerned with what is going on in the elementary Schools and must express their wish and desire to see more teachers at the Institution.

I go further, and say that when we are dealing with Erdiston Training College which is the one Teachers' Training College which we have in this island and one of the good ones in the whole Caribbean area, we cannot help feeling that it is wrong for the Government to expand only in certain aspects of this Institution, and at the same time neglect a really crying need of the Primary School services. We are not begrudging what money they spend in employing their servants and more teachers; still less do we object to the fact that West Indian Teachers should come here to be trained. But we ask them to realise that they are only tinkering with the problem and showing entire neglect of the educational service of this island if they are content to train no more than 32 teachers at a time, and at the same time to say that they are expanding the Institution. While they say they are expanding it, our own teachers have to sleep outside the walls of the very College which is supposed to be training them. And lastly there is the question of the large number of teachers whom they call relief teachers but whom they are exploiting at grievously low wages, and who cannot look forward to being as fully trained as being members of the establishment with all the rights and privileges that that involves. Therefore, I shall take this opportunity to let the Government know that there is great public dissatisfaction in the teaching service and the administrative policy at Erdiston; that it is not in many respects living up to the high hopes entertained of it; and that the Government by its policy of recruiting and paying at low wages the relief teachers, is killing the establishment, harming the elementary schools, and doing grievous harm to the young population which is found in these schools. Therefore, I have no objection to the increase of Domestic Staff; I should imagine it would be necessary for that to be done if the numbers have sprung from 32 to 64. There is every justification that there will be the necessity for more maids and cooks; but there is no justification why more students should not come in; because you do not necessarily require an extra tutor to teach the extra 32. You may possibly require a maid or two to clean and look after the extra 20 rooms to be occupied by these people. I wish to emphasize that Government must not sit complacently on this matter; unless they sit up and take notice, they will continue to do irreparable damage to the elementary educational system of this island. They want more teachers and they want them quickly. Erdiston is the place where teachers should be trained, and anybody who keeps them out of that training is an enemy to the establishment.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I have just had the opportunity of looking up this Head in the Estimates and I would like a little explanation here. When we passed the Estimates as we have it noted here, the amount fixed by law was \$1,440 and the amount to be voted was \$16,357. When you look at this Resolution by itself, you cannot make any comparison with the previous year. In the previous year, there is the same amount fixed by law, but the amount to be voted was \$9,016 and that was increased to \$16,357, which is not a round figure, and the Note to the Item says, "To provide maintenance for Erdiston Training College; Domestic Staff Salaries; Part-time Lec-

turers; Teaching material and stationery. Increase due to extension of College."

You have doubled the number of students, but you have not doubled the number of maids, because you feel that they do not go up to the same ratio. Why is that you want \$540? How comes this explanation about prior to September, 1955? You made a substantial provision for the extension of the College; has the College been extended twice since the Estimates? Have there been two schemes for extending it? If you have a block vote, why have you come here for this \$540? I have been trying to discover that from the Appendix to the Education Vote.

4.55 p.m.

The information which is given here in this document concerns the Barbados Evening Institute and the Barbados Technical Institute. There is also some information in it concerning expenditure on the various schools; but Mr. Chairman, I really cannot understand it. It needs some explanation. Why have you come for this sum of \$540 for the purpose specified in the Addendum when this House gives a Block Vote? This House does not vote money for any maids. I should like to hear an explanation on that. Have you had two schemes for expansion since the Current Estimates were passed? Did you not provide for nearly twice this amount of money? You voted approximately \$1,700 under Head 20 of the Current Estimates and you now come to the House and state that something else has happened; which is, that the College has expanded. What really has happened? Why do you supplement a vote like this before it has become exhausted? That is something I cannot understand.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member understands what he reads, he will see that prior to September 1955 there were a certain number of students. Since September that number of students has been increased by 16. In other words last year there were 32 Barbadian students; then there are students from the Windward and Leeward Islands who arrived this September in batches of 16, which makes 32 students from the Windward and Leeward Islands. Now, we have 96 students altogether.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question—

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to interrupt the hon. senior member for the City, but I am just threshing out a point with the Hon. Minister. I think I understand what I am reading. I am saying that you have provided for an extension. Have you had two extensions? Upon reading the Addendum I find that prior to September 1955 there were 48 students at the College; now there are 56. According to the Addendum, prior to September, 1955, there were 32 local students and 16 local students from the Leeward and Windward Islands in residence at Erdiston Teachers' Training College.

Now, you have an additional number of 32 local students and an additional 16 from the Islands. Do you mean to tell me that in September, 1955, you had 96 students at Erdiston? I am not arguing against that. I am arguing that when the Current Estimates were considered you must have known that you would have 96 students. If you did not intend that the College should be extended, how can you come to the House for an amount to cover 16 from Barbados and another 32 students? What extension was contemplated in the Current Estimates? If you say that in September, 1955, you had 48 students and you now have 96, also that you provided for an extension in the Current Estimates, what is the extension you provided for? That argument is very simple. I do not think the Hon. Minister need say

that I do not understand what I am reading. Do you say that in September, 1955, you had 48 students and whereas you are spending \$500 on the first 48, you are spending another \$500 on the additional 48 students? I hope that the Hon. Minister will reconsider this aspect of the matter and try to help me with some explanation. What is the complement of students of the College that you provided for in the Current Estimates? That is what I should like to know. I know that some of them are external students, so to speak; but I repeat that what I should like to know is about the additional number of students you provided for here in this Resolution and what was the number of students that you contemplated in the Estimates.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, like my colleague who has just sat down, I am rather worried. I should like an explanation on some points connected with this Resolution and I hope that the Hon. Minister will be able to give me. It is apparent that you need three additional maids at Erdiston. I was trying to figure out what actually they would be paid; but it is difficult for me to do so because the Addendum does not make the matter sufficiently clear. Is this proposed Vote of \$540 from 1st December 1955 to the beginning of March 1956, or is it for a longer period? I was also trying to discover whether or not there would be accommodation for maids. Surely, the Hon. Minister will have the necessary information there with him. As I said just now, the answer to those questions cannot be worked out by me since the Addendum does not state from what date the proposed expenditure takes effect; and that is what I am particularly interested in.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the rates at which the maids are to be paid are not stated here; but I dare suppose they are paid at Key Scale rates.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: If the Hon. Minister will permit me saying so, I was actually thinking in that way myself. But what I really want to know is from what time this proposed expenditure dates. This is not a criticism; it is only an explanation which I am seeking. It is quite clear from the Addendum that the \$540 is to carry three maids down to the end of the Financial Year. Now if we consider the expenditure as beginning from the end of this month, then to the end of the Financial year it works out at four months. But the Addendum leaves one at a loss as to when it begins. On the other hand, if we date the beginning of the proposed expenditure as from October, then, to the end of the Financial Year it would amount to five months. If the expenditure is for five months then, the Hon. Minister should be able to tell the House whether the maids will be given accommodation in addition to their salaries. My opinion is that if the expenditure is worked out over a period of from three months to six months there would be no point in asking the House to pass this Resolution for \$540. I should like to know the rate at which these maids are paid for many reasons.

I think it was the hon. junior member for St Peter who remarked in this Chamber a few weeks ago that persons outside always take as a pattern what Government actually pays when they attempt to pay salaries or wages.

5.05 p.m.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I really do not know, nor is there any mention as to the point of their being fed; but the salaries take effect as from September. As I have said, I am not in position to say if they receive rations or not.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: With the greatest respect to the Hon. Minister.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: What I should further say is that I will make investigations and let you know next Tuesday.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I do respect what the Minister says. When he says that he is going to do something he really does it, but he is asking us to commit ourselves on this matter. In all probability, this is money to pay these three maids for a period of six months. All that you can tell us in the Addendum is that you are paying them to the end of the financial year. May I be permitted to say, Mr. Chairman, that if it is for a period of six months, Government will be paying out a salary very much less than they demand private people to pay. Even if the figures are for a period of four months, a similar argument applies.

I hope the Hon. Minister does not have the idea that I am trying to confuse the issue; but he must feel that hon. members would certainly like to know how they are committing themselves on this issue. They would like to know if these maids are given rations or a substantial sum in lieu of rations. This is a Chamber which is comprised of a tremendous majority of Socialist members, and these people with which we are dealing are on the lowest rung in the employ of the Government Service. Would you not expect to hear the pseudo-Socialists of this House wanting to know how these people are treated? But what do you get in here? When you pass a Resolution for paying people in the highest rung of the Service a greater salary, you get the cheers and the praise of everybody, but now that we are dealing with these people in the lowest rung, we are not even getting a correct answer to the facts surrounding the paying of them. Surely, there must be other hon. members who are interested in paying people other than people in the highest rung of the Service.

This Resolution deals with maids and in my way of thinking the time is coming when you want people other than doctors and lawyers to vote for you. We are entitled to know if these maids are getting rations and if they are paid \$6, \$5, or \$4 per week. It is very nice to say you are passing \$540 to pay three maids. I am not opposing nor am I offering the slightest criticism on that. There is nothing wrong with that; but surely above all things, you must be able to tell us before you call on us to vote for it if these maids are being fed and if this money is to pay them for six months. If you do not have the necessary information in here, you should be able to send across to the office to get the necessary information. I do not think what you have said is good enough. I say that with the greatest respect to the Hon. Minister in charge of this Resolution.

Sir, I am not going to commit myself to vote for this until he gets the facts and tell them to this Committee. If we vote for it before he does so, we would be voting blindly for something. The Hon. Minister assumes that they are paid on key scale rates. We should be able to know whether that is so; we cannot merely assume that they are paid on key scale rates. People who are paid key scale rates are pensionable people. I am waiting to hear what the Hon. Minister has to say. I think he should allow this to wait off until later on in the evening when he can get the necessary information and give us the facts.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not think the criticism of my colleague on this occasion is justified because these are not the only three maids nor is this the first time we are employing maids. We do have maids at the Erdiston College and we give them a block vote. This Resolution is for an additional three and I hardly think we are getting them at a rate

less than what we are paying the others. What I would say is that you have to get that information by inference and that should not be so. Civil Servants have no right to work it out and arrive at the amount of \$540 and tell the members of this House that they must look up the Estimates or make enquiries to find it out. Let the people in the Civil Service know that they have no right to do this. The Civil Servant who worked this out knows that we give a block vote and he or she has withheld this information from the House. Even if it is mentioned in the Estimates, there is nothing wrong in the Civil Servant (whom I suppose had a scrap pad with the amount and figures to show how he arrived at \$540) giving us the figures to show how he arrived at this amount. He had a right to put it down in the Addendum and to say for how many months it is. Get down on those Civil Servants who are smart and tell them that you do not want that type of smartness; it will lead to something else. The same calculation which was made for these people whether it was for three, four or six months should have been put in the Addendum.

This Resolution must have been before the Executive Committee for months. It came to me on Monday evening and I have to discuss it to-day.
5.15 p.m.

Here is a Minister who can say absolutely nothing about this \$540 for which he has come! This is not his portfolio, it is true, but the other Minister could not do it either; he would get up and say that you should not say anything about the Civil Servants. Even if I go to the Estimates and see what the rate is, I could not say when it started. After September comes October; and from October to March is six months; therefore you must be paying them about \$30 a month. [Mr. TUDOR: That is not correct.] Mr. Chairman, if you are employing three people for \$540, I find that that is \$180 each and I see it is for a period of 6 months. I divide that by six and it is \$30 a month. I am not able to go into higher mathematics; it is just the simple arithmetic that I know. But the fact is that they must be getting the same thing as the other six have been getting.

What I am saying is that you must get it into the Civil Servants' heads that they cannot carry on this smartness; it is not fair and right that they should have the privilege of treating members of the House like this. Let the Minister tell this man or woman that this is not the way to do work. We do not want any smart people in the Service. They will do something else if they get so smart; that is not a proper recommendation for any member of the service. If you arrive at \$540 you must have some qualifications: let them put down how this money vote is made up, and let honourable members see exactly what it is. It certainly could not mean more than two or three lines more here so that honourable members could understand what it is. I assume that these people are being paid at the same rate as the other six or else they are being underpaid along with the others when the House agreed to what it agreed to in the Estimates. I would like to be able to say that you cannot criticise these things because we have agreed to these salaries already.

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

On motion of the Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by the Hon. M. E. COX, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX in each case, the Resolution passed in Committee of Supply was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mr. TUDOR: Before the question is put, I should like to give notice of my intention to move the adjournment of the House at its next meeting in order to comment on the answers given to question No. 63 which were laid in this House on the 15th November, 1955.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not think that this is the time for doing it, but I should like to say that I would appreciate if you, Mr. Speaker, would get the assistance of some members of the House who are capable of assisting you with the view at some future date to appointing a Committee to investigate discover and report on what exactly are the rights and privileges of the Barbados House of Assembly. I do not have to say now why I am doing that but I do feel that your office as Speaker and our status as members need some defining: and our privileges, immunities and things of that sort, if any, need very much to be clarified.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I want to get it clear from the hon. junior member for St Lucy when he proposes to debate the answers to those questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: At the next meeting.

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

5.25 p.m.

On re-assembling:

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take Order No. 6 as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to take Order No. 6 as the next Order of the Day, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted.

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

CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) (NO. 5) ACT, 1955

Mr. SPEAKER: On the last occasion when the House was in Committee on this Bill, the Chairman had reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA seconded by Hon. Dr. CUMMINS in each case the Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921 was read a third time and passed.

THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL, 1955

On Order No. 4 being called:

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, hon. members will recall that a sum was included in the Current Estimates for providing certain weights and measures to replace some old weights and measures which are used by the Police Department under the provisions of the present Act. As stated in the Objects and Reasons: it is felt that the law relating

to the inspection of weights and measures as at present contained in the Weights and Measures Act, 1891 fails to provide that degree of control over the weights and measures used by sellers in the Island which is necessary to prevent fraud on the public.

This Bill seeks to place the inspection of weights and measures on a modern and satisfactory footing.

Clauses 3, 4 and 5 of the Bill seek to specify the standards of weights and measures that may be used throughout the Island. The standards there laid down are the same as those which are at present in use in the Island.

Provision is made for the appointment of a Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, who will be the Commissioner of Police, the introduction of what are termed the Island and secondary standards and the periodical verification of those standards. These clauses seek to establish in the Island standard an absolute standard of accuracy and in the secondary standard a standard which, after being tested for accuracy against the Island standard, may be used as a standard for checking sellers' weights and measures.

To ensure that periodical checking of sellers' weights and measures will be effectively carried out, this Bill provides for the appointment of inspectors for that purpose and also seeks to provide that the inspectors so appointed will carry out proper examinations of sellers' weights and measures.

Hon. members will also note that the person who is charged with the examination of weights and measures is prohibited from repairing such weights and measures; because it is felt that they would have some pecuniary interest in the repair of the weights and measures. However, it may be that, in exceptional circumstances, some difficulty may arise in this respect, and in such cases the Chief Inspector may authorise inspectors to adjust weights and measures. I think that that provision follows the same lines as the English Act. In such circumstances, an inspector may find a minor defect which might only need a minor adjustment. He is given power to repair such minor defect, instead of having to report back to the Chief Inspector, afterwards to have to make the adjustment to the same weights or measures. In similar circumstances we should allow this to be done here too.

Clause 14 provides for snap inspections and it is advisable that we should have snap inspections under this Weights and Measures Bill. Then there are the usual provisions empowering the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make regulations generally for carrying out the provisions of this Act. Clauses 36 and 37 respectively read as follows:—
36. "The Weights and Measures Act, 1891 is hereby repealed".
37. "Wherever in any other Act or in any subsidiary legislation the expression 'Weights and Measures Act, 1891' occurs, there shall be substituted therefor the expression 'Weights and Measures Act, 1955'".

The main purpose of the Bill is to bring the existing Law into line with modern requirements and up-to-date standards. We all know the importance of weights and measures in modern times. In order, therefore, to ensure that an effective check on the accuracy of weights and measures be maintained and that the public be not defrauded by defective weights and measures, it is necessary that we pass this amending Bill. Under the amended Act, weights and measures should then be properly tested by both the island standard and secondary standard. Everybody knows that nowadays a certain amount of fleecing of the public goes on. The public is not given its due pound of flesh; and therefore, for all those reasons, it is necessary to keep a

proper check on weights and measures in order that the public might not be cheated.

