

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954—55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4th October, 1955.

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

PRESENT

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

Prayers were read.

Mr. ALLDER entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

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

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Financial Report of the Accountant General of the Colony for the month ended 31st August, this year.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS for the Premier: Resolution to authorise an advance of \$280,000 to be placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet expenditure in connection with hurricane relief.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS for the Premier: Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled "The Barbados Regiment (Service Pay) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955".

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of \$6,165 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955-56, Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1955-56 No. 32 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: In connection with these Resolutions, Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to ask leave to suspend Rules 88 and 89 in order to deal with the first two Resolutions. As honourable members would remember, these Resolutions were circulated by permission of Mr. Speaker. I would like to deal with them in all the stages today.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of my intention to move the passing of the following address to His Excellency the Governor. It reads as follows:—

*The House of Assembly
To*

His Excellency the Governor

The House desire to draw to Your Excellency's attention the vast extent of damage to property sustained in the recent Hurricane.

2. The House believe that considerable financial provision must be made to replace the houses destroyed by those of a more durable structure.

3. The House further believe that such financial provision should be properly planned, and should be subject to frequent budgetary adjustments.

4. The House begs to remind Your Excellency that the *Price Stabilisation Fund* (now sanding at more than six and a half millions dollars), and the Revenue Equalisation Balances (now much in excess of five and a quarter millions dollars), are the appropriate sources from which such financial commitments should be met.

5. Accordingly, the House respectfully beg to impress upon Your Excellency the rectitude of such a course, and therefore desire that the most urgent consideration be given to this proposal to use these two funds for the purposes mentioned above.

Mr. E. St. A. Holder entered the House and took his seat.

3.25 p.m.

QUESTION

Mr. O. T. ALLDER:

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:—

Will the Government cause to be set up a Commission to enquire into the running of the Sugar Industry of this Island, with the view to finding out the basis on which such production Bonus is paid, and the cause for the long delay in the paying out of such money to Labourers of this Industry?

2. Will the Government cause such persons as are responsible for the paying out of such money to do so as soon as possible so that Labourers who are victims of the recent Hurricane can be relieved of their suffering?

3. Will the Government by Legislation enacted cause a time limit to be instituted within which such Production and Preference Money on the purchase of canes be paid annually?

PRIVILEGE

Re: Article in "Beacon" Newspaper

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, before any Order is called, I would like to draw Your Honour's attention and to the attention of the public an article written in the "Beacon" Newspaper of the first of October, in which language has been used which I regard as a challenge to the right of honourable members to debate matters in this Assembly. The use of the language in this Newspaper is of such a vulgar nature, that it warrants discussion and also being brought to the attention of the public.

No honourable member is afraid of public criticism or of public comment, but when a Report is vulgar and used with malice, it is obvious that one must deal with it. One dictator has fallen in Argentina because of his tactics of suppressing democracy and now we are finding here that this language is used in a report in connection with this Chamber.

I want to make it clear that if I had not been the General Secretary of the Organisation which owns this Newspaper, I would have gone to the Law Courts and brought a suit in respect of this attack which has been made on me. I happen to be the General Secretary of the Organisation which owns the Newspaper, I repeat. The Organisation has nothing to do with the writings in the Newspaper or its policy, so that the Organisation is absolved from any blame; but the Organisation will be called upon to pay damages in case a successful suit is brought against the Newspaper.

After dealing with a Statement made by Your Honour, they went on to misrepresent the facts. I would say that you can deal with your part of it. This is what is stated:—

"Mr. Speaker gave a startling reply—startling in view of the fact that he thereafter permitted a petulant, puerile, pettifogging performance on the part of Mr. Walcott based on the wildest and most reckless misstatements which even he has seldom surpassed."

This Newspaper in this context is telling the public that I in this Chamber have been noted for making reckless misstatements. I am just drawing to Your Honour's attention and to the attention of the public that I am not afraid of letting it be known that even if it is my closest friend or my bitterest enemy, I have to preserve my character and I will do so to the bitter end.

We are all aware that the Minister of Labour is associated with this Newspaper; and there are

other honourable members who are also associated with this Newspaper. I would not accuse the Hon. Minister of writing this article, but what I do say is this: a Newspaper which pretends to be a national Newspaper must make proper reports.

The Report goes on:—

"Mr. Walcott thereupon said that the House was not summoned in a proper manner; he himself had been summoned by a policeman; and added the reckless untruth that the Speaker's signature must be appended to a summons to make it valid."

This is only another challenge to show that your very right to debate any subject in this Chamber will be challenged by a Newspaper which accuses people of being liars.

Moreover, this is another attack and you, Mr. Speaker, are old enough to take care of your own rights; but this is a challenge to show that even you they have attacked by innuendo.

I want to make it clear that none of us should be afraid of criticism. I happen to know why much of this stuff is written; but the day will come when all of them will have to go and say what they care to say on public platforms and not in the Press and I will be there.

I just draw this matter to Your Honour's attention to show that we entered this Chamber to have the freedom of speech; and if we do not agree with anything, to say that we do not agree with it. By all means, make your comments if you want to make them; the Daily Newspaper has made a comment. If honourable members have said that the House was not summoned in the proper way, if that is not a democratic function, then tell me what is a democratic function.

3.35 p.m.

If I cannot stay on the floor of this House and say things even though my friends or enemies do not like to hear them, I will still say that I think I have the right to do so. If I am going to be challenged to the extent that I am a person saying things of which I can be called a liar, then all I can say is that this is not the type of thing that any Newspaper should be allowed to get away with.

What is so sore about it is that my sweat and labour has gone into the building of this very Newspaper that is making these attacks against me. I have spent time and energy in helping them to build up to their present situation; and people are being paid and aided to write articles about the very person who today, being the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers Union, has been of so much use. That is the sort of article that a man who is also a member of this Chamber is being subjected to; that is the sort of vulgarism we meet.

Many things are allowed to go by, but now it is challenging your very democratic rights by purporting you to be a liar. I said at Saturday's special meeting of the House of Assembly that the Assembly was not properly summoned. In spite of all that was said, we still came here and we still did business; and the up-shot of it is to see the innuendo that no person wanted to get on with business. We know the ways of some of them; but I think they should be a little more humble; they should be able to see that some of them could have gone into the Great Beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I raise this question because those who read this article know that there were three courses opened to me: to resort to the floor of this House; the Law Courts; or that of dealing with them in the way they should be dealt with. Some day I may meet them and deal with them and then they will be able to tell the tale.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have listened carefully to all that the honourable member has had to say, and I remember his referring to me as being able to treat the article with disdain. As far as anything being brought against me, I assure him that I treat all such articles with disdain. Some day I know the House will fortify itself and treat such matters as it thinks fit.

HURRICANE EMERGENCY

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, in connection with the present emergency, I know the House will want to know how things are going; and accordingly, on behalf of the Government I make the following statement.

I wish to make a Statement on some of the measures which the Government is taking to alleviate the ravages of the hurricane.

Immediately after the hurricane, there was, perhaps naturally, some overlapping in the distribution of food, but the Government's main concern was to make sure that there was enough food at the various centres in every parish for all homeless people. The emergency distribution of food supplies by lorries had several disadvantages, but was designed to take care of the first period after a hurricane, when the extent of the disruption of the normal distribution of food would not be known.

On investigation it was found that there were enough shops intact in the various villages of the Island to supply food for everyone. The Government, therefore, appointed the Honourable K. R. Hunte (who assisted the Government in the various food rationing schemes which operated during the War) to arrange and control the distribution of food to the homeless in a manner which would make it easier for the people to obtain emergency supplies of food. The occupants of a house rendered uninhabitable by the hurricane qualify for relief whether they rent the house or own it.

The Government has through Mr. Hunte introduced a coupon system. All local authorities are now operating this system under the direction of Government, and by this means we have achieved an Island-wide scheme of food distribution to the homeless. From reports which I have received, I am able to inform the House that emergency food coupons have already been distributed to families rendered homeless by the hurricane in all parts of the Island, except in St. Michael where the distribution is continuing today. In order to make sure that no homeless families in St. Michael will be without food to-day, the Government has arranged for enough supplies of food to be sent to the centres to last until this evening. If the distribution of the coupons in St. Michael is not completed today, further supplies will be sent to the centres.

The head of every homeless family is given an identification card to which is attached coupons to the value of five dollars (ten at fifty cents). Arrangements have been made with shops throughout the Island to supply food to the people on presentation of these coupons. The object is to enable homeless people to obtain food with as little inconvenience as possible. By this means long waiting in queues will be avoided, and the industrious will have more free time to help themselves. It is intended that each set of coupons should be exchanged for one week's food assistance. It was necessary to put the scheme into operation in all parishes immediately, and there was no question of any individual assessment of need. The scheme is for those who are homeless as a result of the hurricane and there is no means test.

This food assistance scheme is, like those for medical and sanitary control and the maintenance of temporary shelters, an emergency social service. It is, accordingly, the responsibility of the Minister of Social Services to see that it is carried out in accordance with the policy laid down by the Governor-in-Executive Committee. All persons and bodies operating these schemes are doing so under the direction of and as agent for the Government.

Because of the danger of introduction of infectious diseases where people are crowded together, it is the Government's policy to get as many families as possible out of the temporary shelters back into homes as soon as possible. The amazingly rapid work which is being done by the Ministry of Communications and Works, through the Director of Public Works, the Manager of the Housing Board and others in helping householders to restore damaged houses to a habitable condition has already been mentioned in this House. This week the staffs engaged on this work have been strengthened and to date 2,400 houses have been rehabilitated.

It has to be recognised, however, that for some time we shall have to maintain shelters for a large number of homeless persons, and arrangements for the further control and administration of such shelters are under consideration. In this connexion I would express the deep gratitude of the Government to those voluntary workers who are unselfishly helping their fellow creatures in this calamity.

The House will be kept informed of the situation and the Government's plans for the future.

RULES SUSPENDED

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Rules 88 & 89 in order to deal with the two Resolutions of which I have just given notice.

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

The question that Rules 88 and 89 be suspended was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

3.45 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee, and that it be an instruction to the Committee to deal with the resolution of which notice has first been given.

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

The question was put and agreed to, and the House went into Committee Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

HURRICANE RELIEF

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the first Resolution I shall deal with is one for \$280,000 to be advanced from the public Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee (to be subsequently refunded from funds invested under authority of the Reserve Fund Act 1924—6) to meet expenditure in connection with Hurricane Relief.

I do not think I need say much on that, as last week there was a Resolution for \$200,000 which was the first instalment to be advanced from the Treasury against this loan which has been invested abroad for an emergency such as this. The House passed that \$200,000 and today we have come back asking for this second and final instalment of that \$480,000.

I do not think I need repeat that this \$480,000 which has been invested abroad was consequent on the Act 1924/6 which makes provision for this case. This is just an advancement from the Treasury against this fund.

I suppose honourable members would like to know why at this stage we should not call in for this amount which has been invested abroad, so I would like to say that we have been advised that the present time is considered inappropriate to call in for this amount. We have been told that it is better to do it this way until such time as the investment market improves.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that a statement such as that which was just read out would have been a more fitting presentation in dealing with this Resolution for \$280,000 than what the Hon. Minister of Social Services said, because the House would take it that it had received from the Minister-in-charge some information relative to this matter.

What is strange and novel about this whole matter, is that the Ministerial benches have not evolved a system where they can make a presentation themselves without documentation being prepared for them to give this House. It would have been alright if you were dealing with a Budget Speech like the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but however, in a matter such as this, we would have to be tolerant because the Leader of the House is not given to speaking at length. In matters which he is not cogent, he thinks it is better for him to read the text of what has been prepared swiftly.

But, sir, we are not asking for information on this matter just as a matter of speech. It would help the Debates of this Chamber on the matter if we were given full information. Instead of someone asking the question: how is the programme progressing from parish to parish, we would be in a position to know that the rehabilitation of the homeless is running along certain lines, and what is the position of the food programme.

Why is it that the question of the ration system has been changed and to what extent is the system used? When it comes to that question, I can say things which would hurt certain people. I am going to give to the Editor of the "Beacon" something to publish. There are people today whom the Government are feeding who should not be fed. There are people who are exploiting this terrible situation and therefore you have created another crisis out of a crisis, because of undeserving people running the food centres and getting ration cards when they are not needed and what is more those who are needy are not getting them. Let me ask you: have these things been drawn to your attention? Can you say to what extent do they exist?

You will be surprised to see that now that the Leader of the House has presented his speech on this matter, he thinks it smug to pretend that he is going to sleep. Of course that is a relic of his generation; but sooner or later he will find that a generation of an age group far removed from his would give him a rather rude answer for so doing.

There is one thing I can say, and that is in this whole crisis the people have co-operated; that is one good thing about it. The rank and file cannot be accused of waiting upon Government to see what the Government would do. One or two touts may be waiting on the Minister to see that their houses are put up again or for jobs, but it can be said that the rank and file are pulling their weight in trying to

rehabilitate themselves and doing what best they can for themselves.

Now you have read in the Newspaper that His Excellency the Governor has returned to Barbados and has said that tents are on their way. It is a fact that there has never been any attempt in the Chamber when a Resolution like this comes before the House to apprise us of these situations. What strange conduct! Sometime ago there were emergencies in Great Britain caused by the Bus Strike and the Dock Strike, and the Minister of Government made a full statement of the facts to Parliament. What has our Minister told us of the situation? He has told us nothing more than just having read a Statement. Bear in mind that apprising this House of the situation is part of what he has to do.

You would have thought that the Minister would have told you of what progress Government had made apart from what the Hon. Minister read out at that speed. I would like to know if any honourable member hearing that statement read, can tell you of anything that was in it.

3.55 p.m.

We do not want to carry on a debate like this *ad infinitum*. That is to say you debate a Resolution for \$280,000 today and then come next week and move the adjournment of the House to discuss the Statement which has been made today. That Statement is analogous to this Resolution and it should have been dealt with simultaneously.

We do not blame the Hon. Leader of the House if God has not given him the ability to retain things in his head. He cannot retain things in his head. The Minister is smiling; but it is true that he is incapable of making a speech no matter how simple it is, remembering those things and putting them in a proper form and in sequence so that he can make a convincing speech on the document which he has before him. He is incapable of doing that; but he inflicts us with a document which we cannot debate when it is a matter concerning which he should be able to say something. He says that the Resolution speaks for itself; what Resolution can speak for itself? The person who is presenting the Resolution must speak for it.

I would take some time off at night and pay some attention to the elementary principles of presenting documents before Parliament; the Minister is not too old to learn the presentation of documents before Parliament. We want to be like the House of Commons; you must put something before Parliament and let us know what it is.

I am one of those people who would pay the highest acclamation to those who have co-operated in this crisis. No one person has done it, but all sections of the community have co-operated in a splendid movement and we should feel very proud of it indeed; but we should be aware of the things which we propose to do. Is there any intention on the part of the Government to share in any way with the people in Grenada? Grenada has been hard hit and we have passed a Resolution extending sympathy to the people of the island; we want to know whether the Government intends to share in any way with them.

Now we can say that we were very fortunate as compared with Grenada; the situation in Grenada is bad. There may be a way in which the Government could give some assistance, whether it be in the type of things which have been given to the Government, some of the things which we could pass on.

In this matter the Minister of Labour had some part to play. Out of this same crisis it has been said that the Minister's action has now prevented people from getting what should have been given

to them. Production Bonus has been kept back because the Government has not told the Sugar Producers what is the levy they will impose this year.

I want to say this: in future do not attempt to talk these things with the Sugar Producers alone.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not seen anything with regard to the Sugar Producers in this Resolution. I would be glad if the honourable member would keep to the Resolution.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This will help you to realise that it is a very important matter to you.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: On a point of Order. I would like to remove the impression that I had anything to do with this matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am sorry if I have the wrong Ministry. However very soon some of your constituents will remind you of it.

The point I think honourable members would like to know from your lips, is what progress has been made. I have seen some corrections made as regards the distribution of food and the ration system is likely to be made better use of than what has been done. There is still food in the shops and I do not think we should allow any one to exploit the situation. We hope that in the passing of this Resolution more positive relief will be given.

I will like to ask the Minister of Housing what is his policy apart from the relief of the immediate distress; I will like to know if he has anything in mind so far as the siting of some of these houses which have been blown down.

He will remember that sometime ago I raised this point in here, that I think it is about time that some of the Labour Welfare Fund be used in acquiring some areas where you can erect some houses. We know that some people like to live in the back for obvious industrial reasons. We are not against that; but in so far as the community is concerned, we should create better housing areas in the various parts of the island. I would like to know whether the Minister has any plans in his mind in connection with this matter; sometimes the Ministers do not know that they can express personal opinions as to matters arising out of a crisis.

These disasters are not things which will not happen again; we can see what has happened and to what extent we can minimise danger. Just as the Hon. Minister has given orders about rent control, it is time that he declare the area in Delamere Land as a prohibited area; it is not fit for human habitation. It is fortunate that we did not have any rains, because the whole of Delamere Land would find itself in Carlisle Bay. Let us see what dangers there are in the community today and rectify them; I do not think anybody would be vexed with anybody for so doing.

4.05 p.m.

We know that there are some residents of these places who have been living there for years; but there are many instances in which you have to do things that would hurt people at the moment, and which must be endured for the advantages that would be gained in the future. No one in his right senses would do anything to impede the relieving of the distress, but anything we do or say should be with a view to the future and to help the community at present.

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

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair and reported accordingly.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN APPOINTED

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Chairman having to go away from the House temporarily we will have to appoint a Chairman. I beg to move that the hon. senior member for St. Andrew be appointed as Chairman of Committees in the temporary absence of the Chairman.

Mr. HOLDER: I beg to second that.

The question that the honourable senior member for St. Andrew be appointed as Chairman of Committees was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that you do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

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

Mr. GODDARD: Madam Chairman, in regards to this Resolution, I presume that every Tuesday we will be confronted with a progress report from honourable members of the Government's Bench on the disaster that has befallen us. I think we know that this sum is not adequate and Government would have to spend the balance of \$280,000 before they could touch any other Funds. We knew that would be asked of us. I think it is the duty of the Government to forward a report today as to what is happening and what is being done.