The several duties in connection with the maintenance of accurate weights and measures will fall, as they rightly should, under the authority of the Commissioner of Police, and the police will carry out the inspection of weights and measures. Some additional equipment will be necessary in order to ensure the efficient working of this amended Act, and in connection with this, the sum of \$7,000 has been provided in the Five Year Plan for the equipment. The cost has been revised since the Five Year Plan was passed and it will now require \$600 more to buy that equipment. It will also be necessary, under the provisions of this Act, to provide a qualified inspector to carry out the necessary inspections. The House will note that under Clause 38 the Governor can bring this Act into effect by stages. It will not be done all at once, so that all those concerned will have an opportunity to become familiar with the provisions of the amended Weights and Measures Act. By the passing of this Bill there will be established both the secondary standard and the island standard which will be the absolute standard of accuracy for the future.

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

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

6.10 p.m.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I welcome this Bill because it is a well-known fact that there seems to be a complete absence of standards of weights and measures in Barbados. Indeed, it is almost impossible to get the due weight of a pound avoirdupois from certain sellers.

Although we need this Bill so badly and it is so important, I see no reason why we cannot send it to a Select Committee and I will give my reasons for asking that it be considered by a Select Committee. I do know that the Minister in charge of it is anxious to get it through, but I have in mind the widening of it somewhat to include the liquid measures.

In Barbados today, the practice has cropped up of importing many brands of beer and it is brought in any sized bottles. It would interest you to know that it always comes in a smaller sized bottle than that of the last shipment. But that is on account of competition. One manufacturer will start off with twelve-ounce bottles (and that used to be the standard size), then it came in 11½-ounce bottles; then somebody thought that if it came in 10-ounce bottles it would give him an edge on the other fellows and it was brought in in that size; and now we are getting it done in 9½-ounce bottles. It is a fact that the competition in beer is very keen in Barbados. I am now saying that the consumer is losing as a result. The same thing was happening in Trinidad, and I think that now no beer is allowed in Trinidad but in 10-ounce bottles. They have standardized on the importation in that size bottle.

We in Barbados would like to see similar legislation whereby we can get similar standards. It is also common knowledge that the economy of Barbados is such that we have to use these beer bottles for bottling rum to sell to local consumers, and it is a great difficulty to bottlers to standardise, and find one size bottle by which they can sell their rum. In that case the consumer can be easily fleeced. I do not say that it is intentional or unintentional, but it is almost impossible for anyone other than an expert to tell the difference between a 10-ounce and an 11-ounce bottle.

As a matter of fact, they can be so designed that the 10-ounce bottle looks larger than some 11-ounce bottles. For that reason I think that some

clause could be inserted in this Bill. I do not know if it would be too big to put in this Bill; at any rate, I think you should give us the opportunity at Select Committee to put these points forward and see if they can be adopted in this Weights and Measures Bill. I think the point which I have made is a very vital point and I do know what I have mentioned can be of great injury to the local trade.

I also welcome the change of administration in these Weights and Measures from the Superintendent of the Public Market to the Police, because with the establishment of a proper department at the Police Department, this can be administered there much better than by the Superintendent of the Public Market. The Police have the force of the law behind them (I am not saying that the Superintendent of the Public Market did not have it also) and they also have the know-how. I thereby welcome that change and I think it is long overdue. When the Hon. Minister is replying I would like him to take note of what I have said, and see if in the interest of the public it would not be better that this Bill should be sent to the Select Committee for the inclusion of the expressions of opinion which I have given.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, the honourable junior member for Christ Church has made the exact point which I intended to make, and the only thing left for me to do is to substantiate his remarks on the issue. I would suggest to the Hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce that the honourable junior member for Christ Church has made a statement of fact when he says that the public is being fleeced because of the difference in the sizes of bottles in which beer is imported, and which are then used in the bottling of rum. One of those persons who have something to do with the importation of beer had drawn the matter to my attention many months ago, and I am very glad the opportunity has arisen now to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister this irregularity. It is a fact that the public is robbed by the various sized bottles in which beer is sold, the majority of the various brands being sold at the same price; and the public is further robbed, because various merchants use the same bottles for bottling of rum for which the public pays a high price.

It is very admirable on the part of the honourable junior member for Christ Church who is a big dealer to express himself as he did on this matter, and it gives me the feeling that the honourable member's firm uses the biggest bottles; therefore, I will know where to go in the future when I am about to purchase or to credit a bottle of rum. I should like the Hon. Minister of Trade to take what he says very seriously. It has been happening around Roebuck Street and elsewhere for some time now, therefore, it is time that some regularised system be brought about. It will save the public a lot of loss.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, this is one of the things with which the ordinary Barbadian has grown up, and has taken for granted and has never sought to find out the intricacies. I have had the privilege of being told by someone who knows that this question of Weights and Measures in Barbados is one of the most urgent with which the legislature of this colony should deal. The person who told me was someone who knew something about the matter and I can tell you that the way in which it was described to me was, that if the people of this colony knew what was happening it would be very difficult to prevent a revolution.

Sir, from that moment I have tried my best to understand it, and although I cannot put my finger

on any discrepancies, I can quite see the magnitude and the importance of the matter if the smallest quantity of an item is denied every individual who purchases it.

6.20 p.m.

I therefore welcome this Bill, and if the suggestions that have been made for sending it to Select Committee meet with the approval of the Hon. Minister I sincerely hope that those members of the House who can assist the Minister in getting a perfect Bill will readily accept membership of the Committee and will more readily turn out to its meetings and let us get it through as quickly as possible — especially, as it is a Bill which has to be brought in by stages. I do not know sufficient about it even to appreciate why it cannot all be brought in at the same time. What has occupied my attention when I listened to the last two speakers is this: is this a Bill for stating the specific quantity for a bottle of beer? I would take it that this is a Bill which says that if you are selling 10 ozs. of anything, there should be a method of finding out whether you have 8, 9 or 10 ozs. You buy a bottle of rum for so much and it might contain more or less of a certain amount.

I notice that the Trinidad Bill has been mentioned as one of the examples taken for drafting this Legislation and perhaps if it was in their Weights and Measures Act, it might be adopted here. It may be that that matter has escaped attention. I feel that if we were to postpone the further consideration of this Bill or go to Select Committee on it, it might well worth that being done. People who have a knowledge of this matter might be able to put their finger on things. This Bill might be a matter of a lawyer copying Legislation which is just what the Crown Law Officers do; whereas if the people who know something about this matter, people who can give you their opinion, could come forward, the Committee could get the permission of the House to take evidence from them.

I know that I should not refer to any particular Clause during the second reading speech on a Bill; but I am dealing with the principle. However any attempt in the direction I have indicated is bound to bring about better results than what we are getting now. Everybody who is selling anything should be compelled to give their point of view.

Sub-clause 2 of Clause 6 of this Bill says this:—

“No such weight or measure shall be brought into use in the Island unless it shall have been first verified by the Board of Trade in England.”

We import things from the United States of America and I do not know how that conflicts with that section; but I mention it so that the Minister can put my fears at rest in the matter, if he can, and also say whether the point made by other hon. members can be met. I want to hear the significance of Sub-clause 2 of Clause 6. We import things from England, we are getting very English. We have got the decimal system now, the imperial gallon and the wine gallon may be something which we get from England and we do not know where we are with it. I would like to know why I must not accept anything unless it is verified by the Board of Trade in England. Even in Barbados when we come to percentages, in our Income Tax Act we give percentages by 24% rather than 25% and it must have caused endless trouble, because 25% is more easily calculated than 24%. Anyhow we have 25 cent pieces now.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: While I would not have any objection in principle referring this Bill to a Select Committee, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition will agree that with our experience of Committees

it might be very unfortunate to refer this Bill to a Select Committee. The Select Committee which we appointed to consider the Liquor Licence Bill has had a very long delay in reporting and I dread that the same thing might happen in respect of this Bill.

I am sure that if the hon. member who asks that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee, would refer to the comparative table he would see that this Bill follows, with very few modifications, the Trinidad Law. I cannot agree that we should refer this Bill to a Select Committee on the point which has been raised by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition or that raised by the hon. senior member for St. John for that matter. I can quite see the Trinidad Government being anxious to prevent bottles of a certain size entering Trinidad. After all they manufacture beer. [Mr. LEWIS: We may manufacture beer too]. And if the importers of that colony import beer in a smaller bottle and sell it at a little less they might well be knocked out completely. Therefore I can quite understand the Trinidad Government being anxious to protect the local industry.

6.30 p.m.

I consider that what the hon. member is talking about is a different matter. He refers to manufacturers bringing in to the Colony two different sizes of bottles, using them and thereby fleecing the public here. That is, they manufacture the product in two different sizes and sell it not at two different prices, but at the same price. In other words, the small bottle is also sold at the same price as the large bottle. I am saying that under this legislation they could not do that. If I went to a seller and asked for a bottle of rum at a certain price and he sold me for that price a bottle containing less than it was supposed to contain, his action would render him guilty of fraud. Every bottle of rum is not sold at the same price, nor does it contain the same amount. If a bottle is purported to be a seven ounce bottle, it should be a seven ounce bottle as found at the Police Department. In certifying it, the Police Department says "yes" or "no". If it is not seven ounces then there is a case of fraud. All this Bill seeks to do is to protect the consumer from these cases.

Some time ago, the wholesalers took up the question of two different sizes of bottled rum being sold at the same price. In the circumstances, the public was actually buying a ten-ounce bottle for a twelve-ounce bottle, and paying the same price for both. Well, the wholesalers dealt with the question and decided that there should be two different prices. Under this Bill, the ten-ounce bottle is gauged by the standard measurement of the Police Department. If it does not meet the Standard measurement, it is deemed a fraud. For that reason alone I could not think of sending this Bill to a Select Committee. [Mr. LEWIS: They do not put the number of ounces contained in the bottle on the label].

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that there are certain points relative to this particular legislation which could be better made the subject of another Bill; and for that reason I do not think that we should incorporate them in the Bill now before the House. I am of the opinion that there is a pressing need in this Island for proper standards of weights and measures to control the weighing or measuring of stuff that is being sold to the public, and we are now attending to that. There is also a need for quality control, but we know that it cost the Jamaica Government quite a bit of money to control their standards. It is not an easy matter

for us; but, as I said just now, we are going into it now.

The purpose of this Bill is completely carried out by the provisions as contained in its clauses. With my experience of Select Committees and their delays, I cannot agree to send this Bill to a Select Committee.

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

The Bill was read a second time.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, reasons for moving that the Bill be sent to a Select Committee at this stage is that I cannot accept the arguments as used by the Hon. Minister of Trade. He said that although he felt that some good would result from sending this Bill to a Select Committee, from his experience of the dilatoriness of Select Committees, he could not agree to send the Bill to a Select Committee. That is tantamount to saying that we shall never have a Select Committee again. I cannot quite appreciate what he says. I have been a member of Select Committees of which the Hon. Minister was also a member; and my observations are that many of the members comprising the Committees usually have a great deal to say; yet they are not careful to attend the meetings and present their views. If the Minister in charge of this Bill agrees that there is plausibility in the criticisms which we made on this Bill, he will also agree with me in the assumption that, since it is a Weights and Measures Bill, it implies measure by volume as well, and it could very well be adapted in this Bill. [Hon. R. G. MAPP: We have it in here]. Well, I have not read the Bill so carefully, although it has been on the Order Paper for several months. [VOICES: Hear, Hear] Another point is that I cannot say whether it will be compulsory to put the number or quantity of weights and measures on your labels. Will it be imperative to put your weights and measures on your labels? If that is so, you will have to give the traders an opportunity and time to work off their old stock of labels first. That is another point. You cannot bring in a Bill making it compulsory to do that, at a time when traders may have millions of labels tied up with no statement of the weights or measures included on them. And in the absence of such a declaration, the Weights and Measures Act would be of no use. I say that for the simple reason that a ten-ounce bottle can resemble very closely an eleven-ounce bottle. Unless the trader is compelled to state the weights and measures on the labels they will be able to get over that; because they will be selling, not a ten ounce or pint bottle of rum; but simply a bottle of rum. It is for those reasons that I move that this Bill be sent to a Select Committee. Those are some of the irregularities which I pointed out and the Hon. Minister agreed that there is a great opening for fraudulent practices. If, in spite of all that, the Hon. Minister still says that he is satisfied with the Bill as it stands, then, while I do not mean to hold up the Bill, I am obliged to move that this Bill be now sent to a Select Committee.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am seconding the motion. I think, on investigation, that the Hon. Minister of Trade will find that in Trinidad there is at present legislation governing the matter. There was the same public dissatisfaction there over the manner in which certain bottlers were exploiting the situation with different sizes of bottles which appear almost to be three-gill bottles. Hon. members should be fully aware of how—

6.40 p.m.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: I have already said so, Mr. Speaker. Hon. members are fully aware of how these

smaller bottles came to be introduced into Barbados. One of the manufacturers of beer started an advertising campaign four or five years ago in order to boost the sales of his product; and in order to recoup the money expended on that extensive advertising he introduced a smaller bottle.

Then of course, bottlers of beer abroad use the smaller bottle and charge the same price as they charge for the larger size bottle. I know that the same thing happened in Trinidad and the Government there took steps immediately to regularise the position. We should have taken a similar step here a long time ago. There is nothing to be lost and everything to be gained by the Minister agreeing to the further consideration of this Bill, and acquainting himself during the meantime with the Trinidad legislation governing the matter.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, permit me to say just a few words in reply. I am going to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee on this Bill, but I would just like to say in reply to the honourable junior member for Christ Church that if he looks at the interpretation clause he will see that a "measuring instrument" includes any "instrument" for the measurement of length, superficial areas, capacity, volume or for measurement by counting. All those various types of measurements will be covered by this Bill.

I may also say, that his fears as to inconvenience in the trade will not arrive because this Bill will be brought into force by stages, so as to give traders time to carry out regulations that will be made under the Act. Of course, regulations can be made so that the particular capacity of a bottle can be marked on the bottle. Let me say again, that the present Act is too loose and the whole object of this Bill is to tighten it up. Members of the Police Department will be trained to look after this business of weights and measures which will conform to certain standards.

As I have said, I cannot see any reason why we should send this Bill to a Select Committee. I do not accept the arguments of the hon. senior member for St. Philip at all. Standardising the size of bottles for the selling of beer is a serious thing, and I do not think we can introduce it into this Bill without giving consideration to other matters involved. In this Bill you are agreeing to standardising all the weights and measures in the island. The argument of the last hon. member who spoke is that all the bottles must be of such and such a measure. Members of the public may very well welcome a small sized beer so as not to pay a big price. [A VOICE: But they are paying the price of a large bottle for a small bottle.] This Bill is to protect the consumer from buying a small bottle for a large one. If hon. members can produce some other point, we will agree to send it to Select Committee, but our experience of Select Committees is that there has been a lot of delay and then we get nowhere. This measure has been tabled since March, and I think it is time we get on with it. I, however, do realise that the point made by the hon. junior member for Christ Church could be looked into and I will promise him if he discusses the matter with me to bring it up.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee on the Bill.

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

Mr. LEWIS: The Hon. Minister will note that I had set out to assist him in trying to put in this Bill what was said, so I am not one of those who want to force him to send it to Select Committee. I said, in my opening remarks that I did not know if I could be of very much help on a Select Committee; if

not, I would have promised him to serve on it. What I would like to draw to his attention is that on several instances in the Comparative Table to which he refers, the Trinidad Act has been used; and if some other member had taken the opportunity to speak now I would have been able to tell him the number of instances in which the particular clauses of the Trinidad Act were adopted as they were or modified. If the Hon. Minister will look at the Comparative Table, (I will count them now) he will see that the Trinidad Act has been modified in 17 instances, and that is a British colony not very far away from here. It is those things which can be explained in Select Committee, and the time we take in the House to do that we can get on with some other work.

The Hon. Minister introduced this Bill as far back as 22nd March, this year. Apparently, he was not in any great hurry to get on with it. [Hon. R. G. MAPP: I was giving hon. members time to read it.]