We have the number of houses that have been destroyed and the number that have been damaged; but what is the Government's intention as regards the housing of the people in Christ Church and the devastated areas. We know that the food distribution has had to be hurried up and for that reason it has flooded into dimensions which no one had expected. Very quickly, however, someone came to your assistance and instituted a coupon system which seems to be very much better. Food now goes into the hands of the ones who are very much deserving. That, however, has only now got underway. I can say that the shops have got going with these coupons and today they are already in Bridgetown. I hope that that will continue until the Government has done something for the rehousing of these people. The Government has been distributing in spots.

I will draw to the Government's attention that this is a time losing principle. We hope that what we are saying would give them some idea of what they should do. We were treated to an exhibition of disinterest not long ago. When the last honourable member was speaking three Ministers left with only one remaining. If we are told that what the House of Assembly says is discussed in Executive Committee, at least, there should be some attention given to us.

What I am saying, I hope, will bear some impression on the Ministers and that we will have some good results out of this disaster. Clothing has been distributed in some centres and not in others. I do not know the Authority for this distribution of clothing.

So far my greatest criticism of the Government is that they have not published anything of what they are doing. The people are coming to their re-

presentatives and going to other people and asking: what are we to expect? We tell them to wait on the Public Works Department and the Housing Board. They are going around and collecting information and are either constructing houses or putting back ground-sels. They also want to know what is going to happen with the houses that have been destroyed.

Has Government considered any policy yet? Is it too early to tell us whether there is a policy formulated or in the making for the rehabilitation of the thousands of people who are homeless? I also say, let us know not only from Tuesday to Tuesday, but publish something in the "Advocate" for all of us to read that we may be able to disseminate that information. There is a great lack of publicity especially as with regard to that scheme.

I have touched on the question of clothing. Some have been distributed; and of course, some people who have not got are coming to us and asking the reason why. Now you will have to regulate this for these people. There are thousands of houses that have been blown down and the people have lost their clothes as a result. That is the big problem.

As I said before, I should like to know and you should tell us what is being considered about the rehousing of those who have lost their homes. Since they have been put out of these houses they have been living in the Schools and the Churches; we have to get them out of the Schools because the children have to go back to school. If Government will write down these questions and answer them for me I would be grateful.

The sanitary arrangements, I may mention, have been kept quite under control in Christ Church; but like every thing else, the first two days after the hurricane were chaotic.

At this moment I pay tribute to those who worked to aid the Sanitary Authorities both at the centres and elsewhere, clearing the streets et cetera; and a great responsibility has been met by Parochial Authorities. I know that they are going to find it very difficult indeed to find the money which they have to spend on this catastrophe.

4.15 p.m.

I have good reason to believe that Government will be asked by certain Parochial Authorities for assistance in this emergency. I am only warning them. I do know that money has been spent and spent very wisely by those responsible people; and I am throwing it out that it would be your duty to come to their assistance. The sooner that some pronouncement can be given by Government on this matter, the sooner people will be able to get ahead with the reconstruction of their homes.

I do know that some people are waiting on a pronouncement of this sort and are not getting ahead with the reconstruction of their houses because they feel that if they put a hand to repair their houses, Government might by-pass them and go somewhere else. I have been telling them to help themselves and they will be helped; and the sooner people come to understand that they should help themselves the better it would be. It is a fact that they would like to know something about what to do about damaged houses and houses to be built.

Mr. HAYNES: I also would like to corroborate what the honourable junior member for Christ Church has said. I thought when the Hon. Minister of Social Services introduced this Resolution he would have first said that you have given us \$200,000 and we spent "X" dollars in clothing, "Y" dollars in food and "Z" dollars in housing and so on. Then, he would have said that we have in view a lot more

to be done as regards housing and whatever it may be and we want this \$280,000 to do that work. Instead of that, as the honourable junior member for Christ Church has said, we are treated as we continually are, just like babies in this House.

When we go back to our constituencies to talk to people and they ask us what is happening, we cannot tell them anything at all. It is not fair to the ordinary floor member of this House that information is not given to him and it is extremely unfair to the electorate, because after all, we are supposed to be the representatives of the people and we should be able to carry back to them every Tuesday something as regards what is being done to help them. We come here so as to tell them what is happening; instead of that, as I have said already we hear nothing. It is very disappointing, to say the least.

We are not expecting them to tell us any secrets or expose any policies that are now being evolved, but surely the Minister concerned must have laid down some general policy of what he is going to do. It is nearly 12 days since this terrible calamity has afflicted us, and I am perfectly sure that the Minister must have some policy outlined, if he is taking any interest in what is happening.

I can quite understand that there was a lot of misappropriation in the distribution of food during the first few days after this calamity, but I would like to know whether the distribution of food is general relief, poor relief or hurricane relief. I happen to know that in a parish where there is no damage whatsoever, one of the members of the Hurricane Relief Committee of that parish took upon himself without even consulting the Chairman to order a distribution of food; and certain people who were working by the day left where they were working to get this ration. I refer to the parish of St. Lucy. I should like to know if any statement can be made on that, because how can one member of a Committee undertake to act in that way without even consulting the Chairman, far less the other members of that Committee?

I am saying that there is no co-operation in this matter; none whatsoever, and it is going to have a boomerang. People are quite willing to make private subscriptions to help, but after hearing of all these discrepancies that are taking place they are holding their pockets. They are saying: "I am not going to have my money wasted."

Madam Chairman, I happen to be in the same position. I came to town last Friday with the intention of putting money in one of those funds for the relief of people, but after hearing what I did, I went back to Speightstown without doing so. Instead I sent lorry loads of lumber which I paid for and which I am going to use to repair as many houses as it can; and I did so because I do not know where the other money is going.

It is bad principle and I counsel the Hon. Minister to see my point of view and try and give us some information. As the honourable junior member for Christ Church has stated, you can put it in the Newspaper if you do not like to give it on the floor of this House. You should give a weekly statement during this emergency of the houses that have been repaired and the houses to be repaired.

The people are getting dubious about this affair. They are saying that you are going to waste the money in the Treasury, but you are not going to waste theirs; that is an absolutely *bona fide* fact.

I hope that the Hon. Minister of Communications Works and Housing after hearing what I have said, rather than allowing it to prevent him from speak-

ing, he might perhaps give the House some information on these few but very important points.
4.25 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: I rise at this time to give some information because I feel it will save unnecessary debate. In so far as the question raised by the honourable junior member for St. Peter as to what policy (if any) Government has in reconstructing these houses, in the Statement made not long ago by the Hon. Minister of Social Services it is set out what Government intends to do. The second last paragraph reads as follows:—

“It has to be recognised, however, that for some time we shall have to maintain shelters for a large number of homeless persons, and arrangements for the further control and administration of such shelters are under consideration. In this connection I would express the deep gratitude of the Government to those voluntary workers who are unselfishly helping their fellow creatures in this calamity.”

It is true that no policy has been set out in that Statement. We have not yet finalised our plans, but perhaps I could give a hint at this stage. We have been discussing matters as to those houses which have been permanently destroyed and what should be the Government's plans as regards the rehabilitation of those houses. I think this is the proper time to say in no uncertain manner, that we should encourage people to live in flats.

If flats are constructed, these flats will help the people in future against any occurrence such as the one we have just had; and at the same time with our ever increasing population, we have to decide whether we should go up in the air instead of spreading out and doing what we are doing at the present time. Consequently, the Director of Public Works and the Manager-Secretary of the Housing Board are being consulted in this respect; and we are considering areas like Silver Sands.

Government is considering purchasing a large area, and building thereon some sort of three-storey buildings; and at the same time, encouraging people to occupy flats on a hire-purchase system. That is a part of the plans which we are now considering for re-housing these people.

It would be a good thing if representatives of the people or others who are influential in the community will assist in winning the people over to this type of housing which is popular in other countries.

A census has revealed that 7,742 houses have been damaged as the result of the Hurricane. The number of houses which have been permanently destroyed is 3,725 and the number which is uninhabitable is 4,017; that gives a total of 7,742. The number of persons who have been rendered homeless as a result of the Hurricane is 27,969; the number of persons who are on rations is 26,726.

In so far as re-housing is concerned, I think I have explained in this House on more than one occasion that the island is divided into two parts: one under the direction of the Director of Public Works and the other part under that of the Manager-Secretary of the Housing Board. What we have done is this: as many lorries and workmen as we could get as far as the parish of Christ Church and the metropolitan parish are concerned, we have sent them out with material daily; and we have instructed these workmen to re-erect the houses as quickly as possible. We have also agreed that the Chairman of the various Hurricane Relief Committees should carry out similar works in the other parishes. Unfortunately in some parishes these Committees have not been very active in so far as rehousing the homeless is concerned.

Only today I visited the parish of St. John and I noticed that not a single house had been finished by the Local Authority. As a matter of fact, I saw one carpenter working in the yard of Colleton Plantation; and from information gathered, I went to Colleton tenantry and there there was a house for which the carpenter was getting out material. I immediately got in touch with the Housing Board and sent a squad of workmen to that area and also to Rosegate, in order to have some work done to houses there.

As far as the parish of St. George is concerned, I think that very good work has been done by that Committee up there. I have also instructed the Housing Board to send a squad of workmen to that parish. In short I have instructed both Departments, in addition to the Local Committees or Authorities who are rendering assistance, to send squads of workmen to every parish where damage has been done to houses.

As regards the parish of St. Lucy, if the figures are correct, the Report shows that only six houses were damaged, five of which I have been informed were rehabilitated by the end of last week.
4.35 p.m.

Hon. members will therefore see that every effort is being taken to expedite as far as possible the rehabilitation of those persons who are rendered homeless as a result of the Hurricane.

I think it was the hon. junior member for Christ Church who asked about the expenditure. I cannot give, accurate figures, but a rough estimate which reveals that the amount spent by the Highways and Transport Department has been \$4,000, Public Works \$100,000, and the Housing Board \$150,000. The Department of Science and Agriculture (and this is for the distribution of food starting from the 21st) [A VOICE: The 22nd.] has spent \$200,000, the Police \$14,000, the Chief Secretary \$1,000, the Airport \$5,000, the Electrical Engineer \$5,500, and the Barbados Regiment \$10,000; on food rationing, (as you know we are now seeing to all areas) the estimate is \$100,000.

I should like to say that this has not been all spent; that is the estimated amount which adds up to \$590,000 which is likely to be spent by the ending of this week and beginning from the time Hurricane Relief was started. [A VOICE: Till when?] Where the food rationing is concerned that may run over \$100,000; that is as far as we can calculate. As I have said before. This is the estimated figure; it is difficult to get the exact figure to date. I think that is the answer to the question raised by the honourable junior member for Christ Church.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition referred to the question of the immediate rehousing of the people who are in the schools and churches; and he made the point that it is necessary to find housing for these people other than the schools and the churches inasmuch as their children will want to get back into school. In preparation for that the Government has placed an order for 100 tents which are expected to be here, say, a week from now. [A VOICE: What type of tents? And how many cots and blankets? They cannot sleep on the ground.] The tents are of the type known as marquees. We are also expecting quite a number of blankets and things of that sort.

I did not remember cots having been mentioned; but the Hon. Minister of Trade now reminds me that we are getting some cots. We are, as far as possible, trying to get essential items of equipment or the materials necessary for making these homeless people as comfortable and happy as can be in the present circumstances.

The hon. junior member for Christ Church said that when the last member was speaking, three of the Ministers left the Chamber. He further said that we have said at some time or other that everything that is said in here, we report to the Executive Committee; and if we are absent from this Chamber, how can we report.

As regards my leaving the Chamber (I can say this for myself) I have had to do so on a few occasions, and I am sorry that some hon. members felt it to be discourtesy on my part. However, there are times when we have to leave. One such occasion to-day was when we had amongst us a very distinguished visitor in the person of Colonel Julian commonly referred to as the "Black Eagle", and I left to take him to his car in the Public Building.

I want to assure the hon. member that I never like to leave while the debate is in progress inasmuch as I like to be able to reply, and if necessary, to reply as forcibly as possible.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Madam Chairman, I think that what the country needs at this time is not merely a mere elementary resumé of what has happened so far, but some general picture of the hurricane situation or the situation caused by the Hurricane, and also some idea of the Government's plans to cope with the situation.

We have had a hurricane which, eventually, will cost this country over 10 million dollars; and here we are today thinking merely in terms of £100,000 which represents the expenditure against our Reserve Fund in a national calamity like this. This £100,000 merely touches the fringe of the problem created by this disaster.

The Minister of Works and Housing has himself admitted that there are 7,000 houses damaged. My own private estimate has been 9,000; but Government says 7,742 of which 3,700 were completely destroyed and 4,000 uninhabitable. On a modest estimate, those 3,700 houses which have been destroyed will cost the country nearly 4 million dollars; and that is only allowing about \$1,100 towards the cost of reconstructing a new house; and many of these houses cost far more than that. 4.45 p.m.

I am of course assuming that the Government can neither be expected or is in the position to adequately and completely restore those destroyed houses. With regard to the uninhabitable houses of which there are four thousand, that is going to cost us not less than \$1½ million to make them habitable; therefore as far as houses damaged, you will have to look for \$5 million, and that amount does not represent the total loss incurred in this connection.

Well now, apart from the houses destroyed which have to be replaced, there is the loss to the general economy of the country by way of loss in trade, loss in business turn over, loss in productivity and loss in man hours. As it is now, you have the entire staff of the Public Works Department and the Housing Board engaged in restoring houses, which is work that they would not have been engaged in during normal times, and which means nothing to the economy of the country in the sense that we are still paying them weekly wages for producing nothing. They are only engaged in work of humanitarianism; and important as it is and though it has to be done, we have to bear in mind the economic impact it will be on the country.

In addition to those factors which I have mentioned, there are others which need not be enumerated now; so we can very easily see pressing us the

staggering total of \$10 million which to mind is a conservative estimate of what this disaster entails.

What I am really wondering is what steps Government intends to take in this matter. It is now two weeks after the calamity and Government should have decided what steps are to be taken. We should be told how, if, and when the Government proposes to assist the country towards recovery.

We have a mere \$½ million to cope with the situation. I might add that the loss inflicted upon the country by this disaster will affect our revenue because the income which comes from this Reserve Fund will now be no longer available, since we have wiped out the principal.

If we are going to utilise this £100,000, it means that in future we would not be getting any income from that Fund. [A VOICE: It is still invested.] It is still invested now, but we are spending against it; and presumably the Government intends to call in this investment. Anyhow, that is purely a matter of financial detail. What I am concerned about is that the country should know at the earliest possible stage what is the financial picture before it.

As it appears to me, we would necessarily have to postpone for a year or two our plans to erect a Deep Water Harbour. I cannot see the country adequately coping with this disaster, and at the same time embarking on the expense which the Deep Water Harbour is going to entail. I think hon. members are in agreement that if we are to restore the country to pre-hurricane days, plans like the Deep Water Harbour would have to be held in abeyance for a little time.

Madame Chairman, our Labour Welfare Fund for housing would have received very severe setbacks from the Hurricane, because a number of people who borrowed money from that Fund have had their houses destroyed completely; and they certainly cannot be expected to pay the debt when they have no house. You are going to find that the Labour Welfare Fund is going to suffer to the tune of \$2,000,000 because debtors cannot reasonably be expected to pay debts for houses which no longer exist. [A VOICE: But the Government is going to put back the houses.] That may be so.

However, that brings me to the suggestion made some years ago by the hon. junior member for St. Andrew. Even if Government had refused to accept his suggestion that they embark on a comprehensive housing insurance scheme, the least that they should have done was that houses built from the Labour Welfare Fund should have been covered comprehensively in the Government's own interest. I do not even believe that Government has fire insurance coverage and that is something fundamentally wrong with the administration.

In the ordinary course of events, no legal mortgagee is going to invest his money with you unless he sees that you are protected from fire and natural disasters. The Government should have seen to it that at least the extent of the debt they had advanced for loan on the house was covered comprehensively by insurance.

Because of the lack of vision by Government, it is going to mean that for a long time the fund that accrues to Labour Welfare from the repayment of these loans would have to go by; and as a result, they would not be able to entertain new applications.

We have failed to envisage as adequately as we should the true economic picture of the loss represented by this calamity; and I feel that from the Government's bench at least, it is high time

that the country should be alerted to all that we have suffered and all we would have to suffer, and that we be given some idea as to what will be done in order to cope with the situation.

The Hon. Minister of Housing referred incidentally to the inefficiency of the Parochial Relief Organisations and he mentioned, specifically that of St. George. He might have added that perhaps with the exception of St. Michael the entire Parochial Relief Organisations failed to function; and it is mainly because the organisations are largely comprised of people who are for the greater part indifferent to the needs of the ordinary classes in the community.

With regard to the food distribution there is only one word that can describe it; it was chaotic. It is a fact that in Christ Church up to the Sunday after the Hurricane there were thousands of homeless people who had not had a single meal from the day of the storm; and similarly in St. Philip where you had the Parochial Relief Organisation, up to the Saturday not even one of the centres had received any food from Headquarters. The people were literally starving for three days.

Unless the Government gets behind these organisations now, God only knows when the houses will be erected, because they are merely tinkling with the problem of housing. Were it not that the Housing Board and the Public Works Department were really getting down to the business of putting these houses up, this time next year there would be still very many homes on the ground. 4.55 p.m.

Incidentally, on the question of tents which they have ordered, I would say that normally tents are very useful things, and they are the first things you would think of in the case of an emergency; but I want the Government to remember that this island is the island of Barbados, and the Government should think of what they are doing. How can they expect people to live in tents in the height of the rainy season in Barbados? Where are they going to put these tents and expect people to live in them? In the sky? Certainly not on the earth. There are certain buildings like schools and those other buildings and boiling house on the premises of factories and plantations which will have for some time to remain as shelters for the homeless.

After the rainy season you can use tents, but it is fool-hardy to waste money on tents at the present time because they cannot be used from now until the end of the year. There are certain buildings which are not being used and which could be used and schools will have for some time to be co-educational; where there are two schools, one for boys and the other for girls, you should utilise one as a shelter and the other for the normal practice of a school for both boys and girls. More churches could be used, and buildings of any sort in the rural areas which can be acquired and made temporarily convenient for shelter, should be immediately requisitioned.

The Minister of Housing made the most surprising statement of all from the Government's Bench today; he said that the Public Works Department is actively engaged in this matter and they are using as many workmen as they can get. I am really wondering if he was dozing then or if he seriously believed what he was saying.

That is definitely not correct. At the Pine and the Public Works Department this morning you could hardly breathe in the yard; there were thousands of men from every parish of the island begging for work.

Last Friday morning and on Saturday morning it was the same thing; and all the men can be put to work. The houses are down and I assume that the Government wants them to be put back up with minimum delay; and we are certainly getting material coming in, but there is some inefficiency in the administration of rehousing. The lorries of which the Minister is talking have very little material in them; you cannot put back up a house which has fallen down with glue; there are many people who would be glad to put back up their houses if they could get the material for so doing.

The Government did wrong in restricting the purchasing of material to the extent it did for the first few days after the Hurricane. People are anxious to help themselves. I am suggesting to the Minister of Housing that he find himself at the Pine in order to see the position for himself. [Hon. M. E. COX: I was there up to this morning.] Well if you were there you would have seen people begging for work.

I am suggesting that there is no point in spending money over a period of six weeks when you can do it in two weeks. The longer the people remain homeless the more it will cost the Government to feed them in these shelters; therefore I say employ the people who are without work; put every man in the island to work; every carpenter, mason or labourer should be put to work on housing. Let us get all the building material we can from wherever we can get it and put up these houses, and let the people return to their homes.

The Government may as well immediately satisfy itself that it is a waste of time, money and material to depend on the Parochial Organisations to assist in this matter of rehousing, because the same inefficiency which has been displayed with regard to the distribution of food to the hungry people will be displayed as regard assisting the homeless in again having shelters placed over their heads.

I beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

The motion having been carried, the Chairman left the Chair. Mr. Deputy Speaker resumed and reported accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY RESUMED

Hurricane Relief—Cont'd.

On re-assembling

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On the adjournment the hon. junior member for St. Philip was speaking.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I was saying that finally, the biggest question facing the country now is this question of housing and rehabilitation; and I am suggesting that we should employ, as from this week

or early next week, at least, 2,500 men. We should utilise every piece of building material we can get, prepare an estimate for it, try and get it here as quickly as possible and get these houses back up.

Any day you can see men (masons and carpenters) riding around looking for work; that should not be. We have enough building material which we can use and we can get as much as we want. We have people in shelters in the country disrupting the very life of the country; disrupting our social and educational services; and we are spending money which could better be employed to provide for other things.

When these people get back home you have not got to feed them so long as they can find work to do. Cease depending upon the Parochial Organisations for everything; get to your Housing Board at once and look after matters in this task of reconstruction.

Incidentally, one could not help observing that all of the new buildings constructed by P.W.D. have withstood the storm. I have not seen a new school or new police post or any of the new Government buildings which have not survived the storm completely in tact.

Even in Christ Church, where damage was so extensive, nothing has happened to the new police station or the new sub-post office, which shows that the Public Works Department is conforming to the best building standards existing in the country today. It may well be that for the future, since these disasters cost the country money, that we should have some sort of inspection by our Public Works of all houses being erected in the country.

The question of insurance has already been stressed, and the need, at least, for insurance on houses in which the Government has some financial interest. Further, we might see that the Labour Welfare houses should conform to some recognised building standards. Many houses lost their roofs, not because of the severity of the storm, but because of the inadequacy of construction; viz. roofs not properly put on and things like that. The necessity for some sort of regulations with regard to construction of new houses appears to exist, at least in my mind.

We understand that this new ration scheme which has to be maintained so long as people are homeless, will cost around \$50,000 a week. If that is the case, it is the obligation of the Government to decrease this amount, and with all possible speed, get the people back into their own houses [Hon. M. E. COX: That is what they are doing.] The Hon. Minister says that that is what they are doing; but I say they are not doing it fast enough. They should be doing it in two months if the Government tackles the question boldly and in consistency with the present demands. The only excuse they should have for being idle at this time is a lack of building material; but so long as there is building material every man should be working.

Whatever our commitments are, whatever we propose under the new Loan Act, the Deep Water Harbour and the Development Board, all those things should stand second in priority to rehousing the homeless people. And the Government must have further in its mind that none of its plans can be of such immediate importance as that of getting people back in their homes.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, everybody will agree that the present handling of this situation has fallen down considerably. It has shown the incompetence of those who are in responsible positions

to rise to an occasion such as this, of being unable to administer affairs in such a manner as to be able to avoid undue suffering to the people, to maintain a personal surveillance over what is going on in the respective parishes, and also the necessity of committees to be established for the purpose of seeing that the best relationship between themselves, the planters, and the people be engendered.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot fully describe the chaotic workings of the Hurricane Relief Committee in St. John. In the first place, I will continue to repeat that the wrong type of persons are asked to sit on these committees. We had a similar experience after the Flood of 1950.

As regards the working of the St. John's Committee, there was utter confusion. I think that up to now \$1,100 is due to a certain lumber yard in Bridgetown, and neither the Parochial Authorities nor the Government would pay it. It appears that the existing Vestrymen of the parish who know the workings of the parish better than many of the existing members of the Hurricane Relief Committee have refused to sit on such a Committee this time, and they have taken, not the best type of planter and put on that committee, but I would say the worse type.

On that Committee you have the type of planter who, from day to day, carries out a vendetta against the people for some reason or other. Some of them have never been in an administrative position beside that of driving a couple of people around the yard. That kind of person who has never been in public service to learn, cannot be relied upon to get the co-operations of the people in the parishes in which we expect to administer relief.

When I relate to you, Mr. Chairman, what I know has gone on in the parish on Thursday and from 11.30 a.m. on the day when the Hurricane took place, you will be surprised; and you would still be able to see even a semblance of it in the parish, if you went there this evening.
5.55 p.m.

If the Government really wants people to get assistance at a time like this, the only thing to do is to permit the co-option of members of this House who are representatives of those parishes to sit on those Parochial Relief Committees; the representatives being obligated to the people and being their servants, they would have to see that members of the Committee withhold their spite and do the work which is needed.

Although I have made that suggestion on numerous occasions, the Government continues to engage in petty spite and political prejudice against hon. members of this Chamber, even although they know that regardless of what Committees you set up in the parishes the representatives of the people are held responsible for what any of these Committees do. That is why I say that the machinery has woefully fallen down.

Up to today the people still feel vexed over the way in which this particular Government has permitted the handling of this Relief. They are saying that up to now the assistance takes too long. The kind of members which should be on these Committees are those who are courageous and loyal to the people, and not those who are going to wait until two days after the disaster took place to do something. The kind of people who should be selected on those Committees are those who live with the people in the villages and those who would come out, even as they did, on the day of the Hurricane. Some people who were on those Committees were so scared

that they had to collect their wits even to save themselves and their family.

The kind of Committee you should select should consist of those people who went around and made suggestions on the day of the Hurricane as to what the people should do to save their houses from being blown down; and who, when many roofs appeared to be blowing off, suggested to the people what they should do to brace them down and who after the Hurricane was over, where houses were removed from the groundsills, collected able-bodied men in the area and brought them to the aid of the sufferers to save them from tumbling down the hill. It was hours after the disaster that you saw a couple of planters just driving around with note paper and a bit of lead pencil asking you if your house was blown down.

Mr. Chairman, the worst things were the night shelters. I visited the St. John School on the night of the Hurricane about 9 o'clock, and there were about 400 men and children occupying that school. I found the Headmaster, Mr. Thorne, trying his best to assist and organise the people that were there, but he scarcely had any assistance by way of food or anything of that sort.

If the Hon. Minister of Social Services cares, he can go to the St. John's Vestry room and he will see a lantern which is used by the Highways and Transport to indicate that there was a hole in the road. The light from that lantern was the only means of light to the many hundreds of people who were sheltering in the school nearby. I asked the Rector about it and he told me that his hands were tied.

I was up there when a mother took ill and had to be taken to the General Hospital with a two-months-old child. There are other women with children there. What is more, the Hon. Minister has said that the money spent on rations exceeded \$200,000. I am wondering where the rations went; I am wondering if the roads leading to St. John were blocked so that none of the lorries could get there. I am not over-emphasising this statement when I say that I scarcely think that \$800 was spent in St. John as regards relief by way of rations. Wherever I went about that parish the people cried out: "We are hungry; we are unable to go back home; we have no means to cook."

The Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee of St. John, Mr. Farmer, turned up at a big centre which contained 400 people with six tins of corned beef, four tins of condensed milk and some cocoa. That is the gentleman who is armed with the authority in a disaster to go into any merchant's store or shop and take whatever supplies he wanted to relieve the suffering and misery.

But did he do that? He is the man whom they selected as Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee. He felt that six tins of corned beef were sufficient to appease the hunger of 300 or 400 people. He is the man whom a Government with socialistic ideas thought was the type of person suitable to be Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee for St. John; a man who lacks initiative and sympathy.

Let the Hon. Minister of Social Services go to that school and look at the Headmaster's book and he will see what that Headmaster received to accommodate the people up there. Still the Hon. Minister is saying that \$200,000 was spent.

I may also say that the newspapers particularly are to be blamed for this, inasmuch as whenever one reads them they give one the impression that Christ Church and St. Michael comprise Barbados; and it is because the honourable junior member for Christ

Church, affable and influential as he is, and also strategically placed there is the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries who is the senior member for Christ Church, between them they are able to pull strings and direct everything they want for their parish, while the Hon. Minister of Social Services expects other honourable members to come with their caps in their hands to get relief for the parishes they represent.

I am told that four of the Ministers were elected to take care of different parts of the island since the calamity. Honourable members have to vote sums to carry out these works of relief and not a statement has been made to this Chamber to inform the representatives of the people of those particular parishes which are under the care of a particular Minister or that such and such a Minister is responsible for such and such an area; therefore, if you have any difficulty you will know the particular Minister whom you should approach. That information has only been divulged to a couple of selected members of this Chamber who probably kow-tow to the whims and fancies of the Government.

6.05 p.m.

A whisper went on: this Minister is responsible for one area and that Minister is responsible for another area; but there came no responsible statement which we would expect from a wide-awake Government. Everything went wrong and the people were left to suffer.

I would say that if you had proper members of the Hurricane Relief Committee for St. John, even although the disaster is considerable, in my opinion those houses which were blown down could have been replaced in two weeks' time. Today the number of schools which have been occupied by these people could have been reduced if the Minister were to get up and see that the members of the Hurricane Relief Committee up there do their work.

These people went around as if it was a special favour of theirs and dished out half pint of rice and so on to the people. They caused the people to feel that it was the plantations who were assisting them and not the Government; they were not given the impression that the Government was giving them anything. Even as regards the little repairs which are being carried out, you have a member of the Committee who is responsible for one area, and he sends out a carpenter to accommodate the whole tenantry.

He sends out a bit of board unrabbeted to be put on people's houses just as if he were putting it on his cow pen; and when you reprimand him, you are abused by people who are called upon to look after the situation in the parish. The only people who did commendable work in the parish are the Mirfield Fathers of Codrington College; they slept on benches with the people in Society Chapel and at Codrington College.

I am told that the Minister strutted up when three parts of the people had gone out from their homes and he does not know the real conditions. No instructions were given to have the benches removed from a school so that the people there could be made comfortable. You will find an old woman perched on a desk up to tonight. The Ministers can prove if I am telling lies. No instructions have been given to remove the benches from the schools so that the people can be accommodated.

Certainly some of the people I saw up there are deserving of being given cheap mattresses; and a lot of money which is being squandered from day to day could be sent in purchasing a couple of cheap

mattresses for the accommodation of these people. That could not kill the Government.

What is more, you have the Government despising the representatives of the people in this island; you have the planters who dominate the Hurricane Relief Committee despising the people, you have everything at a standstill and everybody is abusing everybody else. You have the Social Welfare Department, the Minister of Social Services and what-not, and the Middle class people in the various parishes feel hurt because they have not been asked to assist in their respective districts. I am sure that they are the people who would be more willing to assist in this matter than any planter.

Do you think that a planter would come out of his bed and go down in the villages to assist people? All this is because of the short-sightedness of people who attach themselves to the body politic like ticks [laughter] and would not do what men in responsible positions should do.

A disaster like this should not be used for playing of politics, if a politician is worth his salt he does not have to wait for an opportunity like this to make himself popular; nor does he have to depend on any special favour of Ministers to make him popular. The exclusion of such people can be taken by Ministers as a great favour, but I do not agree with that.

Things have not been done as they should have been done, because there is the opinion that if I co-operate with 'X', he is not in my Party; and if I pass on information to him that information will assist him in becoming Prime Minister next week.

The only thing which can help to relieve the situation in the parish would be the presence of persons who have to depend upon people in the respective parishes for their support at election time. When we discussed that Resolution for \$200,000 the suggestion was put up to members of the Government's Bench, but nothing has been done in that respect.

What is more, a man who has had his house damaged told me on Sunday night that members of the Hurricane Relief Committee are telling people that the Government has instructed them that no more than \$25 is to be spent on each house. That is wrong. I do not know if that statement is authentic, I would like the Ministers to say whether that is so or not. Members of the Hurricane Relief Committee have said that they are not permitted to spend more than \$25 on each individual house.

6.15 p.m.

What is more, I can substantiate the statements made by previous speakers as to the large number of unemployed who roam the Country in search of work. What is the idea of having so many carpenters and masons walking up and down who want to get a job? You have a most important job to do, and I am told that you have adequate supplies of building materials with which to do it; and if you are going to give aid you should give it and give it quickly. The longer you wait the more costly it might be; because if a house is down and it is taken up immediately you are likely to save some materials which you cannot save if you allow the house to remain scattered on the ground for many days.

As regards medical supplies, I have not seen any of them at any of the centres in St. John.

At some centres where men and women (old and young) and children are sheltered, able bodied youngsters roam in and out all through the night and render great inconvenience to those who have

to remain there. There are many sanitary inspectors, school teachers and other voluntary workers, and one of them could have been placed in charge at each shelter. Nothing of that sort was done. Every responsible person disappears as soon as evening comes, and the shelter is left open and whosoever will can enter. I have been present at one as late as 11 p.m. when I saw a man going in and keeping noise while others were getting up on the desks and cursing each other without control. The people themselves cannot control these things; but if you should put a sanitary inspector in charge throughout the night, or a couple of them so as to be able to relieve each other, I am sure that they would have been able to control the behaviour at such centres, at least to some extent.

Another point is this: I am told that at some of these schools the people are not even permitted to use the sanitary conveniences as freely as is needed; that is wrong. You cannot house people there all night for days without making provision for sanitary convenience.

I should like further to make this statement, Mr. Chairman: there are many of these people who do not want to wait until the Rehabilitation Committee comes around to put back up their houses. Some of them are willing to meet the expense and get their houses in a more habitable condition. Some of them have had loans from the Labour Welfare Department. Some of them have nearly paid off their loans; but what has happened now is, that when they applied [A VOICE: Did it happen to-day?] for an extension of loans to put back their houses thereby saving the Relief Committee the trouble, the Manager told them that the Government has stopped the Department from making any loans during this period. I should like the Minister of Works and Housing to refute that; that is short-sightedness, Mr. Chairman.

Every cent which passes out from that Department means that at some time it has to be brought back to that Department; therefore, the Government loses nothing. If you really want the people to get back their houses, why are you stopping the distribution of loans at the Labour Welfare Department? That is the time that you should boost such loans.

As I said before, those are the regulations in force at present; but the Hon. Minister should send up to that Department tomorrow and tell the Manager that so long as the necessary security is provided, the people should be given the money they want from the Department to rehabilitate their houses.

Another thing which is wrong with the Department is that in a colony like this with such rampant unemployment, a few thrifty persons have started to employ labour in the building of homes which they sold to people who have applied to this Department for assistance in acquiring houses. I do not see the reason for stopping those people from selling such houses to those neighbours who wanted them. The fact is that you have a staff at that Department and you have inspectors who go into the evaluation of such houses before loans are given for the purchase of them.

Since such are the existing regulations at that Department, I cannot see why the Minister of Works and Housing should recommend that such transactions as I have just mentioned must cease; it is certainly a policy to expedite the rehousing of those homeless thousands now living in this island. [Hon. M. E. COX: That is your opinion; you would not know anything about it.] I know as much as the Hon. Minister. The only thing I do not know is what is the reason for stopping the transactions.

Thousands of people (speaking by analogy) want inkwells. You have a department which regulates the value of inkwells; people wanting inkwells have to come to you to borrow money to buy inkwells. If an inkwell is worth a pound, all you have to do is to pass on the money; but when you have to go out of your way to stop the trading in inkwells, what are you doing but terrorising the persons who, because of their positions, have to come up before you?

6.25 p.m.

You have stopped a few people from building their houses, and you say it is because of the lack of inspection and valuation. I opine that if Messrs Plantation Limited, or Messrs. N. B. Howell and Co. Ltd., were building such houses you would not have stopped them because they have representation in the councils of Government. By the way, let me say I have no direct interest in the selling of such houses, but complaints have come to me both from the people who wanted to sell such houses and those who trade in them; and the Hon. Minister knows that many such people went to him, but he would not budge. We were led to believe that they were bad deals and that those people went with the object of swindling the other fellow.

I am saying that none of those people has done it, but if Government has apprehensions of such questionable deals, they have safeguards for it. If three women come to me to sell me goods I am free to say from whom I should buy them. If a seller's price is too high, you can tell him: "No, I am not going to buy from you because your price is too high." Do not turn down wholesale trading in the business you want. That is lack of business acumen. You should not do such a thing because you have the power.

Now, the honourable junior member for Christ Church spoke about clothing being given to homeless people. It is the first time that I have heard that clothing was being distributed by Government servants to those people. There are hundreds of people in the parish which I represent whose clothing has entirely disappeared in the Hurricane.

Another point which I would like to draw to the attention of the Government is with respect to the number of people who occupy the various centres in the parish which I represent. I feel that you need a change of policy. If you change your policy, many of the schools which house people can be released so that the school children can re-enter them. You will only have to go and arrange for the removal of them to one or two centres. If you put the people at one or two large centres that would relieve quite a few of the schools so that the children would be able to continue their education at once.