In addition to having introduced it as far back as 22nd March, this year, the Governor is given the privilege under Section 38 to bring it into effect in stages, so this is not a Bill for which you can claim any great hurry. I do not think the Hon. Minister can claim any harm will be done if it is dealt with the next two weeks.

It is said that there are considerations for bringing this Bill into effect in stages. I feel that in the same way as you are considering a Liquor Licence Bill and you ask people who sell liquor to come and assist you with the Bill, the same thing could be done here. I am not saying that you should take all that they tell you, but you could learn a lot from what they tell you. Apparently the lawyers and the Minister have never been in a rum shop in their lives. You are told that a large bottle is so much and a small bottle is so much, but you are not told how much is in the bottle; if some people get robbed, they might give up drinking. But this is a matter where food is concerned. Why have the lawyers modified the Trinidad Bill? You cannot do anything unless it is approved by England and still there is so much room for modification [Hon. R. G. MAPP: It is bound to be modified; it is a matter of local conditions]. If it is a matter of local conditions, then let the trade assist you; this is a matter on which you should take evidence. You tell me that there is a Weights and Measures Act in a British Colony next door to you, a place which is selling yams, potatoes, and so on,—the same identical things you sell in Barbados and you modify every clause in that Act? Modify it how? By changing the name "Trinidad" to "Barbados"? Where does the word "Barbados" appear in this Bill? Where has the word "Trinidad" been cut out? The word "Barbados" does not appear in this Bill at all.

It is understood that this Bill is to be cited as the Barbados Weights and Measures Act. I am suspicious that out of 23 Clauses which you considered in the Trinidad Act you have modified 17; that does not seem right to me. I feel that the ordinary trader should be given the opportunity to assist you in this matter. There is no urgency about this Bill; even now this Bill can be brought in by stages. I think that something will be achieved in going to a Select Committee with this Bill and if the hon. Minister wants me to make up a number, I will try and help him with it.

As far as the Liquor Licence Bill is concerned, the Select Committee appointed to consider it have discovered that you cannot do anything about it in 1955. They felt it was useless to deal with this Bill early in 1955 when the Liquor Licence had

already been paid for 1955. But this Weights and Measures Bill is not the same thing as the Liquor Licence Bill. If this Bill is not referred to a Select Committee the Hon. Minister will have a lot of discussion but he may not be able to explain things and the work of this House will be kept back.

Mr. ALLDER: We have made an attempt to appeal to the Hon. Minister in this matter and I do not know why he always feels that somebody is willing to sabotage something. It seems that the only reason why he objects to this Bill being referred to a Select Committee is that a Select Committee has been appointed to handle some matter or other, and that Select Committee has not seen its way to report. But certainly a case like that should not be taken to prevent the hon. Minister from deciding whether an important Bill like this should be sent to a Select Committee or not. The Hon. Minister is really saying that because the Select Committee appointed to consider a Bill has not reported, therefore there must not be any appointment of Select Committees in future. That is all he is saying. It is commendable to note the strong hand used by the Minister of Trade and Commerce in Trinidad, Mr. Gomes; because in a matter of this sort he would put his foot down on it, and I have reason to feel that he would bow to the wishes of people in the Legislative Assembly.

This is a matter which affects the economy of the consuming public and the Hon. Minister should know that. Does he realise the gallons or hundreds of gallons of rum which are sold in bottles which carry varying sizes and at the same price? Certainly if the Hon. Minister pays some attention to that question if none other, he would agree to the suggestions of the hon. junior member for Christ Church. The Hon. Minister should appreciate a dealer like the hon. junior member for Christ Church initiating a debate like this and exposing what can be termed as robbery which is being carried on in commercial circles to the detriment of the public. There are times when we have strong feelings on matters and there are times when we express our point of view and do it sincerely. As I said it has been drawn to my attention for some months now. There was never the opportunity afforded to have this matter aired and there are many people who have noticed the difference in the sizes of bottles and that the contents are sold at the same price. That is something which the hon. member should appreciate and which the Select Committee could assist him in removing.

There is another important point which the hon. junior member for Christ Church has made, and I hope that the Hon. Minister of Trade will not cold-shoulder it; it is, that the weight of the contents of a package should be inserted on the label, and also that the number of ounces of liquid contained in a bottle should be inserted on the label by compulsion. In that case, it would be easy for the Police to ascertain by inspection that a ten-ounce quantity of liquid is not contained in a bottle purporting to contain 11 ounces; and that 12 ounces of liquid are really contained in a 12-ounce bottle, according to the statement on the label. I also intended to raise that point and I think that the House should thank the hon. junior member for Christ Church for having drawn it to the attention of the House. It is a point which the Hon. Minister of Trade should not forget.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to speak on this question; but since the hon. senior member for St. John has mentioned the point made by the junior member for Christ Church, I should like to have that clarified.

If I remember correctly, I think the hon. junior member for Christ Church said that he had not read the Bill thoroughly; but if, under the provisions of this Bill, traders were compelled to insert on their labels the weights and measures of the contents, it would mean that they would have to be given time to dispose of their present stock of labels. That is not what the hon. senior member for St. John said just now. It is a completely different matter. It appears to me to be reasonable not to postpone this Bill, but to let us make sure that the trader does not suffer. Before we pass this Bill let us insert in it some clause stating that packages should be labeled and that the weight or measure of the content of the package should be shown on the label.

It might be said, however, that the trader might take a very long time to dispose of his present stock of labels, and the longer that takes, the longer it will be before the Bill takes effect as an Act. There is no point in saying, that because a trader has to dispose of his old stock of labels that we should send this Bill to a Select Committee, although I see the difficulty with which the trader is faced regarding these labels.

Another point was made by the junior member for the City relative to the modification of the Trinidad Law, in which he counted the number of sections that were modified. I think the honourable member will agree that in Barbados, reference is made to a Governor-in-Executive Committee whereas in Trinidad reference is made to a Governor-in-Council; in which case we would have to make the necessary modifications, in order to bring it into line with local language. However, that does not necessarily mean that the principle of the Bill is changed or that it varies in a departure from the principle established in Trinidad. It means that the principle of the Bill is the same.

Honestly, I have not yet heard any worth while point made by honourable members on the other side of the Table. The point concerning a 10-ounce bottle being sold for an 11-ounce or 12-ounce bottle has nothing at all to do with the Bill. The point to bear in mind is that we should pass the Bill; and after it is passed [Mr. LEWIS: See where it is wrong] to ensure, by Regulations I suppose, that it is not possible for a 10-ounce bottle of liquid to be sold for an 11-ounce bottle in the shops without offence to the Law.

The question that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative on a division as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mrs. BOURNE, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT — 9.

Noes: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BARROW, Mr. GODDARD, Mr. BRANCKER, Mr. TUDOR, Mr. ALLDER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY — 8.

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

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed. 7-10 p.m.

Clause V — was called and passed.

Clause VI—was called. It reads as follows:—

6. (1) The Governor-in-Executive Committee may, as he considers necessary, procure weights and measures of a denomination equivalent to or a multiple or aliquot part of a weight or measure authorised by section three of this Act.

(2) No such weight or measure shall be brought into use in the Island unless it shall have been first verified by the Board of Trade in England

(3) On publication in the *Official Gazette* that such weight or measure has been brought into use in the Island it shall become the Island standard of weight or measure and shall be deemed to be true and accurate for all purposes.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I beg to move that Clause VI — stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear when you are putting these questions because I have not heard quite a few of them. However, Sir, I asked the Hon. Minister a question on this Clause. What is the significance of saying that no such weight or measure shall be brought into use in the island unless it shall have been first verified by the Board of Trade in England? What I feel about this matter is that when this Bill leaves us it is going to a Select Committee of the Other Place. If it is one thing which this House should know something about, it is the Representation of the People Act, and when that Act left us the Other Place re-wrote it.

However, sir, I would first like to know what that Clause in this Bill means. If he knows he can tell me; if he does not know, let him tell me he does not know.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Surely, Mr. Chairman, the standard weight is the principal weight we are using and it is that of the Board of Trade. We do not use the Russian weight or the Canadian weight. I would not have thought that the hon. member would ask a question like that.

Mr. LEWIS: If he can give a confident answer to that question, Mr. Chairman, he cannot get away from the fact that we import goods to eat from the United States and Canada, as well as from other foreign countries. That is the point which the Hon. Minister could have made earlier. Now, the Hon. Minister said that you do not want to prevent merchants from bringing in beer in 10-ounce bottles, but now he is saying you must put this thing up to suit the weights of the Board of Trade which you are going to use; therefore, you will have to conform to the weights which you have here. Bear in mind, Mr. Chairman, I am trying to see if I can be of any assistance. If you tell me that the Canadians and Americans will have to comply with your weights, what has happened since you said a moment ago that you do not have to say what a standard bottle should be?

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

Clause VII — was called and passed.

Clause VIII — was called. It reads as follows:—

8. (1) Such weights and measures as the Chief Inspector shall deliver to inspectors for use as a standard for the verification or inspection of weights and measures shall be the secondary standards.

(2) Every secondary standard of weight or measure when verified or re-verified in accordance with the provisions of section nine of this Act shall be deemed to be true and accurate until the contrary is proven.

(3) In all proceedings under this Act, a certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of section nine of this Act, shall be accepted as *prima facie* evidence of the verification or re-verification of the secondary standard to which it relates.

(4) The Chief Inspector may at any time cancel any secondary standards and direct that it shall no longer be used as such.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I beg to move that Clause VIII stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, through my ignorance, I would like the Hon. Minister to tell me what is a secondary weight?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, again, I thought I made it quite clear; probably, it was quite clear to everybody except the hon. member. The first will be the island's weight, and that will be in accordance with the standards of the Board of Trade. The secondary standard of weight will be tested against the island's standard, and that will be the standard which Inspectors will use to test all the weights or measures.

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

Clause IX was called and passed.

Clause X was called. It reads as follows:—

10. (1) The Governor-in-Executive Committee may from time to time cause any Island standard to be sent out of the Island to be verified at the standards Department of the Board of Trade in England and to be there adjusted and renewed if requisite.

(2) Before an Island standard is sent out of the Island for the aforesaid purpose, the Governor-in-Executive Committee shall cause a secondary standard to be deposited with the Chief Inspector and authenticated in such manner as the Chief Inspector may think proper and such secondary standard shall be deemed to be the Island standard during such time as the Island standard is out of the island.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I beg to move that Clause X — stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, allow me a minute to read this Clause again. Does this mean to say that although the standard weight is going to be kept locked up that something will go wrong with it, or is this only a precaution?

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

Clauses XI to XVII — were called and passed.

Clause XVIII was called. It reads as follows:—

18. (1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act it shall not be lawful for any person to sell or offer for sale —

(a) guinea or indian corn in the ear or stalk or peas, beans or other pulse in the husk otherwise than by weight at the rate of seventy-four pounds to the bushel; or

(b) white or building lime in any other measure than that of a bushel tub duly verified, stamped and certified in accordance with the provisions of section twelve of this Act.

(2) Any person who fails to comply with any of the provisions of this section, shall for every such offence be liable on conviction by a court of summary jurisdiction to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I beg to move that Clause XVIII stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, this seems to be what we were discussing a moment ago. This Act is compelling somebody to sell something by a certain weight. I am not saying that it is not right; what I am saying is that we were just told that they were not compelling you to sell something by a certain weight or measurement. Now, they are compelling you to sell guinea or indian corn by a certain weight. We were told a moment ago that this is not the kind of

thing in which you can compel merchants to sell beer in a 10-ounce bottle or a 12-ounce bottle, but according to this Clause the same thing is in the Act.

The question that this Clause stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 7.20 p.m.

Clauses 19 to 33 inclusive were called and passed

Clause 34 was called.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I beg to move that Clause 34 stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: There are about three Clauses numbered 34 and some of them are wrong. If Clause 35 is left out the second Clause 34 then it has a line or.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The real Clause 34 is all right.

The question that Clause 34 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The second Clause No. 34 is really Clause 35; and the first line should read as follows "Nothing in this Act shall prevent the sale or." The rest of the Clause follows on; this is really a printers' error. I beg to move that Clause 34 as amended 35 stand part of the Bill.

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

The motion was put and agreed to.

Clause 36 and 37 were called and passed.

Clause 38 was called.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I beg to move that Clause 38 stand part of the Bill

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

Mr. LEWIS: For my enlightenment, would the Hon. Minister just give some idea as to why this clause is put like this. It says: "This Act shall may appoint by proclamation published in the *Official Gazette* and different days may be appointed for the different provisions of this Act."

It is only roughly that I understand what it is. Are they altering the weights and measures so radically that they will have to get new ones or what? Would the Hon. Minister help me as to the reason why this Act will be brought into effect by stages?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: For the same reason that the honourable junior member for Christ Church was worried about. It is obvious that if, for instance, the various trades had to alter labels and put something different, or alter the weights in accordance with the standard weights, they would have to be given some time in which to do that. You cannot proclaim an Act and say "from this day all the provisions of the Act are to be complied with" without giving people some time in which to do it. I think that is quite clear.

Mr. LEWIS: I think that some notice will have to be put in to the effect that at such and such a time this Act will be put into operation, and until then the present weights will be the standard weights. You cannot do away with the weights until they are condemned. I hope they will be used in the best way possible to assist the trades because after that they will have no complaints or kick; and I hope that in the operation of this Act under the supervision of the Commissioner of Police, the people of this colony, will get their just due in weights and measures.

The question that Clause 38 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 7.30 p.m.

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

Mr. Deputy Speaker took the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

CUSTOM TARIFF REGULATIONS

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Trade and Labour: Resolution to sanction the Customs Tariff Regulations.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Order reads as follows: To move the passing of the following Resolution:— Resolution to sanction the Customs Tariff (Conditions for Special Exemption from Duty) Regulations 1955."

Sometime ago, we passed the Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 3) Act, 1955. That Act was designed to encourage the cloth manufacturing industry by rendering certain items in connection with the manufacture of cloth, exempt from duty. This matter now before the House bears some relation to that Act. These Regulations entitled "The Customs Tariff (Conditions for Special Exemption from Duty) Regulations, 1955" are to enable the Comptroller of Customs to guard against any perpetration of fraud. They are simply administrative regulations consequent on the passage of the Bill which has now become Law. No new principles are involved. They are necessary regulations designed to carry out the provisions of the Act; to guard against infringement, and especially to see that companies do not bring in duty free goods not covered by the Act.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker which Order are they dealing with?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are dealing with Order No. 5: Resolution to sanction "The Customs Tariff (Conditions for Special Exemption from Duty) Regulations, 1955" which have been printed and circulated.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, perhaps you are aware that recently there have been passed so many amendments to the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, that I am not clear as to what particular amendment of the Act these Regulations relate. I wonder if the Hon. Minister can tell me. Some months ago we passed a Bill which dealt with making certain exemptions. In spite of that, whenever something comes to the Barbados Workers' Union and I make out a duty free warrant I am told that the Barbados Workers' Union cannot enter the articles in question duty free. This is something which I cannot understand; because we were told that this House passed the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, of 1955 specifically to help such people.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that these Regulations govern the use of the material for the manufacture of garments on which no duty is placed. Is not that so?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Yes.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I was not in the House at the time the Bill was passed but I gathered from reading the debate on it, that it was stated specifically what the exemptions were for; and then we were told that we could not take out the articles in question duty free.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This has nothing to do with the actual importation of anything. It has to do with the keeping of stocks.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: If the Hon. Minister or Trade can shed any light on the matter I should like to have it.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am surprised to hear that the hon. junior member for St. Peter has been experiencing difficulty under the provisions of this Act. I promise the hon. member to make some enquiries about the matter; or perhaps the hon. member might prefer to write me officially. In any case, I shall certainly look into the matter. It is true that in the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1955 it was stated that cinematograph equipment would be admitted into the Island duty free under certain specified conditions but I would not like to consider that in connection with this Resolution.

7.40 p.m.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I do not understand about the injunction made by the senior member for St. Thomas who now moves under the title of Minister of Trade and Labour, is that he made certain references to the Knitting Mills which could only be considered in an unfavourable light to that particular company.