It is a fact that at some centres you only have six families. At another nine, and another five; and if those families were grouped in one central area with proper accommodation, I am sure that three-fourths of the schools in the parish of St. John could be put back into use at once. There is no proper Committee functioning up there. Members of the Committee up there are not so mindful as to make that suggestion.

Mr. Chairman, another thing which I noticed is that the public and the Newspapers are playing up quite a lot that people are getting something free. Everybody knows that during a period like this you will get a few irresponsible persons trying to queue up to get something free; but that does not mean to say that at the time when they queue up that they are not in need of what is given to those whose houses are blown down. Some members of the Committee

are taking this as a means of refusing to give those who are truly in need of that relief.

I will give you a case in point. At the Vestry room in St. John there was a woman whose house situated in Gall Hill was damaged. She reported that a Book-keeper brought a couple of boards and nailed on to the house without even having them planed, and they were not even grooved and tongued. As a result, the rain continued to come in the house. No attempt was made to improve the conditions of the floor and as a result that woman still had to seek shelter at the Vestry room. I have good reason to feel that if that woman's house was habitable, even to a lesser degree than it was formerly, she would have preferred the privacy of her home than to be exposed in the Vestry room. The members of the Hurricane Relief Committee told her that if she does not live in the house she would not get anything more done to it nor would she get any more ration coupons.

It appears to me that the Government seems only to be taking the word of the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee of that parish, who is a man I feel should not be in that position. Although the representatives of the people of that parish go around and see things for themselves, yet their recommendations carry no weight as far as that Chairman is concerned; and I presume that of the Government too.

I should like the Minister of Social Services to see into the case of the poor lighting at that centre which I have mentioned. He should at least telephone the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee about the matter and see to it that he gets a proper lantern for the centre. I may say that a couple of yards away from that Vestry Room is the Rectory which is properly lighted, and so much so, that the reflection of the light which is in the yard is greater than the reflection of the light in that Vestry Room coming from the lantern which is outside in the road.

One must further criticise the absence of the expression or change of policy on this matter, because as far as I can gather, every hon. member in this Chamber is ignorant as regards the workings of these Hurricane Relief Committees, and also as regards the Government's policy in the further handling of matters brought about by this disaster.

6.35 p.m.

What is more, we boast of the numerous gifts which I am told, our overseas friends are about to send to us. It seems to me as if the Government is depending too much on such gifts and does not want to spend the adequate amount of money which is needed to be spent from Government's funds.

I must compliment the honourable junior member for Christ Church because I am told that \$40,000 worth of food stuffs was spent in his parish. I am sure that that must cause great disagreement with the Government by people of the other parishes. [Mr. GODDARD: The parish of Christ Church was hard hit.] I know that that parish has been more hard hit than some other parishes; but in my opinion it only differs in degree since the suffering is the same. A suffering family in St. John is the same as a suffering family in Christ Church or elsewhere.

I do not see the necessity for sending everything to Christ Church; not that I grudge that parish, but I do believe that happiness would have been restored to the people if some of the influential persons who had to do with the distribution of articles of food had done it in an impartial manner. You have what some members would call "touts" getting around and causing the breaking down of the distribution system

and the really needy are still needy. That is the position.

As regards the other parishes, the people are just left to the mercies of the planters who, from day to day for the past three hundred years, carried out a vendetta against such villages around the plantations. I am hoping that after having heard statements as to the real happenings in the respective parishes the Hon. Ministers would see that from tomorrow activities are accelerated for the relief of these people.

I must in conclusion state that when one went around the various areas and read the various bulletins in the newspapers, one was forced to come to the conclusion that the Acting Head of the Administration had more power to act in this disaster than the Ministers who really have the authority and power. It is a disgrace to see a situation such as that.

If the Ministers were more vigilant, not only in the parishes they represent, but also in realising their great responsibility to the island, I am sure that they would have gone around and not wait until some member feels that he is asked to go with somebody so as to give him a boost. The Ministers should have gone around on their own and seen to it that the District Committees carried out their work. I am hoping to see the effects of a change of heart by the Government and others who are responsible for the alleviation of the present condition of the people.

Mr. VAUGHAN: The honourable member's speech has been a pretty long one, and it has been an impassioned one; I am in sympathy with him. I can endorse everything he has said about the St. John Hurricane Relief Committee. Of all bodies of responsible citizens who have ever offered voluntary service in an emergency, this one has proved to be an utter disgrace.

The parish of St. John is one of the last feudal strongholds of this island; the social conscience of the majority of managers, there are some exceptions, is non-existent. Their attention is limited to the boundaries of their fields; their human sympathy is confined to those of their own class, and their antipathy towards the politician is almost pathological. They resented the idea that representatives of the parish should have anything to do with the distribution of supplies; the result was that the people of St. John who suffered by the storm experienced a lot of unnecessary hunger for several days.

On the morning after the storm I visited the parish of St. John because it was told to me that the Headmaster of the Lodge School had told the people there that they were to get out by six o'clock in the morning. I reprimanded him about that because I thought it very inhuman; and the study of humanities should have made him more civilised. Of the Hurricane Relief Committee of St. John it is not too much to say that they actually welcomed the disaster so as to make those to whom they were always opposed suffer a little more. The Party which is now in power have preached and accomplished the political annihilation of that class; yet it is on them and their influential brethren at the Agricultural Department of whom it was unfortunate enough that the Government had to depend in these circumstances for information and for the practical relief of the sufferers.

6.45 p.m.

A Hurricane is not an everyday occurrence; it was an entirely new experience and the Government had, in some instances, to depend upon some new agencies. The first action was to send generous supplies out to the country. St. John got food the Friday evening after the storm, and on Saturday eve-

ning the people responsible for the district gave out a few biscuits and a little corned beef. That is what I discovered and I took it upon myself to begin my own distribution. That caused an offence.

On the Monday after the storm there were no supplies left to send to the Centres; and except for what I carried to St. John's School, one of the biggest Centres where the most people congregated, (and the schoolmaster will endorse what I am saying), except for what I carried they would have suffered more materially than they did.

What the honourable member said is true: they carried six tins of corned beef to serve one hundred people.

The Government depends to a great extent on officials and these Hurricane Relief Committees, and both the officials and the Hurricane Relief Committees have let them down considerably. I am exposing that to-day because the question is of major importance; and I want to use my position as a representative of the people to exercise more influence to relieve the suffering that is still evident. I want the Hon. Minister of Social Services to know that there are people entitled to the ration cards whose names have not been sent in.

There are some people in the country who are at present renting small homes since theirs have been destroyed. Since the Hurricane some have slept in schools and others at friends.

I took it upon myself to go about and discover who were left out from the Ration Card system, because I knew that it would happen. I discovered that many were left out and this was one of the reasons: if you did not own the home from which you were blown out you were not homeless. That was the belief of this fossilised group of officials and Hurricane Relief authorities; that was the surprising excuse given to me for not supplying people with a ration card.

I want to know from the Ministers concerned if they are going to take the word of a representative of the people in bringing certain names to the Government officers or to certain responsible officers at the office at St. John, in order that they may be able to see who are entitled to ration cards and who have not got. The ration cards were distributed to the Chairman of the Committees from Friday. Some of them were distributed on Saturday forenoon; and one gentleman who was responsible for distribution at Mount Pleasant said that he was not going to distribute his until Monday; he was absent from the station, which was a necessary source of supply, since the Monday before.

I got in touch with the Department of Agriculture on Monday before and told them the situation of the lack of supplies at the station. What was the reply? "Well, we have not yet had any order for the supplies." I then said: "From whom must you get an order?" And they replied: "The Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee; but he has not sent in the order." I then said: "I did not know that you had to get an order from him; but I am telling you of what I know."

I was then asked for about how many people these supplies were wanted, and I gave them an estimate of about 2,000. I was told: "All right;" but I was not satisfied with that, and I went in search of the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee. He was not in when I first called and I left word with his wife to tell him of the situation. I expected then that by Monday evening he would be there. I went to the parish and found that not one can of food was delivered.

Tuesday passed. I tried to explain to the Minister of Agriculture and found that he too had been perplexed by the whole affair; it had been told to him that the St. John Hurricane Relief Committee is working admirably. I was not satisfied. I could not believe that they were not receiving food. When I came down Thursday morning I phoned the Department of Agriculture. I asked them how many times supplies had been sent up and whether they had got any order yet. The officer replied "no", "I am afraid, no", said this officer, "because the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee has sent in no order".

I want to tell these officials and the Chairman of these Committees that when a politician is elected to the General Assembly he becomes a person of greater status; he is then a representative of the people, and his opinions and report must be given some credence and some respect. Let all the officials who are sent to us know that this is the age of the politician and that they cannot stop it. Russia the biggest nation in the world should have taught them that.

I have been appalled by what I experienced during this crisis and at the absolute indifference of officials and their fossilized brethren in the country districts. I have discovered a great many irregularities on that Thursday and was not satisfied with them.

Up to this time they had not sent up anything. I therefore, went to Mr. Wiles and told him of the situation. He told me: "I am going with you to the Department and see about it."
6.55 p.m.

I took it for granted that things were done and that Mr Wiles had gone to the Department to represent the case. I had put the case to him as I could not find the Minister. Owing to the distress in his own parish, I could not find the Minister. [A VOICE: That is not true.] I will put it another way: he must have been too busy with the distress in his own parish that whenever I want to his office I could not find him there. Christ Church has been reported as the worst parish to suffer from the Hurricane.

An hour or two after that I decided I would go to the Department of Agriculture to discover if things had gone up to St. John. I went there and interrupted some meeting which was being held and the Director and the Deputy Director came to me. I asked them if Mr. Wiles had been to them and if any order was made out for St. John. I was told no order had come in from the Chairman of Committees. I even tried to contact His Excellency the Acting Governor, but I could not get in touch with him. I went to the office of the Director of Agriculture then and I was made to understand that ration cards would be out by the next day. I asked the officer there if the articles for St. John had been sent up and he said, "we could not send them; we are ready, but we have not heard anything from the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee for that parish". He further said that Mr. Farmer had not sent to say the number of people who were at the centres, therefore he could not send up the order.

Mr. Farmer came to the Department on the Friday, and of course, he left out as far as I envisage one-third of the number of people that were in need. I say so because I had made some investigations myself. As regards the housing, to my utter consternation, I was made to understand that the Chairman of Committees has the power to order all the lumber he needs and to hire lorries to take it wherever he wants it carried.

Mr. BRANCKER: I hope the honourable member would say "Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee". If he keeps on saying Chairman of Committees it would appear as if he means you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I do mean the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee. It was Mr. Lashley the Manager-Secretary of the Housing Board who told me that all Chairmen of the Hurricane Relief Committees were empowered to undertake immediate relief of houses. When he told me that I nearly fell to the ground. I told him there and then that the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee for St. John was doing actually nothing and that I was going to raise hell in the House of Assembly about the situation.

On the Sunday following the Hurricane I went to Rosegate, which is the most stricken district in St. John and I took details of the housing calamity. I told the residents of that district that I was going to get the Minister of Housing to visit the area on the Tuesday; and because all of the Ministers were busy it was not possible.

As a matter of fact, they are all so busy now you have to go into the middle of the night to find them. However, I got hold of him and I took him to Rosegate today, and he was appalled at what the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee had failed to do.

I want to tell this House that Government was forced by the unusual circumstances into depending on officials and Hurricane Relief Committees, but the crisis will not be over if you depend on them. I say, scrap them; scrap all the Hurricane Relief Committees and set up such Committees as you know would function.

There are schoolmasters and schoolmistresses throughout the parishes and Ministers of religion who are a much more reliable body to depend on for information and the carrying out of parochial relief, rather than any managerial Hurricane Relief Committee. I want to say that the efficient and human official is as rare as gold; you seldom get the combination. Of the delegated officials (and there are one or two of them, especially Mr. Tomlin and Capt. Barron) you generally find them co-operating with the representatives of the parish, because they have the intelligence to know that on their co-operation is the foundation of good Government.

I warn the Hon. Ministers now to exercise the constitutional authority that is theirs. As far as I know, neither in Trinidad nor Jamaica have the Ministers got the constitutional authority which their counterparts in this colony have, but the Ministers in those places exercise greater authority than ours. I hope they have no boss complex. As a matter of fact, in their position an official may easily think that he is boss. Humanity is essential. This crisis proves the value which you have in you to help humanity.

Under these circumstances, you as Minister have to lay down the law and the official must interpret what you lay down and carry it out. If he does not do so, you must make it so embarrassing for the person above both of you that that person will see that he gets up and does something. Jaganism may be an extreme doctrine, but a little Jaganism is needed here with some of these officials.

The officials are not the masters of the political representatives in Ministerial Office; the Ministers are their masters and if this crisis does not teach the Ministers that, then they have no right with their offices.

7.05 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: The revolting and disgusting disclosures which have been made to this House by the two honourable members who represent the parish of St. John should shake all honourable members out of their complacency and should address a very salutary warning indeed to those members of this House who are members of the Government. I do not think that any honourable member who has listened to those two honourable members with respect to what is going on in their constituency could fail to be moved by the tale of callousness and brutality in the face of this crisis.

I wish to admit first of all that no member of this House blames the members of the Government in this matter; much as some of us are most opposed to their policy and sins of omission on their part, I could not stretch the imagination too much as to lay the occurrence of the Hurricane at their door. Yet you cannot administer a Government or hold any post of responsibility without reflecting that at some time or other such authority and ability as you may have will be put to the test; in other words you must look out for the rainy day.

This crisis which has come to this island as a result of the Hurricane has shown up the Ministerial form of Government, and that form of Government has not come out too well in the showing up. All that has been recounted as to the suffering of the people, the mal-administration, the callousness and indifference shown by the Hurricane Relief Committees is due to the fact that in a large measure there has been an almost wholesale abdication by the Ministers of their responsibility in various matters. In politics, in Government, as in nature, a vacuum is a very unpopular thing; and whenever one is created something rushes in to fill it, even a Hurricane. A vacuum has been created and what has emerged is not pleasant; but it has this in it, that it warns us as to what can come from a slovenly attitude towards the administration of this colony.

When you reflect that we have five Ministers, (one is ill and therefore he must be excused from active participation in the affairs of Government) but when you reflect that four Ministers are left, it is sad to note in the middle of this crisis not one of them has risen head and shoulders above the crisis. Not one of them has emerged with a sense of direction or with the power and authority with which a man can ask the rest of us who may have been fumbling in the dark to follow his lead clearly and surely. I saw that this crisis has sought everybody; and the excuse which can be made for the rest of us is that we have to obey the Government; but that excuse cannot hold good for those who are in the position of authority.

One other aspect of this matter is this: it has shown that this island is not the self-governing community that people so much boast it is; we are not as yet masters of our own houses. In this island there is a thin veneer of constitutional progress which has been covering a sordid undergrowth which has now revealed itself for everybody to see.

How comes it that persons in this island who have been driven out of public life have re-emerged in positions of authority; and not only that, but they have also re-emerged to the detriment of the people over whom they have to administer Hurricane Relief? It only goes to show that they were not out of political life and it needs a lot of watchfulness to prevent that kind of person from emerging.

I have seen a little of this callousness and indifference myself. My colleague and I went to the Agricultural Department to take up with the Committee, I think it was last week, a matter which con-

cerned our constituency and the working of our own Hurricane Relief Committee. I might say in passing that I met the hon. senior member for St. John and his colleague there. The two representatives for St. Lucy have been co-opted in the Hurricane Relief Committee and that is an example which should be followed in other places. Possibly our work is not very much, but it has to be done and it is being done.

As I was saying, I went to the Agricultural Department to take up a matter which concerned Hurricane Relief in my parish. To my horror and disgust, among the persons sitting there was a certain gentleman, (I call him that through courtesy) and when the hon. senior member for St. Lucy and myself were discussing business that person treated us with such indifference as to cut his finger nails with a rusty penknife while matters of great importance were being discussed. This person is not a representative of the people; I rejoice to say that I do not know his name; but this person acted as if the matter we had come about was a matter of supreme indifference to him. That is an example of what has happened and of what will happen unless we put our foot down.

I do not like just to rehearse incidents; I prefer to go back to the causes. There is the discourtesy to which this House has been treated by the Ministers, and there are the attempts which have succeeded in lowering the standard and status of members of this House; they are now having their full reward in the indifference with which members of this House have been met and the contempt which has been shown to us as representatives of the people. The wind which they have sown is the whirlwind which they are now reaping and which we ourselves are reaping.

7.15 p.m.

I had never imagined, Mr. Chairman, that the activity in which I saw the Hon. Mr. Turner (the Acting Governor as he was then) engaging would fall as his duty; because, energetic as he might have been, interested as he might have been, it still could not have been argued that he knew as much about our people or could be as interested in them as any of us who sit around this table.

As I said before, the very fact that the Acting Governor has, himself, had to work, is due to the vacuum that had been created and that they had been caught with their pants down, (if I may so use that expression) and could not pick them up and catch themselves in time. All complaints of mal-administration, and of indifference to the sufferings of the people spring from the fact that the grip they should have had on the affairs they have not got. I do not know if it is too late to pull themselves together.

The first duty of a Government is to govern; and by governing, you have to proclaim yourselves, not governor of the particular community, but representatives of the people; because those Ministers who are members of this Government are also representatives of this House. They therefore, should be in direct contact with the people. It should therefore, not comfort them to discover that the officials of this Island should treat hon. members with such indifference when they themselves are colleagues of the same hon. members who are being treated with indifference. I, therefore, hope, Mr. Chairman, that on another occasion I will have opportunity to register my disapproval of what is going on in this Emergency; and on that occasion my criticisms will be more deadly than they are now. But I wish to address myself to the importance of the Resolution before us.

I listened very carefully to the Hon. Minister of Communications when he gave his by-the-way com-

mentary; and I noticed that he mentioned what had been spent on this Emergency. It appears that we have spent from September 22nd until presumably, today, \$590,000; (if I have said anything wrong perhaps he will correct me;) to the end of this week then, we will have spent \$590,000.

I am concerned, very concerned about this; because it indicates a rate of expenditure which is really terrific. Everybody knows that as rehabilitation goes on and more and more people get back into their houses, this expenditure will become less. For instance: I take it that the \$200,000 which he told us has been spent on food will not be spent to that extent again since the ration cards have been distributed.

On this point of the ration cards I want to appeal to the Hon. Minister concerned to look into the distribution much more closely. Perhaps they have had time to do so and to show whether any deserving persons are being ignored or have not yet received their ration cards. This is the sort of matter that could cause great bitterness or great frustration, and rather than that a deserving person should be left out, it would be better that one or two others who were not actually deserving be left in. In other words, let the mistake be on the side of liberality.

Now, continuing with this expenditure. We are now asked to provide \$280,000; that will exhaust the \$480,000 upon which we could first draw. It has not only exhausted it in a manner of speaking but has also exhausted it by \$110,000. According to numbers which he gave us on the homeless they would have to spend, at least, for the first two weeks, something like \$250,000 in ration cards. That is to say, the value of the cards spent on persons will run into \$250,000. That, I imagine, will decrease as people become rehabilitated; and it may be within the last few weeks of the Emergency that figure may be rather over \$5,000 or \$6,000. I am wondering whether they are doing the best thing about this expenditure.

I was wondering whether with this financial year which is already about half gone, they had considered or thought of preparing or introducing a Supplementary Budget. Their biggest expenditures have been in Public Works, Housing, and possibly in Social Welfare; and I think in Education too, they are committed now to an enormous expenditure, which, so far as I can see throws their whole Estimate for the rest of this financial year completely out of gear.

I think it would be probably the best to have a Supplementary Estimate introduced to cover the period from 1st October probably to 31st March; because although the Emergency might be concluded some time in December, yet the problems arising from it might exist for some time after the end of the financial year. I myself feel that the problem should not be tackled piece-meal; and it is for this reason that I recommend a Supplementary Budget for the next six months. If they do it the other way they have got to ask us for money almost every week for this year.

It is said that the Housing Authority to which this House has given legislative sanction should have been authorised to set up an island-wide authority if it is true that Government is being persuaded to make the houses of persons in the devastated areas of more permanent structure; so that when next we have a Hurricane the damage suffered might not be so great. If all this is true then, obviously, Government is going to have to spend more money and they should not flatter themselves if they are going to set

up houses for the people on the basis of a complete rehabilitation.

7.25 p.m.

It cannot be said that you have completely rehabilitated the people if you have not made them reasonably secure in their houses against a similar catastrophe. If you are going to do that, you will have to come to this House for an enormous sum of money.

I think it will help Government much better if they get estimates of the probable expenditure and prepare a supplementary budget for them. The House may be called upon to adjust certain of their taxation policy on account of the Emergency; we do not know; it may be possible.

In this connection it is not of course for me or any member not in the Executive Committee to advise them on their own structure and organisation, but I think it would be as well if at least one Minister can be put in charge of rehabilitation and to do nothing else but that. The matters arising out of this Emergency are of so great proportions that I cannot see that a Minister who is confined in his normal Departmental duties can do that and everything in connection. They ought to be a Minister responsible to this House for these matters.

I do not know how long the Minister of Finance will be away from this House; we do not know what course his illness will take; but in the meanwhile these matters should be attended to. The House has been very patient up to now with the Ministers in this crisis largely because the crisis is only two weeks old, and allowances must be made for the weakness of Ministers; but from now on they should not withhold information from this House, because this House will not be satisfied.

This House of course, will support this Resolution because we know that this money must be voted. Before I sit, I wish to appeal to Ministers with all emphasis to pay more attention to the actual distribution. Do not take things easy now, because actual food is not being distributed. The fact that people have coupons is all the more reason why Ministers should look into it and see if hard cases are not being passed over.

There is another thing. Persons who have been rendered destitute should of course receive priority in everything that is being done for rehabilitation whether it be houses or food or clothes; but in a community like this where there are degrees of poverty and where poverty existed among so many people before the Hurricane, you cannot really blame people who have taken advantage of the crisis to press their claims upon Relief Organisations. Everybody likes a freeness, and people who are poor like a freeness perhaps more than any one else.

I myself cannot join in this wholesale condemnation of those persons who are not really deserving of Hurricane Relief, but who are really pushing and getting things. It is unfortunate that it should be so, but it is also unfortunate that those people who are destitute should be prevented by those who are not destitute. However, allowances must be made for the general level of poverty which exists in this community. If that level did not exist people would allow their pride to hold them back from trying to get something; but if something is given away free, the people who are poor all along think it is just an opportunity for them to get something which they do not have. I think therefore, that the interpretation as to how people should be helped and who should be helped should be based on the actual site, specially when you reflect that it is the people's money that you are spending on them. You are

spending on them something which they have contributed by taxation and by their privations and things you have taken from them.

I am not justifying or condoning acts of disorder or of roguery; I am only saying, rather than to allow the actual destitute to go short of any donation, be cause other people who are not so destitute are fore- going to get things, it would be better to make an error on the side of liberality, because those destitute and those who are not so destitute might be well served.

Secondly, sir, some very disquieting reports have come from members of this House that a certain amount of political prejudice is operating against people who really need help. I am hoping that this crisis will find Ministers and Government officials above that sort of thing. I am therefore asking Ministers to use their authority wherever necessary to see to it that no person is deprived of help and assistance which he might have, whether it is food or clothing or repairs to his house, merely because he is known not to have supported them or he is not a favourite of their party. That is the last thing which should happen. Later on I will have a little more to say on this whole thing, but I think what I have said so far covers the Resolution.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, from the beginning of consideration of this crisis by this House of Assembly I have been most generous towards Government and those persons who might have to offer relief. You will remember that I said that we have been preparing for several years in some sort of way for a hurricane, and that I understand that certain Committee meetings were not held this year. It appeared as though we had hoped that the period for hurricanes had passed, entirely this year, or that Barbados had got to the point of immunity from hurricanes because we set aside a day to ask Almighty God not to visit us with anything of the sort and I hoped that the people would get in gear and work to the best of their ability.

I know everyone would be chasing because he had some peculiar liking for his job and he would do it to the best of his ability, but from what we have heard to-night, Mr. Chairman, from the two hon members for St. John, it is only fair that the Government institute an enquiry in that parish and lay before the House at the next meeting some Resolution asking for funds to clarify the situation.
7.35 p.m.

St. John is one of the parishes which has been hard hit, and it is regrettable to hear some of the stories which we have heard to-night. I think we should have a proper investigation into this matter so that we can have everybody's point of view and be able to judge the matter.

I hope the members of the Government have taken to heart what they have heard since they themselves have been guilty of saying that members who have been elected to this House can only talk; they cannot do anything more. That is the standard they have set for certain members of the House and if it is taken up by the officials and the public, we have ourselves to blame largely for that. We have contributed largely to the disrespect which is shown to members of this House.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. Peter has made some comments about this Resolution and its presentation, comments which I think the whole Ministerial Bench should take to heart. I am appealing to them in this way; if they were not in the Government hearing things at first hand, would they be satisfied with the way in which the ordinary member of this House has been treated?

The Government came down here with a Resolution for \$100,000 and one of the first utterances of the hon. Introducer was in reply to hon. members who criticised the fact (and a definite fact) that no man on earth could produce a summons for any member of this House to turn out on Saturday, 24th September. The Introducer said that some hon. members did not seem to know that a Hurricane had occurred.

The Resolution which was sent down was one for \$100,000 and before the hon. Introducer could open his mouth in connection with it, he had to increase the amount of the Resolution by 100%. If they knew that a Hurricane had taken place, then they did not know that it had done any damage.

In the course of a week or so after that they come now for \$280,000 from the Reserve Fund of \$480,000 which has been established out of the Public Revenue of the island to which resort may be had in the event of the occurrence of any calamity. The first advance made was \$100,000 and they felt so much ashamed that before it could come in here they had to increase it by 100%, and now they have come for an amount under the Reserve Fund Act.

When they came for the first amount they said it was too early to give details. Hon members asked for a broad outline of the matter and it was only then that you heard in a sketch what it was they intended. In the presentation of the Resolution it was said that the Resolution could speak for itself.

Right in this House to-day when the Resolution was introduced, there was a Minister with the information about the number of houses damaged and the number of people rendered homeless. I have repeatedly said in this House that a Minister concerned with it should give the information; he should not allow hon. members to pull it out of him.

One Minister says that he did not have anything to say about the Resolution, and another Minister who had the information about it said nothing until an hon. member said: "Tell us something about it." The information given by that Minister should have formed the basis of the Statement laid to-day.

The issue of the distribution of coupons should have been stated when they were introducing this Resolution; the statement as to the number of people homeless and so on was the Statement which should have been made. Since the Hurricane has taken place, is it not possible to engage a sheet of the "Advocate" Newspaper and print the names of the Hurricane Relief Committees in the various parishes? Do you not think it is time that the Government issue some notice showing the persons who have sustained damage and have gone about and helped themselves by repairing the damage, and make a statement about it in respect of the various parishes?

Our people have asked whom they can tell about the repairs which they have done; people who have helped themselves perhaps by borrowing money from somebody else would like to know if they will get a reasonable amount of help when the time comes.

This is the time to assess that help, and you cannot get any information of that nature at all! Let the public know to whom they can appeal and from whom they can have information in the various aspects of rehabilitation. If you have spent the greater part of this money already, at least you must make a statement as to where you will get the remainder.

Some hon. member had to table an Address to say that you should use this Fund or that Fund; can't the Government say what Fund they are going to use next? They have Funds at their disposal; therefore let us hear something about it. Next week we will not know what next to expect; their method of deal-

ing with Funds is questionable already; and they must not think that because we have authorised the spending of this money out of the Treasury that you can send to England for it. The law says that you have to pass an Act in the Legislature before you can utilise these Funds.

7.45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, in the course of his speech today I heard the hon. Minister of Works & Housing say that he had given instruction to this body to send something there and he had given instructions to somebody else to send something yonder; that is not good enough. If the things are necessary he had no right to discover that; there should have been somebody on the spot who could say these things are necessary and to send for them. Suppose there were spots that he did not go to?

I warned the Government to try and decentralise this as much as possible. You cannot set up a central organisation where you can run out and say: "Well, I have never seen conditions up there and I will send something." Try and get somebody in the community to see about it. You have to go out, search for them, and get them in the various villages and districts and give them a free hand. But I cannot understand this idea of the Minister of Communications saying: "Well, I immediately gave instructions to this person, that person and the other." If this is his method, it is a very good political method for himself; but it is not a method to ensure that these people be rehabilitated.

I have said that there should be people in the parish who could be subdivided and given authority, because the matter has not been carried out by those who at present are in authority until he sees that nothing is said. What about places he has not seen?

[Hon. M. E. COX: What must I do?] See that a proper organisation is set up to work and listen to hon. members when they tell you that this particular member or person is not suited for it. [A VOICE: Disloyalty!] It is not disloyalty at all; it is indifference.

Do not make a political issue of this at all; it is not right for us to do so. Let people get rehabilitated as soon as possible.

Some Minister should be able to say something more about this Resolution tonight. This means that we are giving something like \$250,000 etc. in allocations.

If they are allocations and you feel that from the rate of spending they are going to be used in such and such a time, it means that this is going to be exhausted. Are there no plans that you can tell to hon. members of the House? The members of the Other Place are only nominated and when they were summoned to attend a meeting on the 24th they were told that the first thing on the Agenda was to hear a communication about a State of Emergency, and the members of this House of Legislature knew nothing about it.

Hon. M. E. COX and Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY rose to speak.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Are you going to reply?

Hon. M. E. COX: Yes sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister says that he wants to reply to the questions made by the hon. junior member for the City.

Hon. M. E. COX: I must first of all reply to the statements made by the hon. junior member for the city. Before I do so however, I should like to draw to the attention of the House His Excellency's Message relative to the introduction of Ministerial Government from 1st February last year; and in

doing so I am not attempting, in any way, to shirk any responsibility which might be thrown upon the Ministers; but I should like to point out the order in which the portfolios were allocated:

They are allocated as follows:—

Premier or Principal Minister

Finance
Revenue Departments
Education
Police
General

Minister for Trade, Industry and Labour
Trade and Commerce
Industry
Tourism
Minerals
Labour

Minister for Agriculture
Agriculture and Fisheries, Lands

Minister for Social Services and Local Government
Medical Services
Old Age Pensions
Prisons
Prisons and Industrial Schools
Probation
Social Welfare
Library
Local Government

Minister for Communications Works and Housing
Aviation
Electricity
Harbour and Shipping
Highways and Transport
Post Office
Public Works
Waterworks
Housing

The Message further states that those other Departments which are not assigned to Ministers will be administered in the following manner: The Judiciary should be administered by the Chief Justice, who should deal directly with the Governor or the Colonial Secretary (now Chief Secretary).

The Chief Secretary is also listed in the Message as being responsible for the following functions of Government:—

Personnel and Establishment
Defence and Security
External Affairs
Ceremonial
Secretaryship of Executive Committee.

I quote that for this reason: in so far as the Hurricane is concerned such duties are not directly Secretary and that point should be made clear.

While we are not prepared to shirk any responsibility, we are prepared that in the future those duties pertaining to housing which might result from a Hurricane must fall under the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing; and that those things connected with Social Welfare such as clothing etc. must fall under the portfolio of the Minister of Social Services.

When you read the pamphlet relative to the manner in which the after Hurricane activities should be controlled, and in which the food should

be distributed under the Director of Agriculture, you will see as I said before, that a Minister was not directly concerned with the affair; therefore, while they can criticise Government if something went wrong, at the same time it should be explained that the matter was handled more by the Chief Secretary than by any Minister.

I want to resent very strongly the statement made by the hon. member who apparently resents my saying that I stood and saw what is happening and that I gave instructions to have those schools of the particular area opened. The hon. member characterises that as playing politics.

7.55 p.m.

Mr. LEWIS: I was pointing out that if he did that, it was a good thing; but I am saying that if the Ministers divided the island into four political areas that was making the thing a political issue. He seemed to have misunderstood me.

HON. M. E. COX: I must object to the remarks of playing politics. If that were so the Parochial Authorities would never be in charge of this relief. We are aware that they are diametrically opposed to the Government.

There is no politics in this. We discovered early, (I think it was the Friday morning after the Hurricane) that quite a number of people on the fateful Thursday night were without food; we had quite a number of complaints by the Saturday following.

We decided that for the purpose of investigating the needs of the people that we should put the island under the four Ministers excluding the Premier who was ill at the time; and along with the Ministers, we sent out two Civil Servants to get statistics and investigate the situation and to report back to the Minister concerned for the particular area who would then direct what should be done. That is not playing politics.

I should like to give you a brief history of these relief organisations. Early we discovered that the question of distribution was not done as adequately as it should be. We found that people who were not entitled to get rations were getting and preventing other people who were deserving from getting. There was no well organised system of distributing; and as a result, we discussed the Sunday after the Hurricane the method of having a ration card, and at that meeting quite a few people from the other parishes were present. This suggestion was accepted and the matter was reported back to the Government on the Monday; and it was agreed that we should institute the ration system by coupon similar to that which was done during the last war, and where people instead of receiving a few biscuits and corned beef and where some got none at all, we could issue to the head of a family a ration card which could be presented to any shop in the area and the person could get groceries for it.

That system was agreed to and a day or two after that we summoned those persons connected with the Hurricane Relief to attend a meeting, and we put forward the scheme to them and told them what we wanted done. They all accepted the system of ration by coupon. It was made crystal clear to each and every one there and then that these ration cards must apply to every family who as a result of the Hurricane had been rendered homeless.

In other words, that was contrary to what we have heard: that certain people were told that as they were renting a house they did not qualify; or as they were drawing up at some one, therefore they did not qualify; or that as they did not report, they did not qualify. I think it was in St. Lucy where

in the case of an old man whose house was damaged he was taken to the almshouse for shelter. His name was brought up at the meeting, it being asked whether in the case of that old man, if this system would apply to him. We said, "yes, he is entitled." That goes to show that there should be no doubt as to Government's intention.

I was amazed to hear from the various parishes that only some persons who were rendered homeless qualified for rations and not others. I want to make it clear that every individual who has been rendered homeless is entitled.

For example: suppose two families occupied one house, each is entitled to a ration card. There are cases where you have a father and mother and a son and wife living in the same house. We regard them as two families and therefore, each head of that family must have a ration card independently, so that each can get supplies independently.

We also gave instructions that those persons whose houses were blown down and who by their own efforts had put them back into habitable conditions were also entitled. If that policy is not carried out, we cannot run to St. Andrew, St. Philip, St. James and Christ Church. It is the duty of those persons who are interested in the community to report any irregularity which they discover to some authority. [A VOICE: But you ignored us when we told you.]

An hon. member for St. John said that he is not running to any Minister. If you know of anything which is going wrong and you do not report it to some authority, you would be doing a disservice to your own people. You would be doing them a disservice if you know of any injustice which is done to them or where an irregularity exists and you do not report it to some authority.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I must rise to a point of explanation. The Hon. Minister distinctly heard me say how regularly I reported irregularities.

8.05 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: I was referring more particularly to the hon. senior member for St. John, not the hon. junior member for St. John.

The hon. member said that he was ignored, but there is still somebody who is higher than the Director of Agriculture.

Speaking for myself, I would like to say this: I am not directed by any official; I am advised on things about which I do not know, but the policy is laid down by me and it has to be carried out. The honourable member knows that too; we are not twisted around by any official; we say what must be done and we hope that it is done. If it is not done and that is reported to us [A MEMBER: What will you do?] We know what to do. [Laughter.]

In so far as the re-housing of the people is concerned, we felt, and quite rightly so, that it was a means of expediting the re-housing of these people by getting the assistance of the local bodies. Local bodies came forward and said that plantations' owners are repairing people's houses; I am referring to the Hurricane Relief Committees of the various parishes.