Now, if the Minister can—

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I rise on a point of order. Mr. Deputy Speaker. I made no reference to any particular business or anything of that sort.

Mr. BARROW: I wonder if the Minister can have the effrontery to say that he did not make any reference to the Knitting Mills. He specifically did.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I made no mention of the Knitting Mills. [A VOICE: Yes; you mentioned Knitting Mills.] I said the importation of cloth is certain industries.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is what I am going to do: the Hon. Minister says that he did not make any reference to the Knitting Mills, I will be wasting my time to continue the observation which I was going to make but I am going to warn hon. members of this House that the honourable member for St. Thomas edits the debates of this House, and he has no authority for doing that. [VOICES: Shame; Shame]. That is a known fact and I am glad hon. members deprecate that fact. [A VOICE: Let me get that straight: does he mean the Hon. Minister of Social Services?] No, I mean the member who calls himself the Minister of Trade.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to invite hon. members to go and read the debates before the hon. member for St. Thomas has chance to interfere with them.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I rise on a point of Order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The hon. member is well known for making statements that bear no resemblance to fact. I therefore would not worry to say that what he said is untrue; it is obvious. If the hon. member wants to charge members on this side of editing the debates, he is really laying a charge against the Hon. Speaker, not against us. He should report it to the Speaker.

Mr. BARROW: I will be wasting my time. I will be appealing from Caesar to Caesar. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member got up and made certain statements. He interrupted and I feel—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was no interruption, he is at liberty to reply, and I am appealing to you to take your seat.

Mr. BARROW: I rise on a point of explanation to something he said. He said, that I am famous for making misstatements or words to that effect.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member can rise on a point of explanation, but what the honourable member is saying is not on a point of explanation.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the honourable member made certain statements which I very much deprecate. The honourable member

stated that I am famous for not sticking to facts, but it is very simple. He has invited me to explain his conduct. He not only edits the debates of this House and expurgates them, but he is also Editor of one of the most disreputable rags which appear in this country. I am saying that the honourable member did refer to the Knitting Mills.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the honourable member can tell me the point on which he has risen, I will hear him.

Mr. BARROW: I am saying that what the Hon. Minister said was not in accordance with facts. Honourable members on both sides heard him.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member has made that point already.

Mr. BARROW: Yes, but you did not only allow the honourable member for St. Thomas to reply, you also allowed him to make a personal attack on me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not invite the Honourable Minister to speak at all.

Mr. BARROW: I did not say that you invited him to speak, but your actions were more permissive than mandatory. You did not command him to make a personal attack on me but you allowed him.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am appealing to the honourable member. You are not making an explanation now, you are making a speech.

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

PENSION AMENDMENT REGULATIONS

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I am asking leave of the House to take charge of item No. 7, and also to take the Order as the next Order of the day.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the day stands in the name of Hon. Minister of Social Services; to move the passing of the following Resolution: A Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled "The Pensions (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Sir, as honourable members will see, on the first occasion when I attempted to deal with this Resolution, it was discovered that it was not printed and I had to defer it. It is a very simple Resolution. It deals with the Pensions Act of 1947, in order to bring in certain territories. This has been done in the form of Regulations which were laid on the Table of the House. The first Schedule to the Principal Regulations has been amended so as to add the following territories: Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Federation of Nigeria, Eastern Region of Nigeria, Northern Region of Nigeria, West Region of Nigeria. This is just formality for pensioning officers coming from those places and *vice versa*.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass

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

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the Hon. Minister of Social Services says that this is only a matter of formality, I wonder if he would have the grace with which some honourable members are fond of attributing to him to explain what is the effect of this particular measure which is before the House. It is very easy when one has not properly prepared a brief to say that it is a formal matter; but I am sure no member of the public reading this debate, or even members of this Chamber listening to the honourable junior member for St. Thomas, would be able to appreciate the implica-

tions of the measure for which the Hon. Minister is asking us to vote.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would be quite prepared to vote for the Resolution under Section 3 of the Pensions Act of 1947 to insert the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the Federation of Nigeria, the Eastern Region of Nigeria, the Northern Region of Nigeria and the Western Region of Nigeria, if the very first territory mentioned—the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland—were prepared to take Barbadians into the Civil Service over there. I mean Barbadians of a particular racial origin. It seems to me that this measure is not a question of reciprocity, because there would be no question of people like the honourable member for St. Thomas going to Rhodesia or Nyasaland to take up an appointment in the Service. [A VOICE. Which of them do you mean?] Neither one of them. Neither one of them would be able to go to Rhodesia or Nyasaland in any influential capacity except perhaps on exhibition.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I would like to know is whether it can inure to the benefit of the average Barbadian Civil Servant to take up an appointment in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland since it can only be a one-way traffic.

7.50 p.m.

It could only enure to the benefit of South Africans, Barbadians of European origin, Englishmen, Dutchmen, Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians, Rhodesians and people from Kenya and perhaps other West Indians of European descent. But this is not a reciprocal arrangement for the benefit of Barbados; and since we are approaching the state of nationhood, we would have to orientate our future towards the aspirations of the people in the Caribbean area; we should now be thinking of West Indian Civil Servants and not of importing people from Rhodesia and Nyasaland and giving them pensions. The very fact that a European comes to us from Rhodesia means that he will of necessity think of the support of Rhodesians in the highest branches of the Civil Service. I am not in favour of being a rubber stamp for the Minister of Social Services or anyone else who does not envisage anywhere in the distant future West Indians managing their own affairs. We do not want to keep West Indians out of posts which we have already established and for which they are eminently qualified in more than one respect. I will not support either Nyasaland or Rhodesia coming into this pension Scheme; I am not in favour of leaving in this Schedule either of those places and there is a very elementary reason for it. The importance of retaining our tradition with a House of Assembly in Barbados predominantly comprised of different complexions, — racially politically and otherwise — does not deem it expedient to have a thing like this. We should not have the temerity, audacity or effrontery to insult the average Barbadian with a measure of this kind.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Minister of Social Services likes to make things short, but you have to put things fully in this Chamber which is a debating Chamber. This is a matter of structure; I am not here to do the Minister's work but some of these names have been changed. In the first Schedule of the Act you have Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and these other territories; but since there has been a federation of these territories, it becomes necessary for these titles to be changed. Now there is a Federation of Nigeria. The Hon. Minister did not take the trouble to tell the House that the amendment is that the titles have changed in respect of these territories and you have to make the necessary amendments. You have a Fed-

eration and therefore you cannot take these places separately.

However, my comment is that it is time that the Government should go into this question of pensions and do not depend on people to support things which come along. What I want to tell the Government and the supporters of the Government is that the Pension Act needs to be amended in this respect; this is different from an Insurance Company; some people have worked long for the Government and if they die they are only entitled to a year's emoluments irrespective of what they have accrued to their gratuity. It may be that this matter calls for some actuarial advice; but I do feel (and 99 Barbadians out of every hundred would agree with it) that no one would like to see an officer deprived of any kind of money which would come to him under this Head; and we should like to see this Act amended with reference to that Section dealing with the question of which ever is higher. If a year's emoluments is higher than an officer's pensionable allowance, you should give it to him. I hope the Government will seek to make an amendment like that. I do not know that the Civil Service Association is a moribund body, but I think that this is a matter which is worthwhile considering by it, apart from certain members of the House whose life is not eternal.

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

RESOLUTION TO ENTER AGREEMENT Re SALARY OF SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PUBLIC MARKET

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to take Order No. 16 as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Social Services:—To move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to authorise the Governor to enter into an agreement to pay the present holder of the post of Superintendent, Public Market salary at the rate of \$4,800 per annum with effect from the 1st of April, 1956.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is in connection with the salary attached to the post of the Superintendent of the Public Market. The present salary of this Officer is \$3,600 per annum; he came out here to perform duties as Superintendent of the Market. Hon. members will remember that he is now called upon and will still be called upon, to do further work in connection with Markets: he has already begun to take control of the fish markets at Oistins and Speightstown in addition to that in Bridgetown; and when the other markets are constructed (one will be constructed on the site of the Department of Highways and Transport), he will take over control of them. He will take over the Eagle Hall Market and there is a plan to construct a Market at Top Rock, which will be the first of several rural Markets; he will take over that and he will reorganise the present Public Market, and the Bridgetown Fish Market in a new building which is to be constructed on the site of the Public Market.

8.00 p.m.

As I said before he has already taken over the duties of Superintendent of the Fish Market at Speightstown. In consideration of these additional duties it is proposed to increase his salary from £750 per annum to £1,000 per annum. I repeat that he has already assumed the duties of Superintendent of the Fish Markets at Oistin and Speightstown.

When he came here it was not with that understanding. I also said that when the New Market has been constructed on the site of the Department of Highways and Transport, he will also assume responsibility for that. It is proposed that he should also take over the District Market at Eagle Hall and the several District Markets which it is proposed to construct throughout the Island. [A VOICE: Wow!] It is in consideration of all those increased duties that it is proposed to increase the salary attached to the post.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that. The Hon. Minister in introducing this Resolution has explained that the Superintendent of the Market is a duly qualified veterinary surgeon. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: From where?] He is duly qualified and is registered here. He must be from some recognised university in order to be registered here in Barbados. The Superintendent of the Public Market is a duly qualified veterinary surgeon registered to practise in this Island. Since his arrival here he has done some very constructive work. He has placed the Public Market on a better footing and there is at present more order prevailing down there. He has already taken over the responsibilities appertaining to the Speightstown and Oistin Fish Markets and both of those markets are functioning more effectively than heretofore. As the Hon. Minister of Social Services has explained, the whole question of marketing organisation is now receiving very active consideration. [VOICES: Hear! Hear!] Construction of the new central market is not yet under way because the Department of Highways and Transport has been occupying that site for a long time and they have not yet vacated it. As far as local food stuffs are concerned, it would mean a reduction in the cost of living.

If we are attempting to set up a proper central market with fish markets and fish sheds all around the coast, we must have a competent officer to administer these services. We must have, not an ordinary officer, but one who carries a diploma and who is qualified to inspect butchers' meat. For the benefit of hon. members, I will explain to them (although most of them should know) that procuring the services of a veterinary officer is not an easy task. There are very few veterinary officers in the Caribbean area whose services are available; and if we have the good fortune to have a veterinary surgeon as Superintendent of the Public Market, an officer qualified to assist the Central Livestock Association (and that is true, not only in reference to Barbados but also to the entire Caribbean area), if I repeat, we have a veterinary surgeon of that calibre to enable us to set up a proper marketing organisation, to reduce the cost of living to provide and promote the growth of more foodstuffs [Laughter] we should not under-rate him. We cannot secure the services of a veterinary surgeon for less than \$300 per month.

Recently, there was discussed in this House, the case of a marine mechanic whose salary and conditions of service were said to be unattractive. Now, on this occasion when an increase in the salary of the Superintendent of the Public Market is being sought, the same honourable member who raised that point relative to the salary of the marine mechanic, is attempting to say, that the Superintendent of the Public Market, a man of suitable calibre, duly qualified and having the necessary experience, should not receive a salary commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of his office. This adverse criticism comes from the same honourable member on the other side of the Table who only last week made out a case for the marine mechanic who, according to his argument,

should have been offered a more attractive salary. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: what do you mean by made out a case?] Attempted to make out a case, I should probably have said [Laughter].

Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the passing of this Resolution, and I am counselling honourable members to give it their support.
8.10 p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to get hot on a matter like this, because I think there is some justification one way or the other. What I should like to point out to honourable members is that this is another matter in the series of tampering with the salary structure without going into the whole structure. Those of us who have read the debates of this House and have looked into the past resolutions on this matter realise that the salary of the Superintendent of the Public Market was reviewed as well as the whole structure of the office when this gentleman was appointed. [A VOICE: Oh no.]

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting that the salary of the Superintendent of the Public Market was reviewed at that time, more so because the feeling was that a man with an R.S.I. certificate could very well fill the post. I will go further by saying that if Mr. Atkins were a man who sometimes would take a rum and not a man who would just leave his work and go home straightway, he would have been the Superintendent of the Public Market today because we have reached the stage in Barbados when we think that a Veterinary Surgeon need not necessarily be the Superintendent of the Public Market. One of our reasons for arriving at that conclusion is that in a difficult matter with people at the Pine Central Livestock Station it will be people like him who will have to be brought in to help solve the matter. Unfortunately, Mr. Atkins was not blessed with the tact of dealing with human beings. He could not deal with human beings and that was one of the difficulties which arose in considering him as Superintendent and it forced the Government not to appoint him. It is a fact that at one time when he was virtual Superintendent, the butchers of the Market stopped slaughtering animals and threatened to go on strike. That was another reason why Government had to think of some person else as Superintendent.

I would go further by saying that I know of a man in Jamaica who is not a Veterinary Surgeon, but who would have been appointed to the post if he intended to come to Barbados. He is a Barbadian but left here some years ago. No other West Indian island has the system of market administration that obtains in Barbados. I am not for one moment saying that the salary of £1,000 per annum is too much to pay a man for doing the job. What I am protesting against and what I do not like (and it would apply if the person were my brother) is that Government appointed a man to a post at a certain salary and then within a short period the salary is raised. When you do that, do you realise that you have precluded other people from applying for the post? If this job was at £1,000 per annum at the time applications for the vacancy were advertised, you might have got a man better than the person whom you have appointed. [Cheers]. There is no point in the Hon. Minister of Agriculture just rising from his seat to refute remarks, he must on sober reflection come to the conclusion that the Veterinary Surgeon has nothing to do with what he has said. The Hon. Minister's plans are plans which were based on a Committee that had been set up to look into the matter and the question of marketing vegetables was recommended even before Dr. Raeburn came here.

Moreover, I would advise the Government that its policy should not be like the law of the Medes and

Persians, that is subject to no changes. What Government should be guided by is that in Barbados where you allow built-up Local Government institutions (and I think the Minister of Agriculture would agree with me) you do not need a Veterinary Surgeon to be put in charge of the Speightstown Fish Market or the Oistin Fish Market any more than you need a Meteorologist to meet people at the Seawell Airport. If you are going to say that you need a Veterinary Surgeon to be Superintendent of the Public Market, then you will have to remove Mr. Gibbons, a Sanitary Inspector, from doing the work of Health Officer at the Seawell Airport and send a doctor of your Department of Health to examine the passengers when they arrive at the Airport. You are now using Sanitary Inspectors who are qualified.

You are asking Dr. Raeburn to supervise all the Fish Markets here, while all the fish that is brought in by fishermen from the number of beaches around the island is not carried into the Markets. Along with that, the Hon. Minister is aware that certificates are not procured by butchers for all the pigs and other stock which are slaughtered here at all pig yards. Many of us eat pork and do not know where it comes from! [Laughter.]

Now, the suggestion by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is based on the idea that you want a man like Dr. Raeburn for the Speightstown and the Hometown Fish Markets, but my idea about it is that you do not need such a man, because you do not slaughter any pigs at those markets at all, and the few flying fish that are taken to those markets are gone long before one can look around. You may need an administrator for your general policy on markets. My view of it is, that it is the only way the Government's policy towards markets can have some measure of validity, because many of the people whom you have now in your Local Government have no interest in the matter and the various Local Governments are not worth very much, with the exception of St. Michael and Christ Church. The rest can be put in a tar barrel and burnt. I believe the mentality on Vestries is so antideluvian that that is the reason why Government sees the need of taking this matter unto itself. But all hon. members know that the administration of markets is a function of Local Government all over the world. What has happened is that we have left these things to Local Government to look after and some of them do not look after them at all. It is just like your policy with respect to the Director of Medical Services. Your Director of Medical Services is for the whole island. He can give advice to some of those doctors at the Almshouses.

I believe I know more about this matter than the Minister; if you do some research work you will see what the position is. There was an increase so as to get a person —
8.20 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of Order. The salary attached to the post was fixed in 1948 at \$3,600 per annum and it has not been increased since that time. As to the point raised by the honourable member in connection with the services of the Veterinary Officer, the Turner Committee recommended that the salary be revised to permit of services other than those of Veterinary Officer.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The policy of the Government in connection with the post of Superintendent of the Market after Dr. Stoute resigned was that we would be training our Sanitary Inspectors to take on that job. We were told that in other West Indian Islands, these posts are held by people like that. We are going to build other markets. The Minister of Social Services is using what we in the Workers' Union use: but every time you erect an additional market, you cannot increase the man's

salary. It should be required of the local authorities that they should keep the markets which fall within their jurisdiction clean. I am not against giving this man this salary because I do not regard £1,000 a year as a salary which is too much for the Superintendent of the Market. What I am worried about is that you are tinkering with salaries again, and when the Minister referred to 1948 he would see that what was done in 1948 was part of a salary scheme. Are you prepared to go down the salary scheme again? Because if you talk about market administration, since the Ministerial Government has come about, it has changed the structure of the Civil Service as well. You have Assistant Secretaries and people like that; are you going to regard the \$50 a month which you pay people as an adequate salary? I am not regarding this matter from the point of view of a political vote; I fight a political vote on so many fronts that I do not have to do a thing like that. Neither the Civil Servants nor the Civil Service Association can put me in this House and take me out; I do not think you should change any salary unless it is going to be related to others.

Look at the pyramid which was constructed by Mr. G. H. Adams, C.B.E., [A VOICE: Who Adams?] I do not mean the Premier; you went on to build on that. Look at the pyramid in the Turner Report, and when you look at the salary of the Superintendent of the Public Market as compared with that of the Scientific and Technical Officers, what is your answer going to be? If you can give the Superintendent of the Market who was at one stage of the pyramid under £1,000 a year, what is the position of the man whose salary is higher? There are many people whom, soon and very soon, you will have to pay. I am not opposed to this salary of £1,000; I am opposed to the method of going about dealing with these individual officers unless you are prepared to say, "Yes, we feel that the time has come for a revision of salaries and this is a temporary measure." I do not think that we could be opposed to the payment of this salary and say that it is too much; but at this stage I warn you that you are going on a very dangerous track. This is something for which I have contended since I have been in this House; if you are dealing with salaries, then look at the structure completely and let the community pay the cost. I ask the Minister of Agriculture to see that he cannot escape what is inevitable within his portfolio. If tomorrow his Department is faced with the problem of having resignations he will know what it is for this island. Let him relate the Superintendent of the Market with the Director of Agriculture, the Entomologist and so on, and he will find what the Government has done. For the Government to pick out this post and give it £250 per annum more, that will upset the salary scale. You are bound to create dissatisfaction because you are asking for the increase on the basis that you are organising the markets and also in relation to the scale of salaries. It is going to worry the officers of Harrison College and Lodge School.

8.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to be excused for interrupting the honourable member. The Superintendent of the Public Market does not come under the Director of Agriculture; he is under the Minister of Agriculture. [Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Yes, he does.] It is a separate and distinct appointment. In the Current Estimates it appears as Head 9. It is separate and distinct and falls under the direction of the Minister of Agriculture, but it has nothing whatever to do with the Department of Science and Agriculture.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, the Director of Agriculture comes under the Head of the

Minister of Agriculture; so there is no point in the Minister of Agriculture telling me that the Superintendent of the Public Market does not come under this same head. What we know is this: that as a whole, the Ministry does not team with the Civil Service in that way. The office of Superintendent of the Public Market is separate from that of the Director of Agriculture, as may be seen from the nature of the work. Nevertheless it is under the Department of Agriculture for the simple reason that it is within that same category. It bears a similar relation to the Department of Science and Agriculture as the Pine now does. The Pine was placed under the Department of Science and Agriculture through which the veterinary surgeons work. The relationship may also be compared with the one now existing between the General Hospital and the D.M.S. [Hon. M. E. COX: That is different.]

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what I attempted to explain to the honourable member. This Head 9 is a separate and distinct department. It is not connected with the Department of Agriculture at all; but falls under the control of the same Minister. It was never connected to the Department of Science and Agriculture. It is not like the Central Livestock Station or the Pine. All those fall under the same Head. This is Head 9, an entirely different Head which is not at all responsible to the Office of the Department of Science and Agriculture, but falls under the control of the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Hon. Minister is in poor form tonight, or he is being incorrectly advised by the Hon. Minister of Communications in telling me that the Superintendent of the Public Market is a separate Head. There is a Veterinary Officer at the Pine. The Hon. Minister wants a Veterinary Officer at the Public Market; but because he comes under Head 9 he says there is no relation between him and the one at the Pine; and that salaries are considered in relation to the duties and responsibilities of the work attached to a particular office. I pointed out that if you are going to pay a Veterinary Officer £1,000, that is £250 per annum more, your scientific officers at Harrison College will expect similar treatment, and you will not be able to use the argument that because you have expanded the markets you must increase the salaries of those other officers as well. There can be no justification for granting this increase unless you are going to relate it to certain other factors in the Service.

You are expanding under the Five Year Plan; are you going to suggest that the salaries of the Director of Public Works, the Chief Engineer of the Water Works and the salaries of all those other people must go up? Every time you do that, what do you expect is going to happen to the people in the other categories? I am warning you as a citizen not as a politician, that you cannot satisfy people by just bringing in these nice adjustments on the ground that because one officer has had an increase in salary, the rest must be given an increase in salary also, without reflecting upon the attitude which the rest of the Service may adopt towards it. I submit that if you agree to give this increase to the Superintendent of the Public Market, you must be prepared to face this problem. I propose, if this matter ever comes before a Committee, to show to the Hon. Minister the point in the pyramid at which in 1948 the salary of the Superintendent was, and where it is proposed to be placed today. And that if you work on this basis, you will very soon see where you must eventually arrive. The salary of the Superintendent was related to the salary which is just above that of a senior clerk; and today, you are placing him in a thousand-pound bracket similar to what a Secretary is receiving. I am not insinuat-

ing that this particular officer should not have an increase in salary. I am suggesting that you should not attempt it at this time. Where is this going to end? It will end up with the cantoneer. If it ends up with the cantoneer you will have to do it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is digressing.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I will leave the question of the cantoneer to the other politicians, or to the Hon. Minister of Communications himself; because there are cantoneers in St. Michael who will vote for him. I will leave them to him because I know that those 'boys' will handle him. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. I am, therefore, warning you that the cantoneer poses a different problem from that of the Service whose policy is to meekly wait and murmur still. I am suggesting that, no matter from what angle you consider the matter, it is a problem which you are obliged to face. As soon as you begin to tinker with salaries you have got to face it. This gentleman does not strike me to be one of those human beings who is really ready for this area. He may be one of those people who is best suited to the hinterland perhaps of Australia. He is a person who believes that certain people ought to be dealt with in the abstract. He is not a man with whom, in the opinion of the Hon. Minister of Communications it would be difficult to get on. He seems to him to be getting on. But you cannot pay people for diplomacy. I am saying that, because it appears to me that everybody believes today that a Minister can put them in a job. I have given my opinion of this gentleman, although I may be wrong. It is only a personal opinion and has nothing to do with the question of his salary. All I ask is that the Hon. Minister should consider the points I have made; and if those points are considered, I am sure that it might relieve the Government from much of this embarrassment. At this stage, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn for three quarters of an hour.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.
8.40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Order In Debate

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put the motion for the adjournment, I have the honour to inform the House that I was told during the debate on Order No. 5, to move the passing of the Resolution to sanction "The Customs Tariff (Conditions for Special Exemption from Duty) Regulations 1955", that there was some flare-up between the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour and the hon. senior member for St. George in the course of which some references were made about the Hon. Minister editing the debates of this place. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas in the course of his remarks, said that the hon. senior member for St. George might refer the matter to the Speaker and the hon. senior member for St. George said, that it was useless, that he would be appealing from Caesar to Caesar. I think the actual words used, while not heard by me, were heard by honourable members of this Chamber.

The hon. senior member for St. George is not in his place now, but I must tell honourable members this: I am quoting from May's Parliamentary Procedure, pages 235 and 126, and I want honourable members to listen carefully, "Reflection on the character of the Speaker and accusations of partiality in the discharge of his duties may be punished as breaches of privileges. His action cannot be criticised incidentally in debate or upon any form of proceeding except a substantive motion."

I do not know of any incident in which I have become involved or of any action of mine which deserves such treatment as that given me by the hon. senior member for St. George, and I think it is most unfortunate especially during my absence when I could not myself call the hon. senior member for St. George to order when those remarks were made in this Chamber. I will say no more at this stage.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I ask your permission to say something on the matter. In your reference you said that your absence was unfortunate. Mr. Speaker, I feel that I have been guilty of dereliction of my duty to you as Speaker of this House. I recall the remark being made, and at the time I felt that I should have taken it up and threshed the matter out then; but during the particular instance I had steeled myself to exercise restraint, and to do all that lay in my power to avoid what has become the usual quarrelling in this House on Tuesdays.

I offer you, sir, my sincere apologies for what was said, and I would like to let you know incidentally that I was prompted to get into the debate, but it was due to the fact (and I am honest and sincere in what I am telling you now) that I intended to see that the matter did not reach unnecessary proportions. Again, I offer you my apologies and would like to assure you that it is always my intention to protect your interest, status, dignity and everything else, not only in your absence but, if necessary, in your presence. (Cheers).

Mr. SPEAKER: I accept genuinely the expression given by the Hon. Deputy Speaker, and I commend his action for trying to exercise restraint.

Mr. LEWIS: I think it would be necessary, Mr. Speaker, to bring your observation to the attention of the honourable member concerned, I do not think you should let the matter drop.

The question that the House do now adjourn for three-quarters of an hour was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.

8.50 p.m.

On reassembling,

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MR. BARROW

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, before this House resumes its business I have a personal explanation to make. Mr. Lionel C. Hutchinson, as Librarian and Secretary of this House, has informed me that he has reported to Your Honour certain observations made by me during the course of a Debate in answer to the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. Mr. Speaker, I can only come to the conclusion that the circumstances in which those observations were made were not accurately reported to you, and in the circumstances in which the report was made and the atmosphere in which the remarks were passed, I have no alternative as a member of this Chamber and as one who is always willing to uphold the dignity of the Chair, but to apologise to Your Honour for any misinterpretation of those remarks or for having made the remarks at all. [Cheers]. I do not think Your Honour would want me to go into the matter any more fully than that; I hope you will accept the apology in the spirit in which it was made.

Mr. SPEAKER: I wonder if I caught the last sentence of the honourable member's remarks clearly; did the honourable member say that he was not apologising for having made the remarks?

Mr. BARROW: I said that I apologise for having made them at all without attempting to

qualify them or the circumstances in which they came.

Mr. SPEAKER: I accept the apology offered by the senior member for St. George and I take it in good faith. However, I must explain to the honourable House that after having heard those remarks I made a check with the Deputy Speaker who has confirmed that certain remarks had been used. I thought I would report the matter to the House, regretting at the same time that the honourable senior member was not in his place.

Mr. BARROW: I was not merely apologising for having made the remarks in your absence or challenging the accuracy of the report. I was not challenging the remarks so much as questioning the accuracy of the circumstances in which the remarks were made. I do not think we need go into the matter any further.

SALARY OF MARKET SUPT.—Cont'd.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to increase the salary of the Superintendent of the Public Market.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, the Clerk has not regularised the position to you. I moved the adjournment of the House and the hon. senior member for the City seconded the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the honourable member want to make use of his right?

Mr. Walcott did not continue to speak.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: As I was saying, Sir, this Resolution which is in the name of the Premier, but of which the hon. Leader of the House has taken charge, seeks to increase the salary of the Superintendent of the Public Market from \$300 per month to \$400 per month. I take it that this salary is not to be increased as from the end of the financial year but as from now. I say that for this reason: in reading the Addendum to this Resolution we find in keeping with the arguments put forward by the Minister of Social Services and the Minister of Agriculture about increased work, that the work which they were suggesting that this officer will have to do will not come into effect until sometime after the Estimates for 1956-57. In order to prove that, let me recite what is said in the Addendum. It says this:—

"The Superintendent of the Public Market will be required to undertake additional duties and responsibilities on the expansion and improvement of the marketing organisation. . . ."

This is what it goes on to say, and all these proposals were before the visitation of "Janet":—

"As stated in the Governor's Message No. 28 of 1954 to the Legislature it is proposed:—

- (a) to construct a new central market on the site now occupied by the Highways and Transport Department as soon as the premises are vacated by the latter;
- (b) to take over the Eagle Hall Market from the Vestry;
- (c) to construct, probably this year, at Top Rock the first of seven small rural markets. (It has been agreed to release \$70,000 from the Labour Welfare Fund for the purpose of constructing this and other rural markets)!
- (d) to reorganise the present Public Market and Bridgetown Fish Market in a new site of the Public Market with provision for a fish and meat market and adequate facilities for slaughtering and cold storage.

The Superintendent of the Market has already taken over control of the Fish Markets at Oistin and Speightstown.

2. The salary attached to the post was fixed in 1948 at \$3,600 per annum and has not been increased since that date. It is considered equitable

for the reasons given in the foregoing paragraph that the salary of the holder of the post should be increased to \$4,800 per annum. The necessary provision will be made in the Estimates for 1956-57."

When my colleague said that Civil Servants should be more careful in preparing these addenda, how correct he was! Is this calculated to mislead this honourable Chamber or not? In other words, the public would believe that this gentleman came in of the Service at a salary of \$3,600 per annum in 1948 and was not increased when in truth and in fact this gentleman took up his appointment in 1954.

9.50 p.m.

He has an office in the Public Market; he is going to be in charge of the Eagle Hall Market, and he will be in charge of the Top Rock Market. And when you talk about Markets, you have a little Market in Speightstown. I want to say this: Dr. Raeburn will be in Bridgetown; one afternoon since he took up duties, because no fish was actually in the Market but there were people in the Market waiting for fish, Dr. Raeburn chased out everybody and put out the light. What you think you are saving this light for? I will shout for murder because the fishermen have voted for me. "Janet" passed by on September 24 [A MEMBER: September 22] Well, September 22, and the electrical apparatus in the Market went bad; up to a few Sunday nights ago I had to go to the Minister of Agriculture (and I thank him for this); fish were coming in and there were no lights in the Market! Here was a man who sees fish coming in all day and four or five hundred people in the Alley —

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of Order. I should like to say in fairness to Dr. Raeburn that a lot of the waterfront has been badly damaged and there are big crevices which are dangerous to pedestrians. Without the necessary lighting arrangements it would be dangerous for the public to enter the particular area and conduct business, especially at night.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Yes, but that had nothing to do with the Public Market. Dr. Raeburn had no right to chase people out of the Market. The refrigerator in the Market has been spoiling the butchers meat day after day and Dr. Raeburn is saving electricity and turning off the Refrigerator at night!

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Let me explain this to the honourable member; since the Refrigerating Plant has been put on a proper working basis, it is possible to turn it off at night and no damage is done to the meat because the temperature required does not fall. With the new insulations and new equipment it is possible to turn off the Refrigerator and the temperature does not drop to any appreciable extent.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The Hon. Minister does not usually mislead the House, but does he really seriously sit there and talk about saving light? A short time ago I went to the Public Market and the meat was offensive. Do you want to effect a saving in electricity of a few dollars for a whole year, and when the butchers put their meat in the Refrigerator one day, on the next day it smells offensive? That is the organisation the Hon. Minister says we are getting; that is a general reorganisation of the Public Market. You are coming here with a proposal to pay the Superintendent of the Market \$100 a month more than what he is being paid, but you have refused to pay overtime to the man who is in charge of the Refrigerator, who has to come out at all hours at night to turn it off. There is the possibility of your having more work for this man to do and in view of that fact he can pass muster and register, that is the justification for giving him \$100 a month more. In other words, if the man who assists the doctor who has

to perform *post mortem* examinations happens to be a doctor, are you going to pay him more than whatever the amount is because of that?

10.00 p.m.

To begin with, let me say this: I think I can take some credit, though with modesty, in this matter. I think it was during my second term in this Chamber that the question of the appointment of the Superintendent of the Public Market came up for discussion and I was successful in getting the then Government to see the folly in what they were trying to do. Honourable members will remember that there was then a Resolution before the House for the appointment of an officer as Superintendent of the Public Market. Coming *via* the grape vine, there was dissatisfaction with Mr. Atkins. The Government wanted to appoint this gentleman and I pointed out then that he had no qualifications. I do not want to call his name; but I believe that I am correct in saying that I was called into consultation by the then Government and afterwards nothing more was heard of the Post of Superintendent of the Public Market until an amendment was made to the appointment. Mr. Atkins was then Acting Clerk of the Public Market. He was one of those unfortunate young men with whom other people could not get on. He was nevertheless, a man of fine character; but he was not appointed. The Government's candidate was not appointed.