I think it was the St. George Hurricane Relief Committee which first told us that the managers were rehabilitating these houses and now that they are finished they would be glad to assist us in rehabilitating other houses in the parish if they got the O.K. We accepted the offer because we wanted to rehouse the people quickly; that offer was made to all the Committees of the Hurricane Relief Organisations in the various parishes.

When we discussed the question of the food ration, we discussed the question of re-housing, and we decided that these Committees would function under the direction of the Director of Public Works and the Manager-Secretary of the Housing Board.

These two officials would give the authority to these Committees to obtain lumber and they could employ a number of persons who would be paid from this vote. They all agreed to carry out this reconstruction.

We cannot run behind every Committee to see that it is punctual but as soon as a Report comes in what else can any responsible person do but take action immediately by sending squads to the area? That is what I have done; I have instructed the Director of Public Works only this morning after a Report I had from Pennyhole, St. Philip, to send squads up there in order to rehabilitate the houses.

The Chairman of the various Committees can get lumber from the reserve which is kept for the Public Works Department and the Housing Board, and they can employ people to carry out reconstruction as quickly as possible. In addition to that we are sending squads throughout the island in order to assist in the speedy rehabilitation of these houses. That is as clear as anybody can put the situation.

I said earlier that we can employ as many people as possible in this rehousing programme, but I think hon. members will appreciate the fact that we need more carpenters than masons or unskilled workers. The majority of houses are wooden structures and therefore carpenters are needed.

While it is true that every carpenter may not be employed, I think hon. members will agree that the duty rests with the Heads of these Departments to get carpenters, and not those men who might buy saws and hammers from other people and say that they are carpenters.

I know of cases where I have seen people who were not carpenters but are still trying to "edge" in as carpenters. The authorities cannot employ them because, to my mind, it would be more expensive in the long run to have people who are not trained as carpenters employed in building these houses; you want men who know what they are doing. In that connection we have been trying as far as possible.

I have some figures from the Minister of Labour who said that up to last month he had approximately 240 carpenters registered at the Department. 8.15 p.m.

You can see that with the large programme which we have at present more than 240 are short in the set up.

The point was also raised about the Government carrying on constructions of various buildings. I want to assure hon. members that from the day following the Hurricane all work on Government buildings ceased and the Ministry began to concentrate on constructions for the rehabilitation of those houses that were blown down. The same Saturday night following up to 8 o'clock some Lumber Yards were open delivering stuff to the Housing Board in order that they could set to work the Sunday.

I want therefore to assure hon. members that every effort is being made to get on as quickly as possible with the re-housing of the people throughout the island.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that hon. members are anxious to have dinner and I believe that I shall have a lot more to say before this Resolution is passed; but I intend to reserve whatever I have to say until a later stage.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, it is very regrettable that the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing should stop speaking now because it looks to him that hon. members are desirous of taking dinner. I think I can contribute a little bit to this debate; but on second thought I think I had better move the adjournment of the House, [VOICES: Hear! Hear!] because I think that hon. members may be more receptive when they get back, although I may not be in a biting mood. Mr. Chairman, I therefore move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Mr. BRANCKER: I beg to second that.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair and reported accordingly. On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX the House adjourned for three-quarters of an hour. 8.20 p.m.

On re-assembling,

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the honourable junior member for St. John be appointed to act as Chairman of Committees during the absence of the Chairman.

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

The question that the honourable junior member for St. John be appointed to act as Chairman of Committees was carried without division.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY RESUMED

Hurricane Relief Cont'd.

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: On the adjournment the hon. senior member for the City was addressing the Chair.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Acting Chairman this Resolution is to authorise the expenditure of the balance of the Reserve Fund which we have and to which we may resort in the case of a hurricane. Well, to be quite honest with you, on the first occasion when we had to discuss this matter of voting this money for the relief of unfortunate Barbadians I was very mild, and I intended to be so again to day.

In all these things the proof of the pudding is the taste; and quite frankly I believe that every honourable member of this Chamber would like to see the best done for the unfortunate. Contrary to a popular opinion of honourable members of this Chamber, I would not possibly have spoken if the Hon. Minister of Communications had not made certain remarks, as I had decided before then myself to leave my own actions and activities in the hands of the people and say: "Let the Government members of the House or anybody else do as they like."

I believe all of us should at least offer some suggestion or criticism. Now I do not think that frankly this is an occasion for any of us to take the opportunity to play party politics as a result of the sufferings of the people. I would be one of the last to do so. At my age and with my experience in public life, playing party politics and using this as an occasion for saying that a Minister or honourable member is not interested in the people would be out of the question. I believe that every elected member of this House is interested and would like

to see the best done; but as you know, some honourable members' "best" is not so good.

On the last occasion when we spoke on the \$200,000 Resolution we had a hurricane although the actual Hurricane was over. We were faced with great difficulty, and that difficulty was to find someone to set at the head of affairs, someone of sufficient foresight, ability and real interest to be able to rehabilitate and get things back to normal as quickly as possible.

I regret to say that although the Government has been in certain directions doing what has appeared to be the best, a lot more could be done.

An occasion like this, I must repeat, is not one for playing party politics; and when I say so I say it sincerely. I suppose all over Barbados tonight it is recognised (and I have not got to get any guarantee from the Hon. Premier) when I say *sincerely* that there is no time in a crisis of this nature for playing party politics.

Now the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing has given us figures in which he said that we would have spent at the end of this week a total of \$590,000. 9.20 p.m.

If you look at housing, you will see that on the last occasion I gave as my estimate that we had something like 25,000 people homeless; that was my opinion from the facts at my disposal. I also said that the damage would be something in the vicinity of \$5 million from which I expected that insurance would cover \$1 million.

I know that it must be rather difficult for Government to get all the facts and figures to present to this Chamber, but I want this to be recorded: while this is no time to play party politics or anything of that sort, I want to say that the Government is very guilty of not trying to bring into its fold, at least on this occasion when this great disaster faces the colony, people of a different hue than theirs. No one can think that they can do everything. Anybody who thinks that in a calamity with which we were faced a week ago, the Government or any one set of people can do everything, is a fool.

I am going to make the position clear for the people of this colony. When the Hon. Minister of Communications said earlier today that it was known that Parochial Authorities were opposed and would not co-operate with the Government on a matter of this sort, that was to my mind a reckless and dishonest statement.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, in the first place I did not make those remarks; secondly I am asking that those remarks be withdrawn immediately.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I would not withdraw them at the peril of death. Mr. Chairman, I just am not withdrawing them.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member has said that he is not withdrawing those remarks. I am asking that those words be taken down.

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: What are the words?

Hon. M. E. COX: The words are: "reckless and dishonest statement."

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I said that to say that Parochial Authorities would not co-operate with Government in a matter of this sort is a dishonest statement. I am not trying to defend or deny it; let the Clerk take it down.

Let me repeat what I was saying. I said it was not the occasion for playing party politics and that

everyone should co-operate with Government. I went on to say that the Minister of Communications had said earlier that the Parochial Authorities on this occasion would not co-operate with the Government on this matter, and I said that that was a dishonest statement.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, under the Rules it is stated that there should be no debate at this stage. I am asking that the words be taken down.

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for the City may sit.

Hon. M. E. COX: As long as objection is taken, the Rule says that every such objection is to be taken at the time when such words are used, and not after any other member has spoken.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister has taken objection at the right time. If he had waited until somebody else had spoken, he would be wrong. I rose to say let us make an appeal to both hon. members as we feel justified so to do.

Hon. M. E. COX: I will read Rules 131, 132 and 133. They are as follows:—

"131. In a Committee of the whole House, the Chairman, if it appears to be the pleasure of the Committee, will direct words objected to, to be taken down, in order that the same may be reported to the House."

"132. Every such objection is to be taken at the time when such words are used, and not after any other member has spoken."

"133. Any member having used objectionable words, and not explaining or offering apologies for the use thereof to the satisfaction of the House, will be censured, or otherwise dealt with as the House may think fit."

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, we are members of this Committee. I am saying that you can use your influence to have the matter settled amicably; therefore, it is permissible for members to speak in that light.

I am now suggesting that you should appeal to the hon. members to have this matter settled amicably. I am suggesting to you to use your influence with both members and let us get on with the debate; that is your prerogative.

I would say for your benefit (and I hope you will not take any offence) that when you have decided that the matter has reached the stage that it cannot be settled by your influence and by the ability of members of this Committee, then is the time that you instruct that the words be taken down. I am again asking you to use your influence to get the matter settled amicably. 9.30 p.m.

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for the City may proceed.

Hon. M. E. COX: I have objected to those remarks and a decision has to be taken. I am not prepared to sit here and allow any honourable member to charge any member of the Government with dishonesty. The hon. member was not here when the debate was going on.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Acting Chairman, you have asked me to continue.

Hon. M. E. COX: With great respect to your ruling—

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member willing to withdraw the remarks?

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: If you rule that I have said anything unparliamentary I shall withdraw it; but you having already said that the remarks are not unparliamentary, what must I do? You have

intimated that I should proceed with my speech; members on that side of the table have said that the statements are not honest, but if the hon. member wants a vote taken, then let it be taken. I did not ask them to put me in here.

Everyone knows that when it is said that the Parochial Authorities would not co-operate because they were opposed to the Government, that is not an honest statement. I was going on to say where it was not an honest statement.

After a man is elected to this House should he be allowed to say that something is not true? If I say anything against the character of any honourable member I would withdraw it, but the Ministers of the Government think that they are tin gods walking on wheels.

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: Objection has been taken to the remarks and all that is left for me to do is to discover if it is the pleasure of the Committee to call Mr. Speaker to make a settlement. [MEMBERS: No! No! A vote has to be taken first] Objection having been taken to words spoken by the hon. senior member for the City and he having refused to withdraw same, I am calling on the Speaker to settle the matter. [VOICES You cannot do that; You must take a vote.]

Objection having been taken to the words used by the hon. senior member for the City I would like to know if it is the will of the Committee that such words be taken down and reported to Mr. Speaker. Hon. Members in favour of that will please say "Aye," those against will please say "No." I think the "Noes" have it.

A MEMBER: Divide.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP and Mr. Holder—5.

Noes: Mr. BRANCKER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TUDOR, Mr. ALLDER, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY and Mr. GODDARD—7.
9.40 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Just let me refresh honourable members' minds as to what happened; this is no defence of the Parochial Authority because I happen to be a member of a Parochial Body. The Vestries were supposed to be standing Committees for the purpose of Hurricane Relief. If you look back right through all the Government files since 1898, every year the Governor-in-Executive Committee had to appoint a Hurricane Relief Committee; and it was felt that matters pertaining to Hurricane Relief should be left to the local authorities. I wish to draw that to the attention of this honourable Chamber and especially to the honourable member who made this reckless statement.

After a Social Welfare Department was established, the Government felt (not this Government) that this should be a matter for Social Welfare; therefore, the various Vestries of the Island were informed by the Department that they would be nominated as a body functioning for Hurricane Relief.

Can you imagine that I who have to depend upon the people for my seat in the House of Assembly and who have for fifteen years consecutively not taken a second place in the Vestry's polls, could be associated with a party of members who would say that they would not associate with the Government in a case of a hurricane? The Hon. Minister of Communications would be the only person to say that.

If the honourable member wishes to throw anything at me, let him get up and say so. The implication is that there are some men in Vestries who would be against a government and would have

nothing to do with it. It is a lie and intended to sow discontent.

I said in the beginning of my speech that I did not think any honourable member, whether he be Government member or party member, would not shew interest on an occasion like this, and that Government would not have around them people with the commonsense, ability and brain to guide them. As I said to the Acting Governor, the whole difficulty in this matter of Hurricane Relief is that there were too many people who were working for the recognition of Her Majesty. What you ought to have had was those who were willing to work with an eye to the welfare of the people.

The Hon. Minister has told us what they have spent and what they have not spent. I know, that in going around Bridgetown, the Government's Ministers have been saying that I refused to co-operate. Also that St. Michael's Vestry refused to co-operate.

Two years, ago, when I was asked to serve on a Hurricane Relief Committee, I wrote saying that I would not do it; that I was not taking orders and being shoved around. A lot of paper was printed and sent to people, telling people in the tropics that in case of a Hurricane, they should report here and go there. A member living in the Pine had to report at Erdiston and it took him four hours.

It was Mr. Barton, I think, with whom the entire Vestry of St. Michael discussed the question of Hurricane Relief in case anything happened. I warned them then that one of the first things you had to do was to stay at home with your family. After that I will come out and attend to the public. Every other member of the Government was telling them something different and they were bent on doing something different. I am just drawing this to your attention to show how the Government of Barbados was lacking in foresight. I do not know what happened in other parishes; I speak for St. Michael.

I notice that in the figures which you have given us here, you have shown \$50,000 for the Regiment. Now, I want to ask one single question: what did you spend \$50,000 on the Regiment for?

Hon. M. E. COX: I never said \$50,000 for the Regiment; I said \$10,000.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: You said \$50,000.

Hon. M. E. COX: How could I say \$50,000?

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: All right, Mr. Chairman, \$10,000. Last night I went to Queen's Park at half-past ten o'clock and I had to chase out about 50 men of the Regiment who were polluting the place. Women were given absolutely no privacy. \$50,000 for a regiment! What did you want it for?

Are you afraid since the calamity to face the people? You say you are paying the Regiment. Tell the people of Barbados that you spent \$50,000 on the Regiment since this Emergency.
9.50 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I think I am responsible for giving the figures. The hon. senior member for the City was not in here when I gave the Committee the figures of \$10,000 for the Regiment.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Everybody on this side of the table wrote down \$50,000.

Hon. M. E. COX: If everybody on that side put down \$50,000, they are idiots.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: You are the only person in the island who is educated. Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, I am sorry if I misquoted the hon. member and I apologise for doing so. If I misquoted him, I pay him the greatest apology.

The hon. member may be educated but there is one thing I know: I can speak the English language;

and because I can do that, I can stand up and talk to anybody.

Sir, last week I commended the Government for the swift action they had taken in setting up the Housing Board and the Public Works Department to repair and put back up the houses which were blown down. I am not one of those hypocrites who would say that everything you do is wrong. I still to-day pay you high regard and respect for it. If I can pay you that high regard, why cannot you accept my criticism and note if there is anything in my criticism?

The Hon. Minister of Communications made the statement that Parochial Authorities would not co-operate. I must get this off my chest: as Churchwarden of this parish, I received a letter on the day of the Hurricane, the 22nd September. The following Tuesday, I received a letter signed by the Financial Secretary stating that further to the letter of the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Education that they observed that I have not been co-operating as Churchwarden for the parish of St. Michael.

Let me at once say that that is the damnest lie told by a tongue. At no time did the Director of Education write to the Churchwarden to say that. I will go further. Two people called me in connection with the hurricane—the Police Department and a gentleman by the name of Mr. Kenneth Hunte. The Police Department called me on the morning of the Hurricane and Mr. Kenneth Hunte called me on the Monday afterwards. Now tell me where is the non-co-operation.

The letter proceeded to say that the Government understood that I on my own behalf, had been distributing clothing and food to people and that I was causing discontent and friction in the island as a result of doing that. If that caused discontent, let it cause discontent. As I have said, that letter was written by Mr. Burrowes, the Financial Secretary. If the only thing I did wrong was to distribute food and clothing, then I put my case in the hands of the people. When the Police Department called me, I was ready to co-operate with the Government. I was never asked one word by the Director of Agriculture. I will tell you what I have been asked since then.

Eight days after the Hurricane, the Director of Medical Services wrote me a letter. He said that he would like to draw to my attention that there is a Hurricane and that he is going to send me some bandages, some pills and some tablets to give to the people. I already had nurses administering to the people at the 48 centres in the parish. Is that not co-operating? I know what I was not prepared to do; I was not prepared to bow and scrape to a Minister or anybody else.

Now, will you listen to this other matter. Nine days after the Hurricane, which was a Saturday morning, I got another letter from another Government official who was the Director of Education. He then woke up to the fact that there had been a Hurricane; he wrote that I was expected to keep the schools clean and that they would pay 17 cents an hour to female labourers for cleaning them. I smiled at that. We were keeping the schools clean; and incidentally, we were paying nothing to keep them clean. We were even asking the people sheltering in them to scrub them. Before I bow and scrape to any of them, I hope God would take me out of this world.

Now, I am not speaking of Mottley, I am speaking of the St. Michael's Vestry. I have not enough money to be able to do anything on my own. Despite what the law says, I found myself in a unique position in this way: a Hurricane is going to take place

and at half past two in the morning I got information from the Police Commissioner about it.

The Police Commissioner is the only person in the island who communicated with me. He told me that numbers of people are at the Main Guard and they would like to know from the Churchwarden of St. Michael something about shelters for them.

At half-past three of the evening of that day I went around, got stores opened, obtained kerosene oil and other articles and put in the various shelters I had opened. Is that not co-operating? I would like to see the storm carry you away before I would have to bow and scrape to you. As I was saying, I came out at half-past three, put lanterns in the schools, and opened them.

Mr. Chairman, I would never have made this speech if the Hon. Minister for Communications did not say what he did. I am going to show you how lacking they are in imagination and ability in the interest of the people.

At half past four in the afternoon, on behalf of the St. Michael's Vestry, I got in touch with Mr. H. O. Emtage and I got the kerosene oil from his store to put in the lanterns. I can say these things because I do not kow-tow to members of the Government. Let me say that when Mr. Turner, the Acting Governor, was going on his usual rounds to the schools, all that faced him was that Mottley was there already; he thought that it was "Kilroy"! Is that not co-operating?

10.00 p.m.

The only people in this country who would like to seem to have an interest in the people of this colony are the Ministers, but that does not matter to me. The Minister of Communications' mind is like his face; whenever you find people who are prepared to say that every other person is dishonest, you watch them. Whenever you find people who are prepared to sell their own selves and their freedom just because they get a motor-car, watch them; they will never give anybody what is due to him.

We had the Scavenger Trucks to carry supplies to every school; we realised that the Government could not organise anything in a proper way for three days. For three nights people in every shelter in this parish had been fed. [Hon. C. E. TALMA: In Christ Church too.] I am glad to hear that. I am just defending the statement made by the Minister of Communications that the Parochial Authorities would not co-operate with the Government.