I pointed out then, that if Barbados was to follow other West Indian Islands such as Trinidad, Jamaica and British Guiana, all that was necessary was to train qualified sanitary inspectors for the certificate of meat inspection which would render them eligible to perform the duties of meat inspection at the Public Market. After some delay the Government tried to side track the job. Then, sometime last year the Government advertised for an Inspector of meat and Superintendent of the Public Market, the qualification being for a person who was supposed to hold the Certificate of Meat Inspection of the Royal Sanitary Institute, or the equivalent thereof. That was the kind of officer they advertised for. They did not advertise for a Veterinary Officer at all. Under our present agricultural and other arrangements, the Veterinary Surgeon is attached to the Department of Science and Agriculture. Answering that advertisement were people from many West Indian Islands including Barbados, British Guiana and St. Kitts, and among those applicants were sanitary inspectors of 20 to 25 years experience; inspectors who had already taken courses in Jamaica, held certificates for meat inspection in Barbados and had done post graduate courses in Jamaica at the instance of the Barbados Government. In other words, the Government had taken young men who had sat the examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute, sent them to Jamaica and they had qualified with very good results. The result was that when the advertisement appeared in the local press for an officer with the qualifications which I have just mentioned they applied. The applicants included Mr. Raeburn. Mr. Raeburn was appointed as Superintendent of the Public Market in Bridgetown which included the one Fish Market, together with the duties of inspecting the animals killed in the Market at a salary of \$300 per month. Mr. Raeburn who came from St. Kitts, was a gentleman advanced in age and near to retirement. The Government had already sent not one, but several of their own men to Jamaica to attain similar qualifications: but no one appeared to be able to say to whom the job should be given, so it was given to Dr. Raeburn as he turned out to be. Whatever his aspirations are in life, that is a matter for him. The gentleman came to Barbados

and accepted the job at \$300 per month as Superintendent of the Public and Fish Markets. Well, he did his job.

Now, a little over a year since he assumed duties, the Government to the House with this Resolution and a catalogue of additional duties which this officer will be called upon to perform between now and the erection of the proposed central and other district markets, which will probably take place in the very near future. When he first assumed duties he was only to superintend the Public Market and the Fish Market in Bridgetown. Now we learn that he has already taken over control of the Fish Markets at Speightstown and Oistin and the Government have the temerity to ask us to give him a hundred dollars more on the ground that he will be assuming responsibility and control of these proposed markets. Furthermore, they are not saying that he should wait until the end of March, they are saying that he should have this increase now.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on a point of Order. This gentleman, Dr. Raeburn is not expected to receive his increase in salary until the 1st of April. [Mr. LEWIS This Resolution does not say so.]

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Alright; is that all the explanation you wanted to make? There is nothing in the Addendum to show it.

Now Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Government this one question: when you advertise for a man at a salary of £1,000 per annum, do you not think that you would have got replies to your advertisement from more ably qualified men? Are you today making this salary to suit this officer? There is one other question I am going to pose to this Government tonight. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture, in reply to the honourable junior member for St. Peter said that the Superintendent of the Public Market is a duly qualified veterinary surgeon registered in Barbados. If a man who is an outstanding veterinary surgeon accepted a job one year ago for \$300 per month, what was he doing then?

10.10 p.m.

Suppose he was twenty years old, it would do. I will say, that he is about 55 years old. He has accepted the job here one year ago and the salary paid out is \$300 per month. I am going to say that when he accepted this job, not one of the honourable members on the other side knew he was a Veterinary Surgeon then. I am not going to speak disparagingly of the gentleman.

Sir, we of this House so often and so glibly talk of promoting and helping Barbadians. I am not saying that other West Indians should not have posts in this country when they are qualified to hold them, but let me ask the Government this question: you take up money to send Sanitary Inspectors of this island out to Jamaica to take the same qualification which Dr. Raeburn has, and then you appoint Dr. Raeburn to fill the post which you have vacant: and on top of that you now come in here and ask us to increase the salary of Dr. Raeburn because in the future he will have this and that work to do. Why should that be so?

I think it was when Governor Waddington was here that the suggestion was made that the Vestries Act should be amended so that Vestries would be able to administer District Markets which Government was going to bring into force. Now, you have the Local Government Act which you are about to bring into force shortly. You will admit that markets are administered by Local Governments in the other West Indian Islands; as a matter of fact, all over the world. You are unique in the West Indies in your having markets administered by the

Central Government, and you will admit that. As a matter of fact, you have stated what is in the Addendum to this Resolution after you brought out a man to tell you how to put into effect your Local Government. You have amended your Vestries Act; you are about to bring into operation your Local Government Act; you have said that all and sundry should be done by Local Government but now you are saying that markets should be administered by your Superintendent of the Public Market. Is not that making a job for Dr. Raeburn? You are doing that although you propose to bring in a new Local Government Act which provides that every human being in this country can vote. In all places the Local Government runs markets, but you are bringing it back to Central Government so that Dr. Raeburn can get \$100 a month more. You are unique in dealing with this matter. All over the world, markets are administered by Local Governments. [A VOICE: That is not true]. The Hon Minister has objected to that; he says, that it is not true. Well, I can tell you that the Government had amended its Act to say that Local Government must administer markets. Suddenly, the Act has been amended again to say that markets must be administered by the Central Government, and that was done so that Dr. Raeburn can get \$100 a month to administer markets. Dr. Raeburn will have to go to the Speightstown and the Oistin's Fish markets, Top Rock and Half Moon Fort at the same time. Is not that what they mean? Is not this making a job to suit a man?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am very strong upon this point. The only technical or know-how ability that is necessary for this post is to possess the necessary qualifications to see when meat has tuberculosis, beriberi and so on, or to see when a cow is dead—and any idiot can see when a cow is dead, because when a cow is dead it does not butt. [Laughter].

I am very serious about this, Mr. Speaker, you have brought a gentleman here at \$300 a month to do the job as Superintendent of the Public Market. Now, you are amending the Act (or say you are going to do it) to let him get \$400 a month. I can quite well see you are making friends with the mammon of unrighteousness, but I repeat that all you really have to know to do this job is how to inspect meat. There is nothing to say that you have to inspect fish. It is the duty of Sanitary Inspectors to inspect fish. In Barbados where you have so much unemployment and so many young men leaving school who are glad to find a job, where you are taking your money and sending people to Jamaica to do the same course which Dr. Raeburn has taken, you are now saying you have no room for these little boys, bring in Dr. Raeburn and let him take charge of all the matters.

10.20 p.m.

Now, as far as this officer is concerned, you propose to give him \$100 per month more. This Addendum is the most wicked Addendum I have ever seen in this House. Although the Addendum says: "The necessary provision will be made in the Estimates for 1956-57" it does not say whether the Superintendent's salary at the new rate is to start from then. With the public works going at top speed on rehabilitation of people's houses, and considering the statement of the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing to the effect that that Department will not be taken off from the job of rehabilitation, how soon are you going to get all these markets finished?

Now this Resolution is primarily to increase this officer's salary to \$400 per month. My suggestion is to let the Superintendent continue at \$300 per month. Honourable members should look at the matter this way: whether it be central or local government, it would be infinitely better to employ one or more persons to assist him than to give him \$100 per month

more. To me, he is not entitled to \$400 per month salary. Would it not be better to employ another young boy? Can Dr. Raeburn be everywhere at the same time? You are merely asking us to pass this Resolution for the express purpose of giving Dr. Raeburn an additional \$100. If you want to have Dr. Raeburn in charge, let him be in charge; but let him remain at \$300 per month.

At present at Seawell Airport, a Sanitary Inspector is doing the work which a medical officer once did: that is, looking at the passengers on arrival. I think it was the Hon. Minister of Health and Social Services who piloted the Bill in this House to make it possible. And in doing so he pointed out to the House that it was no longer necessary to appoint a medical officer to carry out those duties. How is it now that you are saying that you must have a Veterinary Surgeon to be Superintendent of the public Market and other Markets. In other words, the opinion is that with regard to Seawell Airport all that is necessary is to have a Sanitary Inspector to fulfil those duties, and in case he should ever be in doubt about any case he will call in the medical man. Is it fair then to give a man £1000 a year merely to look after and run behind markets? What technical know-how is necessary? Whence the need of a Veterinary Surgeon? This is merely to make this job convenient for this gentleman because he has passed muster and has got his name on the Register. If your advertisement had called for a Veterinary Surgeon, you would have had some very able men applying. Unlike the honourable junior member for St. Peter who has just spoken, I am going to vote against this Resolution if I vote alone. The Government should see the wisdom (unless it wants to be unique in the British Commonwealth) in the suggestion that the Local Government and not the Central Authority should look after the Markets; the salary of the Superintendent should be \$300 per month plus travelling allowance. If you intend to call upon him to visit the markets you should pay him travelling allowance; but if you want to pay out \$100 a month more, I repeat that there are a number of young qualified sanitary inspectors who have got nothing to do and you should appoint one of them. It is amusing to think that a Socialist government could think in terms such as this. I do not see how they could think that way.

Now, as I said before, I do not want to speak disparagingly, I am going to leave that to the others. Do you think that a Veterinary Surgeon at the age of 55 would have accepted this job at \$300 per month? Not even as a Veterinary Surgeon but as an inspector of stock meat? The Superintendent has been in Government service already. He has also been a book-keeper on a plantation in St. Kitts and looking after animals. This gentleman took a course. Honourable members must understand that external examinations can be taken in various subjects. You know, there was once a doctor here who could tell you where everybody graduated; but he could not tell where his own school was. [A VOICE: Where was it?] Under a Sandbox tree. [Laughter]. Are you going to give him £1000 a year? I repeat, Sir. A thousand pounds a year? Think of it. He is coming from St. Kitts to Barbados where the level of intelligence is supposed to be higher. However, that is not very surprising, because a medical officer was brought here and now he is nearly Governor of the Island. I would argue that the Superintendent of the Public Market does not inspect meat as well as I would do it. He was living and working in St. Kitts and could not reach \$300 a month. Now all

the plantations, not only in Barbados, but in St. Kitts are mechanizing in agricultural implements: and that probably explains why this gentleman is here today as Superintendent of the Public Market. One of the easiest things to do on a plantation is to cause anybody in charge of animals to take a course in animal husbandry in Philadelphia. Other than that, one can take a correspondence course or finally one can do like Harris: that is, school oneself under the Sandbox tree.

10.30 p.m.

All honour is due to him for being able to hood-wink the Barbados Government in this matter. You are making a job for a man and you are not only doing that but you are also giving him a salary. He has not been here for five years, but the Addendum says that the salary attached to the office was fixed in 1948 and has not been increased since that date. Dr. Raeburn came here in July last year, and accepted the post at the salary of \$300 a month. From the morning after he landed here he started to work on the Government and he has succeeded 15 months afterwards in getting it to give him \$100 more. Look at the young men who are walking about here without even 100 cents a year.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to vote for this Resolution, and I counsel hon. members who are really interested in Barbados and not merely interested in being *persona grata* with Government and who owe a duty to the people and not to the Government, not to vote for it. I understand the Minister to say that you should vote for this, but it is so unfortunate that so many hon. members seem to owe more allegiance to the Government than to the people. Mr. Speaker, I am not voting for it and I counsel hon. members not to vote for it.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, there is hardly any absurdity which does not find members of this Government among its stoutest supporters. There is no time picking their teeth, drew to the attention of a moment's notice. I thought that by now hon. members on this side of the House were becoming tired of saying "I told you so" whenever matters similar to this one come up. I counsel hon. members to have a look at the book called "Through the Looking Glass". In that book there is a poem, a phrase of which might apply to members of the Opposition in their dealings with this Government. It goes as follows:—

"I told them once, I told them twice.
They would not listen to advice;
I said it very loud and clear,
I went and shouted in their ear."

Mr. Speaker, in March this year, certain hon. members of this House, those who were not at that time picking their teeth, drew to the attention of the Government the fact that servants employed at Combermere School were hard put to under the arrangements made, or lack of arrangements made, they would work in the School's canteen during the time of the term, and in the holidays they were just set adrift. When the Hon. Premier was challenged about this, and was asked whether Government could be persuaded to do something about it, he let it be known for everybody to hear that these women could find work in the holidays, as if the women working at Combermere School for 13 weeks could suddenly find work at a reasonable salary with somebody else during the long vacation for eight or nine weeks! Government could not consider at the time raising their wages or giving vacation pay to these women. It was sufficient for them to decide that the women could find work during the holidays. Three months ago, that time by a question put to the

appropriate Minister, I drew the attention of the Government to the conditions of work and wages of the women cleaners in some Schools in St. Lucy, and I pointed out that the wages were even more inadequate. I pointed out that one woman was paid \$25 for a whole term's work of 13 weeks. Again, I drew the attention of the Government by questions to the fact that in the vacation time these women suffered terribly. One of the answers put down to those questions was that they were only part time workers, and that Government considers they are adequately paid, for the kind of work they are doing. The Government further stated that it was not proposed then or in the near future to increase their salary.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we come to the problem in which another person employed by Government is to have \$100 a month added to his salary without even the saving grace of it being said that he is as efficient in his sphere of work as either the maids at the Canteen at Combermere School or the cleaners at the St. Lucy's School, or wherever else they work. Nobody has ever said that the people to whom he refuses to give an increase of salary are inefficient. It has never been objected to on the grounds that the people do not deserve anything more, because they are not doing their work properly, but it will be found in every case, in which somebody is drawing a substantial salary which is adequate to the job he is doing, and that person wishes to be paid more and can persuade Government to pay him more, Government can always find an excuse, by saying that he is actually doing more work or he is called upon to do more work than hitherto he was doing, and that justifies the increase to the salary.

My attitude to this matter is a simple one, and it is that this Government does not have a sense of proportion. I have never heard it going out of its way to persuade hon. members to grant an increase in salary to any person in the lower brackets of its employment, and it scarcely even draws to our attention the fact that it has underpaid employees. It is the duty of individual members in the House to point out to the Government that they are still some people employed by the Government who are its employment, and it scarcely even draws to our should be paid. It will be a red-letter day when Ministers of this House startle this Assembly by saying that somebody who is actually underpaid by Government is doing more work than he is employed to do.

10.40 p.m.

Let us examine the pretensions of this gentleman to this salary. The first is the fact that he has more Markets to look after and that is the most absurd thing I have ever heard. If it is claimed, I suppose the Hon. Minister would admit it, that the greater part of this gentleman's work is taken up in the day to day administration of the Public Market, and if it is true that at no other Market does the slaughter of animals take place, it must therefore be true that where he is most confined is in the Public Market itself; and his duties could only be extra to any appreciable amount to the extent that the Government allows slaughtering other than the one place where it is done. But the Minister argues that this helps the cost of living; of course they do not have to say how it helps the Cost of Living because the words "Cost of Living" will bear some similarity to that other blessed word "Mesopotamia" of which a certain novelist reminded us many years ago. It sounds good; you know not what it is or what

it means, but just to be able to conjure up the cost of living and reduction thereof —

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I hate to interrupt the hon. member, but for his benefit I will explain what I mean. At present this island imports foodstuffs of over \$9 million worth; therefore our policy is to set up a proper marketing organisation based on having a Central Market on the site of the old Department of Highways and Transport and to link it up with rural Markets islandwide, apart from the fish shelters. It is on that basis that we can encourage and stimulate the growth of foodstuffs locally so as to avoid importing our potential food requirements like fish, meat, vegetables, greens, animal feeds and things of that sort, things which are imported today and for which the money is going overseas. The setting up of a proper marketing organisation will serve as an inducement and encouragement to planters to grow more food and the whole island will benefit.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is really making a speech now.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am just explaining how the cost of living will come down and money will remain in Barbados to be spent in Barbados rather than being exported to Canada.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, it was doubtlessly nice to hear the irrelevancies of the Hon. Minister, and I am pleased to know that he knows so much about these things; but nothing he has said bears any reference to what I have been saying and certainly not to the point which we have been arguing. The payment of this increased salary cannot reduce the cost of living; I do not agree that the erection of a rural market in the Executive Committee room—where one probably ought to be found [*Laughter*]
—I do not think that that can effect any saving in the economy of this island. It is not true that the establishment of rural markets will do what the Minister says it will do, and it is certainly not true that increasing the salary of this gentleman would bring about either an expansion of the rural markets or an expansion of the public economy. The Hon. Minister used the word "Market" interchangeably and when he was referring to the peasants he was referring not to the Market but to an economic device.