For those three nights it was realised that until the Government could get its machinery into action in the parish of St. Michael nothing could be done properly. I have not got to call any meeting; I am in a position to give relief without having to call any meeting. When I got that letter saying that I was causing friction I knew what was happening in the other parishes; I was sorry. This is what I would call foresight; I am not ashamed to let anybody know whence I came.

When on visiting the centres I found that people were given corned beef, milk and bread, I realised that it was just to tide them over; but I found that the Government had been dishing out rice, milk and saltfish through their distributors. Unfortunately 85% or 90% of the people who suffered were from the lower walks of life.

I realised that the Government had made its biggest blunder. At everyone of the girls' schools five and six three-burner stoves were locked up and they did not have the foresight to start and feed the people. You could not expect the Parochial Authorities to spend money in comparison with the Government;

and I had no idea of belittling any Government or causing friction; but your humble servant started the idea of feeding the people and asking people to carry food to these starving people.

Is that saying that the Parochial Authorities did not co-operate with the Government? Let me say this: the Minister has said that they called a meeting in this island of the various Parochial Authorities and Churchwardens. Whether I like the Minister of Communications or not he has been elected by the people of this parish. Would it surprise hon. members to know that as Churchwarden of this parish I was never invited to that meeting? Why? Because I was feeding the people and cutting against the Government.

Hon. Mr. Kenneth Hunte asked me whether I would like to distribute the coupons; I consented on the conditions I suggested. I have not asked for payment for a staff; we asked for volunteers. Why have I not been summoned?

But you have people whose minds cannot rise higher than [A MEMBER: Than what?] You have people whose minds cannot rise [Laughter].

Far be it from me when my brothers are suffering and when I see women barely clad and sleeping on floors and their homes in match wood to stand aside and do not give of my best. When I saw the misery at St. Barnabas Church, when I saw women and children crying, what was I to do? Mr. Deane and Mr. George Ward had given something on Thursday night and Friday morning while the officials were saying you must tell us the number of people and what-not.

10.10 p.m.

When I went to St. Barnabas and saw the condition under which people were living, do you think I could call a Vestry meeting? Now, I realise that the man who ought to have been responsible would have been the Minister of Social Services. I want to say this: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing has talked about Vestries not helping. Up to last night I visited St. Paul's school, and the people sheltering there said that they had got no rations since Thursday.

I am not so narrow, so ugly in mind as some of the Government's Ministers. I would say that your system broke down. When I saw people sleeping on the cement, I asked Rediffusion Ltd. to advertise for blankets. [A VOICE: What about sheets?] I say *blankets*; the Ministers may think I want the sheets for beddings. I was getting my friends to carry up stores to St. Barnabas on behalf of the parish of St. Michael.

Now, what is the real position? I said that I would not work in a Hurricane Relief Organisation in which people knew nothing about what they were doing. In a Hurricane it means this: somebody must have a measure of authority; and (I am saying this for the information of honourable members) according to the law in this Country, that authority is vested in every Churchwarden in this island. Any Churchwarden in this Island who refuses on that occasion to act is guilty of an offence. It is a solemn duty to act and the law goes on to tell you how he can get back the money expended in the particular circumstances.

I said in the beginning of my speech that the great pity was that you have not got men of foresight and ability. I have not got to make any political issue of this. Look me over, Mr. Chairman; think of me in public life for all these years; think of me as the brunt of the present Labour Party; do not think of me in connection with any Hurricane.

Just real love in my heart for my country and my people has made me that.

Now, what is happening? You have a Hurricane a few days ago. I must draw this to the Hon. Minister's attention: it has been drawn to my notice that some of the people who are going around putting up the houses, although they are being paid by the Government, are asking and demanding money from the people. That is a state of affairs to which a stop page should be put. That I know is a fact.

The Hon. Minister of Works and Housing has broken down his expenditure to make it \$590,000. The one important fact that the Hon. Minister has not seen—does the Hon. Minister realise that in the parish of St. Michael one of the biggest problems was sanitation? Does the Hon. Minister realise that if your sanitary affairs had not been given adequate attention you would have had an epidemic? Did the Hon. Minister take time off to see that the Hurricane Relief Committees were not co-operating with the trucks which go out into the streets with over 120 men to clear the streets?

Thank God everybody in the Country is not like the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing! He would like to relegate the people of Bridgetown to the limbo of things forgotten.

Would the Hon. Minister say that taking trees off peoples' houses and all the things we did is not co-operating? When you consider such things, would you say that we were not co-operating? There were over 300 men working in Bridgetown and within 10 days the streets were cleared. Of course we have not got our figures yet.

The Hon. Minister walks about uttering his nasty, slanderous remarks; I dare suppose he was waiting to see if the Churchwarden was going to sell lumber. Thank God I do not have to pilfer and live off people.

What you want is someone with brains. You have had your Hurricane; you want your policy now. All your elementary schools closed; they have been so for the last eight days. I say this, and I say it fearlessly: I am going to speak for St. Michael; I offer the Government this suggestion. Your greatest difficulty now is to cope with the children in the schools. Your children should be in schools between now and next Monday. I would prefer, however, to see the children in the churches; it would be more practical christianity.

10.20 p.m.

The Minister of Education is not with us; he is ill, therefore, there can be no criticism of him. I got in touch with the Department of Education and suggested to them that there were people in the St. Matthews Boys' and Girls' Schools and that we could take them from there and use the Friendship Playing Field Pavilion to house them. I do not see the necessity for having tents. Is that not co-operating?

The children should go back to school. There was a report issued which you have in your possession that the Church Village Girls' School was unfit for human habilitation; but that School is still standing up. I suggested to the Department of Education to remove some of the people from the Schools round about there and put them in the Church Village Girls' School. I also suggested that you acquire the Church House which is only used for the purpose of meetings, and I suggested that some of the people could also be put there.

More conducive to sanitation and health is the Princess Alice Playing Field. All I ask the Minister to do is to go down there, put two sheds on the field where you will be able to house the men that are in

the shelters and you can put the women and children in the Pavilion. You want people with ability and with foresight to tell you these things.

I am going to tell you now that you can get the children back to school by next week; and you need not wait to get them back into school all at the same time. You do not need to have Emergency Regulations to get them back into school; you just need sweet reasoning and the right people to make your approach.

I cannot imagine the Hon. Minister of Social Services failing to approach anybody on this subject. This is what I have seen done in other countries; you nail one out of ten boards, you put on your galvanized sheets and you have your temporary shed erected.

I am maintaining that to say that the Vestries are not co-operating is cruel and wicked; it is a very bad thing to say. As I have said, if for some reason the Hon. Minister of Communications dislikes Vestrymen or dislikes me, I just want to tell him when I have anything to say about the Director of Agriculture, the Director of Education or the Minister of Social Services I just am going to say it; and I have no animosity for them. If I have any criticism to make about a public officer I make it, and I think it is the duty of that officer to forget all about it. Can you imagine the Financial Secretary phoning me to discuss matters pertaining to the Hurricane and I being such a fool as not to attend the meeting? I say that the one person connected with the Ministry who phoned me about matters relating to the Hurricane was Mr. Charles Springer.

Actually from the statistics, there are less houses blown down in St. Michael than in Christ Church, but you have more homeless in St. Michael than in Christ Church. Now, they have a Red Cross Centre at Queen's College. Up to to-day, all that has been offered to the Vestry of St. Michael from the Ministry of Social Welfare is half the side of a cow to feed the people. That is all; and it is the cooking of food by the Vestry of St. Michael for the homeless that was causing the friction between the Government and the Vestry.

Jealousy has a greater depth than the grave. You have to be born with brains to have commonsense. You cannot rub your head against somebody overnight and think you have brains. You must be able to use your imagination and your creative ability.

Sir, I feel, under the circumstances, big enough to repeat what I said on the first occasion. You have started to put back the people's houses. Do you think anybody will come in this House and say you had no right to start spending this money until you came here? That is nonsense. Nobody besides the Ministers would want you at this time to spend one cent on the people without official red tape. The Vestry of St. Michael through me called for volunteers to help do something and to help feed the people, but you are saying that I am doing it for political reasons. Is that not unkind?

Now, sir, I have heard the Hon. Minister of Communications making the statement that they were now going to give the homeless \$5 per week by way of coupon rations. I have been asked to distribute these coupons, but they say that the Vestry of St. Michael is not co-operating. Do you know the reason why they say that the Vestry is not co-operating? It is because I do not condone with men like the Financial Secretary just running around smoking cigarettes and then getting an M.B.E. for doing the work, when the people who are doing the work are the Inspectors, the Clerks, and such people. That is what

they do; they get people like Mr. Chase and tell him: "You did a fine job." They push people like him and the Governor says: "You did a fine job". That does not work with me.

I have been asked to distribute ration coupons on behalf of the Government. I have to be very careful. I told my Secretary to lock them up in the safe because some of the Ministers might say I tried to convert them into money.

10.30 p.m.

I am not saying that you have not done the best, but I ask you this: why have you never asked me to attend one meeting of the Churchwardens? You can bring anybody; I have an opinion and I will express it. I will keep back this meeting until you listen to what I have to say. I was not invited to the meeting; I repeat that the majority of the people whose houses have been blown down are drawn from the lower category.

You have a green ticket and 30% of the people who lost their homes get \$5.00 a week, as you would give a man with a smaller family. If I was at that meeting I would have said, "Give a green ticket for \$5.00 a week for a man with a small family, but give a different ticket when you come to a man with five, six and seven children." What honourable member, if he had been invited to that meeting, would not have said that?

I had to remove from a centre back to the Infirmary, a woman who had just given birth to a child. I say if you give a man with a small family \$5.00 a week then you should give the other people more than that; that is the suggestion although they may not like it. I cannot imagine your calling a meeting of the Churchwardens and not inviting me!

In such a calamity whether you be rich or poor, white or black, you must be affected. I am going to say this: when you say that in the circumstances the only thing they can do is to divide the island into four parts and let the Ministers take charge, in my opinion that is a rank political move. The difference between the Hon. Minister and myself is that I have the brains enough to do something and he has not got brains enough to do anything.

The Ministers will appreciate that all of them have passed 21 years and they know human nature. I object to the statement as to the lumber which has gone out to the various parishes; I do not know if it is a wilful lie, but I know as a fact that it is not true. I am prepared to say that and His Honour the Speaker knows it is not true that the lumber which has gone out is in charge of the Chairmen of the various Hurricane Relief Committees.

Mr. SPEAKER: On a point of Order. I do not know the workings of individual Hurricane Relief Committees; I know about the working in the parish which I have the honour to represent.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Are you really not aware that the lumber in the parishes is not in charge of the Hurricane Relief Committees? I heard the statement made that it was not true to say that the Hurricane Relief Committees were in charge of this stuff.

I saw in the Press as a release from the Government that the Housing Board was in charge of the rehabilitation in one half of the island and the Public Works Department was in charge of the rehabilitation of the other half of the island. In the parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church they had actually undertaken surveys, and in other parishes the material was in charge of the Hurricane Relief Committee. That was denied to-night by the Minister of Communications. I just wanted you to verify whether it was so in your parish.

As far as I am concerned of this \$590,000 none of it seems to have anything to do with Health. 10.40 p.m.

The Hon. Minister of Health will be able to appreciate, more than any other Minister, that in a matter of this sort, your greatest danger lies in poor sanitation and non-observance of the elementary principles of hygiene. I visited a certain quarter and found that every door was closed; and the pathetic fact about it was that I had to address some of the teachers who were put in charge, advising them that they should keep the flaps down and the doors open.

Speaking now, not as the Churchwarden of St. Michael, I wish to say that the money is being spent on the health of this parish; the Commissioners have not got it. If you do not want to vote it when the time comes, do not vote it. I am telling you that it does not make any difference to me. Every voucher can be seen; everything has been appropriately done. If you do not want to vote the money, I repeat, do not vote it.

There is one particular criticism I have to make here at this point, and I hope that the Hon. Minister of Health will bear me out. On the question of inoculations (I am speaking at the risk of being told that you are playing doctor) I received a letter from the Director of Medical Services asking me or telling me that the District Nurses should go around and inoculate or inject, in other words, the people at the several centres against typhoid.

Now with the greatest respect to the Director of Medical Services I, as a layman, object to it on the grounds that there is no means of sterilisation at those centres; and to take the same needle and push it into one person after another is in my opinion, not sanitary procedure. The Hon. Minister of Health knows that in the United States of America they will send up a tray with some 50 needles and another tray with 50 fresh needles will follow after the first 50 needles have been used. It was thought that it would be a better idea for them to go to the homes of the several doctors concerned where the principle of sterilisation would be observed.

Innoculation without that process would be something that I would want for my child. The other Hon. Ministers would have sense enough to know this and would not like it for theirs. These people are in the unfortunate position that they are in; but they should not have this thrust upon them because of that. I hope that that will be brought to the notice of the Director of Health and Medical Services and see that it ceases.

If I go to a doctor, the doctor knows that I can also read cat. After a doctor has graduated he goes on reading and I can do the same. However, I challenge any Hon. Minister to get up and say tonight that he would allow his people, whether they are positive or not, to have a needle injected into them under such circumstances.

I suppose that the public can still see what we have done. I wish on behalf of the Vestry of St. Michael to continue to feed the people, the starving people. We have been feeding 600 people before the Hurricane; we shall continue to feed them.

We have had a Hurricane; you have some people who have suffered; you have got to understand the people of Barbados. Speaking by way of illustration, you had a man who had an aunt to whom he used to give a meal; but that man is suffering so now that he cannot afford to give that meal to his aunt.

Call upon your Director of Education. If I were in the Government I would fire a lot of people, because some of them woke up feeling that you had a

Hurricane four or five days after it was passed. Imagine! You had a Hurricane; on the following morning you find that there are some six hundred people in shelters; eight days after a man wrote down to the Commissioners of Health and told them that they would have to put toilets for the people; and eight more days after he told you that you have to put toilet paper. That is the kind of Director of Medical Services that we have.

10.50 p.m.

Eight days after the Storm he told me that I must get toilet paper and something about washing the churches out. It is no wonder that the Government is bankrupt of brains. That is the kind of thing with which you have to put up. You hear one official lamenting and the only thing which is annoying him is that he sees the unwashed and unwanted coming to him. He says this is not the place for them, get them out.

Mr. Chairman, that is as true as the gospel; it is as true as John 3:16. They are some people who were born small and raised aloft by certain circumstances, and because of that they have become so great that they feel that the lowly cannot come near to them. They are not like some of us who are easily approachable. Sir, I just like to know that I am able to help people. There are some people who look like me who cannot stand the unwashed and unwanted; they cannot mix with them. There are some people who do not know how to walk with Kings and not lose the common touch.

Mr. Chairman, it is pathetic to think that when you go to the Carrington's Village Girls' School you see four or six three-burner stoves, and the people who are in that centre are unable to use them. I am sure that Your Honour will agree with me when I say that if you had gone to that school you would be more willing to use the Domestic Science Class equipment to start your own cooking for the people than to come in here for \$200,000 just to give them corned beef and biscuits. If you had done that you would have spent less.

Finally, I contend that all along I offered you my co-operation. I take you on in public and you stand condemned. I am suggesting to the Hon. Minister of Social Services that you make every effort to get school children back into school. In my capacity as Churchwarden of St. Michael, I suggest to you strongly that you use the Princess Alice Playing Field, Friendship Playing Field, the Church House and the Church Village Girls' School which is vacant to house the people who are sheltering in the schools. There are several other places which I know can be used for that purpose.

Another one is the Children Goodwill League building. Do not let the children run about any longer. I am saying that every school in this parish should be opened for school on Monday next.

I offer to you the motor trucks of the Scavenging Department of St. Michael to aid in the removal of the people from the schools to those places which I have mentioned. Do not sit down and say that you are giving the homeless \$5 per week. Get the people back into their homes.

I understand that tents are coming to house the people. I am saying that if you put up tents at the Princess Alice Playing Field, they are not going to serve as well as if you erect a temporary shed.

Let me again say that your biggest headache tonight should be to get school children back into school by Monday; allowing them to stay out of school would be better for the people to go back in the

churches and the schools cleared for school than to allow the children to stay from school.

On the Sunday night after the Hurricane, I saw the priest of St. Mary's keeping service with the people sheltering in the Church boiling chocolate; there is nothing wrong with that: it is a gateway to heaven to do that; that is practical Christianity.

Opposite to that, I saw in a Church in Christ Church a woman who had eight children seeking refuge there. It was service time and the Minister was holding service with ten people in the choir stalls. One child of this woman started to run around during the keeping of service and the Sexton growled at it. I thought it was most unkind. The woman along with her eight children was put out of Church for the Minister to hold service for ten people. I told the Hon. Minister of Agriculture about the matter. If that sort of thing had happened in St. Michael, I would have caught that priest afire; that is why the people in St. Michael like me.

11.00 p.m.

I said to myself that I would have caught the Minister afire; I would have told him everything that was coming to him genealogically and otherwise; I would have reminded him of whence he came.

Mr. Acting Chairman, I feel that this is a matter in which we should pull our weight; it is a matter in which the condemnation against other Vestries is unwarranted. I feel that this is an occasion when the Ministers should have taken into their confidence every representative of the people whether he was a member of their Party or not.

I cannot imagine how Ministers of the Government can stand up for Party Politics in this catastrophe; they keep the knowledge of things from non-members of the Party; I say so, I feel so, and I know so.

Do you think that if you had called upon the hon. senior member for St. John that he would not have come in? There are times when you must drop all politics and work for the common good of the people of the community. Whatever you think of me I will still offer my co-operation; it is true that some of them would not want it at all. Some people are lost.

It is unfortunate for us that in a matter of this sort the Hon. Premier is indisposed; because, stubborn as he is, he is not a fool like some of the Ministers—by no stretch of the imagination. Although he might not accept suggestions publicly, he will work on them privately; but they are certain Ministers who, because of their ill-feeling, impoliteness and hardness of heart cannot rise above petty-politics. This is not the occasion on which to play politics at all.