Let us examine the pretensions of this gentleman to an increase of salary. If there is one thing which would justify a public Officer in asking the Government to pay him more money, it must be that he must at all times be able to show that he has maintained a state of efficiency in the Department or Departments under his control; that his relations not only with his subordinates but the members of the public who use his services are good; that he dispenses whatever privileges there are pertaining to his office without fear or favour. I wish to say that on neither of those grounds does Mr. Raeburn outshine.

It has not even been discovered whether the slaughtering of animals is regularised and a little investigation will show the Hon. Minister that slaughtering goes on at a time when it should not go on. Why? Because the gentleman in charge of the Market "curries favour" with private people and allows them to slaughter their animals. When he does that, he finds that he cannot with justice resist the claims of the butchers at impossible times and he has to allow them to do it. Therefore through his slackness he has allowed himself to be blackmailed into the breaking of the Regulations. Let them ask Mr. Dan Springer about it.

10.50 p.m.

Therefore, the Hon. Minister must understand and be able to assure this House whether the wartime controls exist or not and what system Mr. Rae-

burn is going to adopt in the future. Will he slaughter for his friends, and therefore, be made to slaughter for the butchers at regular times or is he going to adhere to the system already laid down?

The next point is this: how efficient is he that a visitor or customer going there at any time (he has not got to choose his time) can find for himself that the state of the stalls and their surroundings are not as hygienic as they should be? This is a matter that affects the health of the people and the saleability of the meat. The stalls referred to are seldom clean. I admit that you cannot clean a stall when you are actually selling meat, and nobody would ask that that should be done. But there must be an evening and a morning to the day as the Good Book tells us. And is it too much to ask of this gentleman that the butchers should be provided with a clean stall, or that on a Saturday evening or Sunday evening the stalls should not be clean? Why should butchers have to wait until Monday morning to have a clean stall? Could he not impose a little discipline in the Department under his control? Why does he not see that the butchers sell their meat in hygienic surroundings?

The next point is refrigeration. I was surprised to hear the remarks of the Hon. Minister on the necessary objection raised by the butchers that their meat sometimes becomes stale. I was astonished to hear him say that the new mechanism is of such that it enables the current to be turned off for a time during the night or at stated intervals. Whether or not that is so it does not matter; because the whole point is that the butchers put their meat there precisely because they wish it preserved, and the attendants have no right to be tampering and experimenting with the feasibility as to how often it can be turned off and on at night. The butchers pay for refrigeration space. They are not asking or begging for it; it is paid for. It is something in which meat is kept to be sold. It is a necessary thing. I cannot remember off-hand; but I think it is approximately \$5000 which the Government spent on that refrigeration unit; and it is distressing to hear that butchers are still complaining that meat is spoilt. Mr. Speaker, if that happened once, it might be due to some technical defect in the refrigerating unit. It is possible. The shutting off of electric power or any other disturbance might do anything to mar its effectiveness. That, however, is the kind of thing that should not happen more than once, because the mere fact that Government has spent so much money on it meant that it was to give service to the butchers. The decomposing of meat is not only a matter for the sanitary authorities, it is a matter of grave economic loss and it should not happen. You may argue that Mr. Raeburn is not an electrician; but even if a complaint was made to him that the refrigerating plant is faulty, he might be able to get it rectified, though not immediately. Is there not someone with technical knowledge who is stationed there to attend to the refrigerating plant? If so, why is he always drunk or incapable of attending to his duties? Why, therefore, because of his incapacity is the refrigerating plant to be opened so often that its temperature falls? There you have a vicious circle. They turn off the plant at night to prove the Minister's theory, and the meat decomposes. The administration of the unit itself is faulty. The more frequently it is opened the more hot air gets into it, with the result that the meat instead of being preserved is spoilt.

But Mr. Raeburn is the Superintendent of the Public Market. He is the person who not only should know about these things, but should deal with them

so effectively that nobody else could know about them. There would be no grounds for complaint if he were discharging his duties efficiently. If the Hon. Minister would investigate these matters, if he would have talks with butchers other than Party butchers, he would soon discover that there are a lot of butchers who have stalls in the Market and who are dissatisfied with the administration. Their opinion, Mr. Speaker, of Mr. Raeburn would, I think, be sufficient to inform Government that in the opinion of the people around and about the Market (and by that I mean the butchers), the man does not even do the job assigned to him, and it is great effrontery and rudeness on his part to want more salary.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I have made a few notes here. The first thing that strikes me about this Resolution is that it is to authorise "the Governor-in-Executive Committee to enter into an agreement to pay the present holder of the post of Superintendent, Public Market a certain salary." That is not the usual custom. The usual custom is that if a salary attached to a post is fixed by law and you cannot get anybody to fill that post, you have to go out of your way to enter an agreement with someone. Now, the next thing that strikes me about this Resolution is that it has no time limit to the agreement. Are you entering into this agreement for three years, or five years? For how long is it? [A VOICE: Three years.] I am sorry I do not see it. This gentleman is already employed by you. You have not said that you want this particular man or that he is an excellent man. What you have said is that the post has not been upgraded for a long time; and the next thing is that you expect to put even more work on this gentleman than he is doing at present. He has taken it on himself; it is not that you have forced him to do it. You have altered your scheme in order to channel work in his direction. You have also passed a Bill that will take a great deal of work off the Superintendent's hands I am referring to the Weights and Measures Bill. You have increased the number of markets. Whether or not it is necessary to supervise a fish market I do not know. Now, you have taken the Weights and Measures out of his hands. If you have increased the work otherwise and you intend to ask that his salary be increased I ask this question: why could you not have brought in a Civil Establishment Order to increase the salary of this post? Why do you have to enter into an agreement? Can any member of the Government answer those questions?

11.00 p.m.

I would be very pleased if you would interrupt me, because I would like an answer so that I could go on to speak. You have me at a disadvantage, because this is another Money Resolution in this House. What prevented you from putting this salary in your Civil Establishment Order? Let me know what prevented you from doing it. This is not something temporary; you have somebody in the job already. You say you are going to have more work for him to do, and you say you are going to enter into an agreement with him. Why should you enter into an agreement? This thing is wrong; I cannot see the reason for it. You usually enter into an agreement with someone because you feel that the salary which you are offering for the post is all that you can pay and all that it is worth, but at present conditions exist which prevent you from getting someone to fill the post, therefore, you have to go out of your way and get somebody on contract. It cannot be disputed that you have a qualified man filling the post of Superintendent of the Public

Market and one more qualified than you necessarily want. What are the peculiar circumstances that led this Government to want to enter into an agreement with one of its employees? Why do you wish a special agreement for this post when you know that you are putting more work on it, and in so doing you should increase the salary? Do you intend in the future to get this job done for the salary which you have in the Estimates? I would really like to hear that. I do not like the way the Hon. Minister of Agriculture gets up and says that this is to increase food production and to assist the people of this island. This cannot cause another potato to grow in the island. If you bring it into the market, he may display it for you; but that is all he can do.

Mr. Speaker, the only way you can produce more food is to plant more food and it is this very Government which has reduced the percent age of land in which you had to plant food, and it is the same Minister of Agriculture who is saying now that they want more food. That is not true. They want more canes. They allow the planters to plant more canes under the pretext that the mealy bug is going to eat them, but with all that you are getting more sugar every year.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member will realise this.—

Mr. LEWIS: Why is he so often on his feet? I hope now that he is on his feet he would tell us why Government has entered into an agreement with this man. I will give way to him if he will do that.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, what I was attempting to explain just now, is that if we have a proper marketing organisation, peasants and planters alike would be induced to plant more food. Today, cane is planted because you can sell sugar easily.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been listening to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture making reference to the remarks by the hon. junior member for the City. I do not think this is the best time for that.

Mr. LEWIS: With the pretext that the mealy bug has caused great damage to the sugar cane Government has reduced the acreage of land which you had to plant in food. It is not true that they have more food planted in this island. I have told Government that this mealy bug business is fooling them. Now that you have the mealy bug you are getting a bigger tonnage of sugar. The crop at one time was under 150,000 tons; it is now over 180,000 tons; I suppose the mealy bug must be producing sugar. [A VOICE: You are going to get less sugar this year.] Yes, through "Janet", not through the mealy bug.

Let me say that the present system of distribution of food in this country is excellent, and no marketing distribution can beat it. We have a vast number of men and women travelling through this country seeing that every home has food. You can compel people to go to a particular centre to get their vegetables and other food supplies where there may be a better display; but I say that the present distribution system which we have is an excellent one, no matter how primitive it may be.

I am repeating, that if I am to be interrupted at all, I should be told why you have entered into an agreement on contract with one of your employees, rather than to increase the salary of the post under the law which you have now. Why is it that no member of the Government is willing to interrupt me now to tell me? We are at a disadvantage when we are dealing with this matter in this House, because when an hon. member sits he

cannot comment on it again, no matter how stupid or how wise the reply may be from the Minister. I have already questioned this thing tonight.

Sir, you have one of your own employees doing a job. You say, you have put more work on him, and because you are doing that you intend to pay him \$100 more a month. The salary attached to the post is fixed by law at \$3,600 per annum; you have not changed the law but you have entered into a special agreement with this officer and cannot tell us why you have done so. Suppose the person dies tonight, are you going to enter into an agreement with somebody else? Why do you not bring a Civil Establishment Order to give that post the salary you think it is worth?
11.10 p.m.

When the Government goes out of its way to do these peculiar things, it only encourages hon. members in the feeling that you have a special friend, you create conditions, and you want to pay that friend a particular salary. There is no precedent for this kind of thing. This is a unique method of dealing with this post; I defy any member of this House and particularly any member of the Government to bring forward anything which is on all fours with this. Is it because you feel conscious of the fact that you have no right to increase the salary of this post? You can see that the Civil Establishment Order says that the post is so much, and when you look at the next post you see what it is; in the case of this present holder of the office you want His Excellency the Governor to enter into contract with him. Is he anxious to enter this agreement? Why can't he be put into a Civil Establishment Order? Is this new money? [Laughter]. If I do not get this question answered I will vote against this Resolution. This Addendum has gone out of its way to say that you intend to build a Central Market on the present site of the Department of Highways and Transport. What are you going to do with the buses? If you have your Transport Department housed over there, are you still going to build a Market? I do not know the reason for these strange things; there is something at the back of this. I am not saying that it is something bad but it is something which the Government does not want to disclose. You are paying this man for the work which you have put on him since you intend to increase the number of Markets and you want to go away from the Civil Establishment Order. I repeat: if you do not answer that question satisfactorily I will vote against this Resolution. Is it a special request of this new officer that he wants his \$400 a month as a result of the contract?

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the present holder of the office of Superintendent of the Public Market is certainly a wonderful man; he has great powers of persuasion and I will quote two examples. When you hear what this man has been able to accomplish in a short space of time, you must agree with me that he has strong powers of persuasion.

The first example is this: an ex-convict who is in charge of opening the doors of the Refrigerator received a cuff in his back one day in the Public Market. The Superintendent of the Market was able to spend four days in Court and have the Solicitor General prosecute the case which he eventually lost because the man did not know who cuffed him. The Solicitor General prosecuted a case of that nature at the same time that two Barbadian planters were being prosecuted by the Police Sergeant at Dist. "E" Police Station for attempting to murder a woman. No Crown Prosecutor appeared in that case and the Police Sergeant had to conduct it himself: but this Officer was able to get a Crown Prosecution.

cutor to appear in a case for him. That is how the Barbados Taxpayers' money is being spent; of course, to get the Crown Law Officers to do something more than copying is an achievement. They are nothing but political footballs, as far as I can see.

The second example is this; and these remarks have fallen from the lips of the hon. senior member for Christ Church on many an occasion when he was a voice crying in the wilderness, one who had not only been persecuted in the party he now graces but who had been kicked out therefrom and then re-entered thereto. He used to speak of the champions of democracy, people like ourselves, Negroes. This champion of Negroes, this champion of the bare foot man has now succumbed to the blandishments of this man who is not a Barbadian,—not a negro nor a man in the street—who accepted a salary of \$300 a month and who was apparently only too willing to come from the hinterland of St. Kitts to the modern population of Bridgetown to enjoy the wine of the country. This is the same man who today has got the Minister of Agriculture to introduce all sorts of abstruse, economic theories in a debate on increasing the salary of a foreign Civil Servant. Perhaps my understanding is imperfect, but if the Minister's economic doctrines are accurate, it would appear to me that other Civil Servants in Barbados and the members of this House more than anybody else. [Mr. F. L. WALLCOTT: We want a piece of change too.] (Laughter) would surely be doing a great service not only to the unemployed inhabitants of this country but to mankind in general by demanding instantaneously a rise in their salaries and the emoluments which they now enjoy.

11.20 p.m.

If the increase of \$100 a month to the salary of one man is going to make that stupendous difference to the level of employment in Barbados, how much more an increase in the salary of the 24 members here! Or, supposing we considered the other 19 members omitting the Ministers, would it wipe out the problem of unemployment in the whole of the West Indies? If we reduce the arguments to their logical conclusion then, that deduction must be inevitable. I am still rather amazed that that kind of argument should have been used in a debate of this kind. I must go back to what I said before and compliment the holder of the office of Superintendent of the Public Market for being able to bring forth or evoke such sound economic theories from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Now, time and time again we have been told by the members on the other side of the Table, when any suggestion comes from this side of the Table, that school children should get hot meals or some other form of social service. For instance, the St. Thomas Baby Welfare League started by the late lamented wife of the Hon. Minister of Social Services who personally has rendered signal services to this Colony and was suitably commended for them—even that was not recognised by the Ministers or taken into consideration when we introduced the Five Year Plan. Honourable members will remember that the same argument must have been shelved when the Minister of Social Services came for an increase in the salaries of some of the expatriots and other persons at the Barbados General Hospital. The shortage of available funds was also forgotten. The never-ending strain on the annual Revenue was placed in the pigeon holes; and Mr. Speaker, we never heard one more word or protest from the Ministers to the effect that the Colony could not afford to pay a gentleman who had been here only a few months a phenomenal increase in his salary.

There is in the Director of Medical Services who also comes from a northern climate, (not within the Caribbean) and who would have languished in that area, a case similar to that of the Superintendent of the Public Market. He was in a larger Colony when he made the move to Barbados. The Director of Medical Services and the Superintendent of the Public Market are, therefore, in much the same boat. The Hon. Minister has just reminded us that the Premier had said, when we talked about hot meals and social service, that no other expenditure should have been encouraged. I think that when we first talked about emigration, that was the cry raised from the Ministerial Bench. Last week, when we were discussing the increases in salary for ex-patriots at the Hospital, the Hon. Minister of Social Services stated that certain medical officers had threatened to resign unless they got the desired increases. I should like to ask the Hon. Minister of Agriculture whether that is the case with the Superintendent of the Market as well. If that is so, I am sure that a threat of that nature coming from that quarter would not be taken seriously by members of this House, or the general public of Barbados.

Another argument used in support of increasing the salaries of the medical officers was that we could not obtain qualified persons to accept the post at the prevailing salaries. I have not heard that argument used *consimili casu* here tonight; because it could not possibly have any application in view of the fact that the gentleman only recently accepted the salary without any murmur of protest as far as I know at \$300 a month. Now, if the Hon. Minister is going to go around increasing the salaries of ex-patriots, I want him to go around increasing the salaries of the Key Scale men; because, if the Superintendent cannot manage to live on \$300 a month or the people at the General Hospital cannot manage on \$700 or \$800 a month, the Key Scale men working at the Public Works Department and the Water Works cannot live on \$14.00 a week. And invariably the man at the Public Works or Water Works has got a much larger family to sustain than the man, for instance, at the Mental Hospital, getting \$600 a month. Is it that not we, but the people in the higher branches of the Civil Service, who are the servants of the people of this colony have reached such a stage that they cannot live on smaller salaries? It is that they have reached such a stage of lavishness, or living in the lap of luxury, of indulging themselves and becoming like lotus trees by living off the fat of the land? Or is it that their expenses are of ever increasing proportions in their mad rush to keep up with the people next door, who are never of the normal Barbadian type, but ex-patriots like themselves? Are they not enjoying the perquisites which they thought they would not have enjoyed? Is it this mad drive to the lap of luxury that is inflicting this burden on Barbados? Or is it due to the computation by the hon. ourable senior member for Christ Church which shows that these people are on the brink of starvation and cannot exist on salaries except they are of \$600 or \$800 a month? It can only be one or other of those motives which is driving the Ministers in here with Resolutions of this kind. I find it difficult to believe especially after listening to the remarks of the honourable senior member for the City and after observing by his silence, the acceptance by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture of the proposition that this particular post does not even call for a qualified veterinary surgeon. I find it difficult to understand other than on a basis of personal affection that this particular officer is entitled to the increase which is now being asked for.

11.30 p.m.

There is another observation which I would like to make, Mr. Speaker. It is in relation to something

which I said at the beginning of my remarks. I would like to tell the Minister of Agriculture that he is insulting the intelligence of the people whom he professes to represent when he suggests that the salvation of Barbados (not his expressed words, but by irresistible inference) is only through machinery of an increase—and a substantial increase—in the salaries of certain Government officers.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I never said that.

Mr. BARROW: I said, that they were not necessarily his expressed words, but by irresistible inference. But the honourable member has ample time to reply to everything that is said.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, he said that I said the salvation of the people of Barbados is through the machinery of an increase—and a substantial increase—in the salaries of certain Government Officers. I have never used those words. I referred to the lowering of the cost of living in the general scheme of things.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am only grateful for his unnecessary interruption in that he reminded me of something which I omitted to criticise him on before; but if he had been listening very carefully, as Your Honour was listening even when you should not listen, he would have heard that I said although he may not use the same remarks that it was the irresistible inference to be drawn from his remarks. Now, Sir, when it comes to the suggestion that by increasing the salary we are getting more markets, and therefore the standard of living would be raised or the cost of living would be lowered (that is the most important thing from their point of view; you would notice that their perspective is always on the negative side) whenever they talk of improving the standard of living, they wish to keep the disparity between the people who are well off and those who are not well off. They always talk of reducing the cost of living but they never attack it from the positive angle.

When the Hon. Minister of Agriculture talks about saving \$9 million in imports, does he mean to say that we will save \$9 million by giving the present holder of Superintendent of the Market \$100 a month more? If he means that, certainly, that is the worse investment I have heard of since I was born.

Of course, I am going to vote for the Resolution. Although I am not a capitalist, I realise it is an absolute cast iron investment, and it is the thing I would welcome, but I would like to know—

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Again, Mr. Speaker, I hate to rise, but I never said anything like that. I never said that by increasing one's salary by \$100 a month you will get a saving of \$9 million. I said, that this is a means of lowering the cost of living and in inducement to the peasants to grow more food, an inducement to fishermen to catch more fish, and would be a means of having everything else on a better footing.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am not a member of the Marketing Organisation, but I belong to one of the vital lynch pins of the Marketing Organisation, because I represent the consuming public. This mass of absurdities which we are hearing tonight are what we are accustomed to hear from the Ministerial benches. I should not take the Hon. Minister too seriously, but too often members of the public are misled by these sort of silly remarks made by the Ministers, and because they happen to be Ministers and some have the advantage of having a good education, people, who do not know, think they speak intelligently, and with a certain amount of conviction. If you want to improve the markets of Barbados you do not have to pay a man more money; you will have to go on planting up your farms and getting more cabbages. You will have to manufacture your motor-cars, your cloth and all the other commodities which

are essential for enjoying the comforts of life. You will have to manufacture in your sugar factories all those things, and that is what I mean by saying that there is no country which is self-sufficient, most of all a country which is limited in area like the small colony of Barbados where we have 106,000 acres of which 93,000 is arable land. Quite apart from the policy of land utilisation one can see that 98% of our arable land is extensively cultivated. The Minister of Agriculture said, that he is going to increase the amount of produce grown in Barbados. He cannot do so unless he refrains from the policy of the Government as the honourable junior member for the City has said already in this debate that Government has adopted the policy this year of allowing more land to be planted in sugar cane. How then is Government going to increase the amount of produce going into the markets of Barbados? Although I am not an advocate of free enterprise, when it comes to peasants, I am of the opinion that when you get Government interfering with them, you are going to get less food-stuff coming into the Market.

The Hon. Minister of Agriculture said as a result of this scheme we will be able to reduce imports. Let me tell him that cultivation of the sugar cane is the most lucrative crop in the whole wide world. It yields more tons weight and more money per acre than any other crop in the world. We get our bully beef, our refrigerators and our motor cars out of sugar cane. We grow sugar cane because it is the most profitable crop to Barbados and we rely on the balance of international trade for the rest.

11.40 p.m.

The world has come to a state of international specialisation. You get not only specialisation as between artisan and artisan but as between country and country. And the standard of living in a country does not depend on cutting up the land into half acre lots as the Premier would have the Royal Commission to do; it is dependent upon comparative advantages. Until they learn these simple facts of life, they will not be able to understand the predicament which confronts people today. You cannot say that we are reducing our imports because Dr. Raeburn belongs to the marketing Organisation of Barbados and we will get more stuff in Markets. You can only get the stuff in Markets if the stuff is there.

Those are the criteria which you have to apply. I suspect this: I am suspicious especially where those people over there are concerned—I mean the members of the Government. Everything they do bears inspection with a magnetic glass. The minute the Honourable Minister throws out the suggestion about Markets, somebody is building a little empire somewhere; then there will be Police prosecutions in the Courts, all the hucksters will be off the streets and everybody who is living in Mile and a Quarter will have to go to Speightstown.

At the present moment the situation in the Market is that after two o'clock there is no activity in a normal day. They only slaughter animals about three days a week. You go down there at 11 o'clock or 12 o'clock at night and you can find all the gutters choked up. You can find flies infesting the stalls; you can find the butchers having to sell their meat under unfavourable conditions and you find people who should be sitting down in the Market sitting in the Courts and bringing along the Crown Officers with them. I do not send any servant to the Market like the Ministers; I buy my meat myself and sometimes I am appalled at the number of flies which congregate around the meat stalls in the Market. In other West Indian Colonies—I exclude Trinidad for the time being—slaughtering is carried out in a central place throughout the length and breadth of the Colonies. The Sanitary Inspectors in places like St. Lucia go around to every single village where slaughtering is going on

and they inspect all the meat that has been produced. If you are improving your marketing organisation, you want decentralisation and not centralisation; you must take your inspectors to the butchers, you cannot insist on the butchers going to the inspectors. You do not want to build a marble temple to the art of butchery down by the Wharf; that is the next Resolution with which they will be coming down and the Market will still be dirty.

I have already drawn to the attention of this Honourable Chamber that you can slaughter animals anywhere outside the limits of the City of Bridgetown without incurring any penalty or fine. That is a very serious state of affairs; whereas you give a man \$400 a month to peer into the entrails of animals which are slaughtered in the Market, outside the Market you can slaughter a diseased cow and this gentleman does not have any control over that. You are only concerned about the people who go to the Market to buy meat, and there is no convenience in going there.

Dr. Fulton's Report is there in black and white and up to now we have not discussed it. When a Barbadian was performing this job from year to year, you allowed him to languish on the same salary and not a sound was heard from the Minister of Agriculture or any of his colleagues or confrères. Even at the expense of incurring the displeasure of these rodents or vipers, I do not know which to call them, or even at the expense of being accused of all sorts of prejudices, it is still our duty to raise our voices against the lack of opportunity given to our people and not yield like the honourable senior member for Christ Church, to the demands of ex-patriots in this country. I feel that the present Government is entirely inconsistent in the policy which it has followed and I feel that it displays a sense of irresponsibility in financial matters. I hope that one of these days the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, by the results which he will achieve, by the startling results which he has prognosticated, will embody his findings in a thesis which would be placed in the British Museum for the benefit of posterity; because I am sure that if we were as sanguine as he appears to be now we would have no despair for the future of mankind because we could solve all our economic problems by adding a couple of noughts to everybody's salary at the expense of the overburdened taxpayers of this colony.

11.50 p.m.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative on a division as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mrs. BOURNE, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. VAUGHAN, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. LEWIS.—10.

Noes: Mr. BARROW, Mr. TUDOR, Mr. ALLDER, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Mr. GODDARD.—5.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, before the Order Paper is discussed, I should like to assure the Hon. Leader of the House that we are all as anxious as he for this Session to close; but, at the same time I should like to bring to Your Honour's notice that there are on the Order Paper no less than 37 orders under the Head, "Private Members' Business; and that in addition to that there are several notices. One of these Orders is an Address to His Excellency the Governor relating to the administration of Justice in the Island.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Rules of the House state that once Government Business is concluded that we can automatically proceed to Private Members' Business. I do not think that the Speaker is doing justice to the Constitution of Barbados in rising to adjourn the House immediately after Gov-

ernment Business is concluded, taking it for granted that these 37 Orders under Private Members' Business are just put in for the sake of utilising Government's paper. I am, therefore, asking leave to take Order No. 34.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable senior member for St. George is asking leave to take Order No. 34 under Private Members' Business as the next Order of the Day. If there is no objection leave will be granted.

Hon. M. E. COX: I object.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I should like to know if the Government is objecting to doing Private Members' Business or objecting to that particular Order being taken?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the honourable senior member for St. George be granted leave to proceed with Order No. 34 as the next Order of the Day. Honourable members in favour of that will please say "Aye" those against will please say "No"; I think the "Noes" have it.

The question was resolved in the affirmative on a division as follows:

Ayes: Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. BARROW, Mr. TUDOR, Mr. VAUGHAN, Mr. ALLDER, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Mr. GODDARD. 8.

Noes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN. 7.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the honourable senior member for St. George: to move the passing of an Address relating to the administration of justice in the island.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on the 11th day of October, 1955, I gave notice of this Address the terms of which are as follows:

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

"The House of Assembly has the honour to draw to Your Excellency's attention the fact that the administration of justice in the Law Courts of the Island is neither swift nor otherwise satisfactory and an investigation of and report on this unsatisfactory state of affairs is long overdue.

The House therefore respectfully request that Your Excellency enter into negotiations with a view to securing the services of some qualified person or persons to undertake such enquiry with the least possible delay."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to be long in my explanation of the reasons why I have introduced this Address. Sufficient is it for me to state that two weeks ago on the 7th day of November, The Barbados Law Society passed a resolution, not exactly the same, but similar to the one which is now engaging the attention of the House. The Barbados Law Society is incorporated by statute, is comprised of all the practicing solicitors and barristers of this Island and the Hon. the Attorney General is the President of the said body.

12.02 a.m.

All of the members of the legal profession in the island belong to that Society. The Crown Law Officers always attend the meetings of the Society as members and three of them were present at the time that that Resolution was passed, although on account of their office they abstained from voting. I do not think I am disclosing any secrets when I say that

they did not want it to be suggested that they were making censure on any persons responsible for the administration of justice in this island.

Perhaps it be just as well if I should also make it clear that the motive for this Address is in no way intended to be an aspersion on the persons who are responsible for the administration of justice to this island. The simple facts are, Mr. Speaker, that the machinery whereby justice in this island should function smoothly is out of date and antiquated. I will give you a couple of examples. All of our legislation on land is of the 19th century vintage. We have no system of land registration in this island. We have an anarchism in the Assistant Court of Appeal which has its protagonists and its antagonists. The last time that the rules of any of the Superior Courts were printed was in 1903, and that was only done through the efforts of the late Sir William Herbert Greaves who at one time was a member of this Chamber. The result is, that today, in many matters and in many Courts there are no copies of the rules of the Court available, and as a result of that the Legal Profession and the Litigants are at a tremendous disadvantage, not to mention the Judges of the Courts. Copies of the rules of the Superior Courts cannot be obtained at any price and they are essential in matters of procedure and other matters of that kind.

There is a tremendous waste of human energy in the manner in which the service of summonses, and other documents are effected at the present moment. There is also a colossal waste of energy in that we have certain judgements and decisions in Barbados which do not obtain in any other colony in the British Empire. It is possible in the Courts of Barbados to have a Police Magistrate trying a case eight or nine times until he gets exhausted, because we do not adhere to the maxim that it is in the interest of the State that there should be a finish to litigation.

They are several other points which I can mention some of which are well known to Your Honour yourself, such as, inadequate and unsuitable accommodation at the country courts of this island and the removal of the Courts from any recognised centre of human habitation to isolated mountain tops frequently involving the journey of eight or nine miles to the average witness of litigants who are under penalty to attend the Court. All that is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. We have talked about the conditions at the Bissex Hill Police Magistrate's Court already in this Chamber as well as District "E" Police Magistrate's Courts in the constituency which Your Honour has the good fortune to represent. The facilities which obtain there for the Magistrate to work under are not only inadequate but border on the scandalous. They are no telephonic communications for the Clerks and there is the necessity to go through the Police Exchange to get a phone call. Very often the Police Magistrate's Court is far removed from the Police Station itself.

Mr. Speaker, the neighbouring colony of Trinidad, within the past ten days to the best of my recollection, appointed a jurist from the United Kingdom to investigate the administration of justice in that colony, and there was no dissent or any divergence of opinion as to the absolute necessity of a Commissioner of that kind; therefore, Mr. Speaker, though I do not think in supporting the passing of this Address that honourable members should in any way feel that it is a reflection on their pride as Barbadians that a new and fresh version should be imported into the judicial scene in Barbados to make a survey thereof, times have been changing rapidly in the 20th century and the apocryphal laws of Barbados have prevented the administration of justice from keeping pace with the social and economic phases of the 20th century.

This Address is worded in such a way that it gives a very wide discretion in the Resolution to appoint not only a commission from outside whom we will prefer to be a high judicial officer, but also to co-opt on the commission persons with a knowledge of local conditions, and persons with legal experience and unlimited in number; the only limitation being the workability of a Committee of that kind.

I therefore beg to move that this Address do now pass.

Mr. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I will call on the honourable senior member for St. George to present the Address.

Mr. BARROW: I would be very grateful, Your Honour, if you will allow the honourable senior member for St. Lucy whom I believe would be willing to be associated in the presentation of this Address to be associated with me.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will also ask that the honourable senior member for St. Lucy be associated in the presentation of this Address to His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. BRANCKER: As Your Honour pleases.
12.10 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: In fixing the Order Paper, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: If the hon. member would not mind my asking leave to proceed with Order No. 35 under "Private Members' Business".

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I would like to remind the hon. member that firstly, Bills are reviewed by the Executive Committee before they are discussed in the House.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am asking the hon. member, in view of the urgency of this Measure, to see that this Bill is reviewed so that we can proceed with it at the next meeting of the House.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I will try to do that.

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 29th instant, at 3.00 o'clock.

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

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, I intimated that I intended to deal with the amendment to the St. John Parish Loan Act, 1952 and the Hon. Leader of the House knew about it. However, I have recently been told that nowadays the Executive Committee discusses these Bills prior to their being dealt with in House. I should like to inform the Hon. Leader of the House that the Vestry of the Parish of St. John has been waiting for some time on the passing of this Bill because they want to get ahead with the erection of the Communal Bath and Latrine. I am asking that the Executive Committee discuss this Bill so as to facilitate the House passing it on the next occasion.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I understand that there is a set of Minutes dated the 5th July, 1955, which this House has not confirmed through an objection taken by the hon. junior member for St. Lucy; I think the hon. member should be able to say to what he is objecting or otherwise let these Minutes be confirmed.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall see to that.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 29th instant, at 3 o'clock p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. Speaker adjourned the House accordingly.

12.15 a.m.