Hon. M. E. COX: I shall begin by saying that I shall not in any way attempt to lower the dignity of this House by descending to the gutter-hole language which has been used by the hon. member who has just sat down. I have always heard that the best method of defence is to attack, and this is one time when I am going to prove to this House in no uncertain manner that the hon. member, realising the mistake he has made in not co-operating with the Government in the distribution of food and other things in this parish as other Churchwardens or Chairmen of the Hurricane Relief Committees in the various parishes have done, has made an attempt to justify himself in his unwillingness to co-operate.

What has happened? We all have the Hurricane Relief pamphlet which was issued since 1952. In that pamphlet the hon. member has said not long ago that

you will see that the Social Welfare Officer was in charge of this Organisation.

I am sure that the hon. senior member for the City could not show this House where it was agreed that the Social Welfare Officer should be in charge of this Organisation. I do not want to say one word more to-night.

The arrangements were that the Vestries of the various parishes would recommend to the Government the names of their various members whom they wanted to serve as members of the Hurricane Relief Committee. The Chairman of that Committee in the majority of cases is the Churchwarden. This is how it reads; I quote from the pamphlet of 1952 which sets out the duties of the various Committees.

"The Director of Agriculture is responsible for organising the food and fuel distribution throughout the island and to Government institutions where the breakdown of contact supplies occurs. The personnel of the Department of Science and Agriculture except Peasant Agricultural Instructors will proceed to the Department of Agriculture where the Director of Agriculture will be in administrative control.

"The distribution in the emergency stage is based on a two day ration for Parochial Authorities.

Protection will be provided for the food lorries and any food depots by the Police or Barbados Regiment.

Arrangements have been made for thirty lorries to operate under the food and fuel distribution organisation.

When the immediate task is completed each lorry will be available for the collection of any food supplies that may be landed at Seawell or dropped by air. The provisional dropping points are Combermere School grounds and the Savannah.

The Director of Agriculture will arrange with Parochial Committees the centres to which the food lorries will be sent.

In the event of a cautionary Signal being given it will be entirely at the discretion of the Director of Agriculture whether or not he will send out any supplies before the storm and he will notify Parochial Chairmen of his intentions."

11.10 p.m.

Before this Hurricane came on us, on the 7th of July, 1955, copies of a letter were sent to the several Chairmen of the Hurricane Relief Committees. The text of the letter is as follows:

Department of Science and Agriculture,
P.O. Box 505,

"Dear Sir,

I should be grateful if you would inform me as soon as possible whether, in the event of a cautionary warning being issued (1) you will be in a position to arrange to send immediately on request two motor lorries to this office to collect the agreed quota of essential food supplies, or (2) would you expect me to arrange for the necessary transport to the destination you specify?

(2) If you propose to send the necessary transport from your end, as was agreed would be the better arrangement, I would ask you to note the following points:—

(a) As soon as you receive the necessary Cautionary Warning, you should arrange for the necessary lorries to report to you immediately and then you should communicate with the officer-in-charge at this office and ask for directions as to whether the lorries should proceed at once to this office or stand by and await instructions. Telephone Nos. are 2413, 3623 and 2414.

It is appreciated that the weakness of this arrangement is that telephone communications may

break down; in that event you should despatch lorries forthwith to this office;

(b) You should arrange for two men to accompany each lorry as loaders;

(c) You should arrange for a Police Guard to accompany the lorries one on each if they are travelling separately.

(d) You should send a tarpaulin to cover the supplies.

(e) Blank Forms of Request for the proposed food supplies will be despatched to you in advance. You should issue a signed Form of Request to the person in charge of each lorry and instruct him to hand it on arrival, to the officer-in-charge at this office.

(f) The entrance to this office is in Crumpton Street.

I should be obliged if you would reply on the attached Form as early as possible and at the same time make such observations on these proposals as you may desire."

Yours faithfully,
C. C. SKEETE,
Director of Agriculture

The Chairmen,
Hurricane Relief Committees
All Parishes.

Mr. D. A. Wiles spoke to Mr. Inniss of the Department of Science and Agriculture who explained that Mr. Redman, Clerk to the Vestry stated that a reply to that letter had been sent. An exhaustive search was made at the Department of Science and Agriculture which revealed no trace of the reply. On the morning of the Hurricane Mr. H. O. Ramsay telephoned to the hon. member to ask where to send food; Mr. Inniss said that Mr. Mottley declared that Hurricane Relief was a matter for the Director of Agriculture and the Social Welfare Officer. He also suggested that Mr. Ramsay should get in touch with Mr. Redman. Mr. Ramsay attempted to get Mr. Redman on the phone and was told he was on holiday.

Now, a similar letter, Mr. Chairman, was sent by the Director of Education. As I pointed out earlier, in so far as the distribution of food is concerned, that responsibility rests upon the Director of Agriculture; and where shelter and clothing is concerned, that rests upon the Director of Education. Following is the text of the letter:—

Department of Education,
23rd June, 1955.

Re HURRICANE RELIEF ORGANISATION
(Shelter and Clothing)

Dear Sir,

I am proposing to write my Report on the Organisation in my Division during the first week of July and I am, therefore, asking you to let me have by the 7th of July, 1955, full details of the Food and Clothing Organisation in your parish."

Then he suggested the various shelters etc.

"In making your returns I should be grateful if you would set out your information as fully as possible. This will assist me in filing and collecting the details you have sent in. As in former years, I will arrange for mobile relief workers with cars to operate from Erdiston College; Mr. A. Roberts, a member of the College, will be in charge. I will also establish a central clothing department in Bridgetown, probably at Queen's College as in 1954.

"I shall be grateful if you will bear in mind the date mentioned in the first paragraph of this letter so that the information may reach me in good time in order to facilitate preparation of the Report for transmission to the Honourable the Chief Secretary.

E. C. M. THEOBALDS,
Acting Director of Education."

(Sent to the Clerks of the vestries in all parishes.)

Now, it is common knowledge that some of us have short memories. This is on the 28th of September, 1955:

"The Honourable Premier; (This is Mr. Theobalds' writing.)

"In accordance with instructions from the P.S.M.W. I enclose a copy of a circular sent to the Clerk of the Vestry of each parish inviting them to organise for a possible hurricane."

Replies were received from St. Andrew, St. John, St. George St. Joseph and St. Philip.
11.20 p.m.

I was saying not long ago that it has always been said by the honourable member who has just spoken that the memory of the people is very short, but it is not as short as he thinks it is. The honourable member tried to impress upon the House today that he was willing to co-operate with the Government but nobody called on him. He even went as far as to state that at a meeting held on Wednesday 28th to discuss the distribution of coupons we refused to call him because it was known that he was on the opposite side of the Government. He went on to say that a lot will be done although the Government is guilty of not bringing into its fold certain people who are not within its party but who have the necessary experience.

Now, this is the position: on the 7th July last, the Director of Agriculture wrote to the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committees and asked them to inform him as soon as possible in the event of a cautionary warning of what they would be able to do in the way of organisation for food supplies to be sent to centres. No reply was received from the parish of St. Michael; and on the 30th July, the Director wrote to the Churchwarden of St. Michael as Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee asking him for a reply to the letter of the 7th July.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Do not say that the Director of Agriculture wrote to me. I was never Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee. It the honourable member is saying that he wrote to the Churchwarden of St. Michael that is alright; I was never Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee.

If you look at the records of the Vestries you will find that all Churchwardens are not Chairmen of the Hurricane Relief Committees. I have always declined from serving in that capacity; and from the first meeting at which Mr. Barton, Miss Arne and other officials were present.

Hon. M. E. COX: He is now admitting that he declined from co-operating, but earlier he came in here and said that the Government refused to bring him in because he was of a different political party. He now says that he has always declined from serving on the Hurricane Relief Committee and will always do so as long as the Social Welfare Officer has anything to do with it.

I am saying that no reply was received from the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee for St. Michael; and as I have said, the Churchwarden of each parish is usually the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee for the particular parish.

As I pointed out the Director of Agriculture wrote to the honourable senior member for the City asking him as Chairman of the Hurricane

Relief Committee for St. Michael to give the letter of the 7th July, his earliest attention. As no reply was received from St. Michael, the Director of Agriculture reported it to the Acting Governor and on the following day as a result of telephone communications with the Clerk of St. Michael's Vestry from the Chief Secretary's office about the matter the Clerk of the St. Michael's Vestry said that the reply from St. Michael had been posted.

That reply was not received by the Director of Agriculture and the Department communicated with the Clerk of the Vestry who promised that he would forward a duplicate. He also added that as he was going on leave he would not be able to complete the reply form until he returned. At that time there were storms threatening the Caribbean area. Yet the honourable senior member made no attempt to get the Hurricane Relief Committee functioning.

This was the reply from the Clerk of the St. Michael's Vestry: "When I come back from my holiday, I will try and fix up some sort of reply." That gentleman is still on holiday. No reply had been received from that Body up to the 22nd of September when the cautionary warning was issued.

On the morning of the hurricane, the Office Superintendent of the Department of Agriculture, telephoned the honourable senior member for the City and spoke to him personally requesting information as to the shelters to which emergency food supplies should be sent. The honourable member referred the Office Superintendent to Mr. Redman. This Officer telephoned Mr. Redman's residence and the reply which he received was that Mr. Redman was on leave at the Crane. The Department of Agriculture has not since heard from the St. Michael Hurricane Relief Committee.

By the evening of the 22nd September, there were hundreds of homeless people congregated in churches, schools, etc. who had received no food. On Friday, relief work in St. Michael was carried on in a sort of *ad hoc* basis; and in order to bring some measures of relief to the parish, Mr. L. A. Chase and the Acting Social Welfare Officer, Mrs. Vaughan were asked to undertake the organisation of food distribution in the parish.

Mr. Chairman, anyone listening to the honourable member's statement, his harangue, his attacks, his abusive and his nasty expressions would believe that he made every possible effort to co-operate with the Government in seeing that the people of this parish and the City received food and the necessary supplies to be given to them during the Hurricane.

What does this reveal? It reveals the honourable member was running around at that late stage playing cheap politics and telling the people that the Government had done nothing to provide food for them but that he on his own had taken money out of his own pocket or out of the Vestry, without even the authority of the other members of the Vestry, and was helping them with food.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I never said any such thing. I just want to tell the honourable member that I never told anybody that I gave them something out of my pocket. I am unable to do that; I am not like him.

Hon. M. E. COX: What has the honourable member said? He comes into this House today, he does not know what was said earlier, and straight off hand he accuses me of saying that these Vestries were not co-operating. I never said such a thing.

I was accused of playing politics by the honourable junior member for the City. I objected to the

statement made about my playing politics and went on to say that if it were so, the Parochial Authorities would never be in charge of the Hurricane Relief Organisation because I knew, personally speaking that they were diametrically opposed to the labour Government.

Of course, the honourable senior member for the City is in an area where people congregate around his office receive certain information, and then go before the courts and swear that such and such a thing took place at such place and date although not being present when the incident occurred. That is an area which is noted for that kind of thing.

The honourable member comes in here with his readiness and eagerness to vent the spleen and phlegm which can only emanate from a diseased stomach on people the latchet of whose shoes he is unworthy of unloosing.

This is the letter which was sent to the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee for the parish of St. Michael. It reads as follows —

The Churchwarden,
Parish of St. Michael.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to previous correspondence particularly from the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Education seeking your co-operation in respect of hurricane relief to be administered by the Hurricane Relief Organisation set up by the Government. In other parishes the Organisation has been able to work through the several parochial Hurricane Relief Committees and this arrangement has saved unnecessary duplication of effort and supplies. As it is understood that you are offering relief to persons who have been rendered in need by the hurricane, I am to ask if in the interests of all concerned you would be willing, in the difficult circumstances that face the Island, to work under the aegis of the Hurricane Relief Organisation which is the official body through which Government supplies and those obtained from the Red Cross and other Governments are being distributed.

I am, etc.,

11.30 p.m.

Is there any truth in what is said that we are saying he is giving women too many dresses, and children shoes and things of that sort? None whatsoever; but the honourable member comes in at a late hour and tries to mislead this House and the public in general that we were criticising his helping poor people at this crucial moment.

What is the position? The position is that soon after the Hurricane passed us, I got around as far as I possibly could to see the conditions existing in the parish. I am afraid that I was not able to visit any of the other parishes at the time, but I can assure the Committee that I have visited all the parishes with the exception of St. Peter and St. Lucy in which very little, if any damage was done. In St. Lucy six houses were damaged, five of which were rehabilitated by the weekend although the members for that parish were asking for rations for 1,000.

On my investigation at these centres, I found that there was absolutely no food or provision for food. I immediately got in touch with the Acting Chief Secretary, and reported the matter, and I said that if I had to pay for it I would see that at least some of the people got food even if it took me until 12 o'clock. I roused some shopkeepers and I carried some rations to five of these centres; I ended up at two o'clock in the Methodist Church in My Lords

Hill. I left St. Barnabas at 12.30 and I am surprised to hear that the honourable member went to that Church after.

In addition to that, the Acting Governor and the Chief Secretary were responsible for the distribution of food to the various centres for the people. As I have said before, that did not come under the authority of any Minister. They went around and got Mr. King of Alleyne, Arthur & Co. to open his store and they had 48 cases of corned beef; I got the Biscuit Factory to open their premises and took a quantity of cartons of biscuits to the villages and tried to distribute them as far as they could go. I heard that the honourable senior member for the City had not long passed by and distributed something there and went to other places; but there were still many shelters in which people were housed and for whom no provision was made so far as rations were concerned.

In the course of a debate in this House the honourable senior member for the City said that he was not prepared to co-operate, that he was not prepared to sit on any Committee with any South African bump.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: On a point of Order. The honourable member knows that he is a stranger to the truth when he said that.

Hon. M. E. COX: The records will show that I am right.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The honourable member has said that I was not prepared to co-operate; did he not say so? I objected to that because it is not true.

Hon. M. E. COX: That is there in the records of the Debates in this House, if the honourable member does not get it cut out. He said that he was not prepared to co-operate.

11.40 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: That is a lie; I never said that I was not going to co-operate.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am accustomed to abuse. I thrive on abuse. If a man knew better he would be better. Cheap words are easy to find anywhere; in a garbage can, for instance; but for pleasant words you have to seek for them somewhere else.

The honourable senior member for the City has said on the floor of this House that he is not working with any South African bump and that, in his opinion, the Churchwarden, under some law, can do as he likes. He can spend as he cares and neither the Government nor anybody else can do him anything. Those were his remarks on the 24th of September.

Anyone listening to him saying how his heart bleeds at the sight of the condition of the people in the Park and of the rotten red herrings and the stale bread etc., anybody who heard these things would believe that this gentleman started out with a soft heart for his 'poor unfortunate brethren' as he says, while the Government did nothing. I am here to refute all these misstatements.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if you remember, I think I am correct in saying that the two honourable members for St. John in their criticism said that the Hurricane Relief Committees had let down the Government. I think I paid special tribute to the St. George's people, even though I know that some member or members may be a potential candidate. I said they did a good job and then I pointed out what action the Government should have taken; but I also said: "so far as the housing is concerned."

I said, on the St. John affair: "I went there myself and I dispatched a 'flying squad' for that parish." At no time did I give the impression that those people did not co-operate. I did say that the Parochial Authorities were not favourably disposed to this kind of thing.

The honourable senior member for the City said that the Acting Governor told him he had been doing a good job but that the whole difficulty was that people were working for personal recognition by Her Majesty the Queen; M.B.E. and O.B.E. and he went on further—

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, did the Hon. Minister say that the Hon. Mr. Turner said so? I said I told the Acting Governor that they were lots of people who were working for recognition from Her Majesty but were not actually working for the people; not that the Acting Governor said so.

Hon. M. E. COX: The hon. member further said, "Two years ago I wrote and told them that I would not serve as a member of the Hurricane Relief Committee as long as Miss Arne was on it."

This Hurricane took place on the 22nd September; where was Miss Arne then? She was in England. This was only an excuse to give the hon. member an opportunity to carry out his reckless expenditure of the funds of the taxpayers of St. Michael. Tell me, what was Miss Arne to do with it? Miss Arne was in England, I repeat.

The Hurricane came down on us and he "the responsible individual", to use his own words, instead of dropping all differences and working for the good of those starving people in Cats Castle, played politics. The Government's Organisation was geared to meet the Emergency with machinery ready for work and there he was, refusing to accept the Government's machinery and running on his own. Now he wants to make people believe that the Government did not co-operate, but that he alone went to the help of all these starving people.

Of course he remained with his family first. I believe I heard him say he was summoned on one occasion; then I heard him also say he got a letter from the Chief Secretary.

Now what really happened was that after this system failed to function, the Director of Agriculture had a meeting with the Executive Committee and explained that every parish with the exception of Christ Church (the Churchwarden being a bit on the sick side) and St. Michael had been functioning. It was then suggested to me to try and select someone to see after feeding the people in the Metropolitan parish.

I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that though they were no telephones my Permanent Secretary did his best. This gentleman agreed to see if he could get someone immediately and we got Mr. Chase and Mrs. Vaughan.

I want to pay special tribute to those people who at that moment, came forward and immediately started the distribution to the people in the parish. By Saturday evening when I again went the rounds, although the supplies were not adequate, some rations had reached all the centres.

11.50 p.m.

Now, Sir, I know that supplies were mainly corned beef and biscuits, and of course, that is expected in circumstances such as this for the immediate moment. [A VOICE: What about Ju-C's?] We gave some people rum; that was part of the ration at the centres on the night of the Hurricane.

As I was saying on the following Sunday, I went to the Director of Agriculture and told him that it was no good distributing a lot of corned beef and biscuits because the distribution could not be efficiently carried out. I pointed out that it was likely that the strong would deprive the weak thereby causing many to remain hungry. I suggested there and then to send rice, pickled meat, salted fish, edible oil, and so on to the various shelters where the people would be able to cook their own food, because people

could not exist many days on corned beef and biscuits. A hot lunch was far more satisfactory.

I also visited the St. Michael's Girls School where the people there had no utensils in which to cook. I had to take it upon myself to get utensils for them. It is an easy thing for a tailor to measure every individual by his own yardstick.

Sir, I have also carried supplies to the St. Matthew's School. The teachers there told me they were there all the time and nothing was sent to that centre until the Sunday. The hon. member was putting people in the awkward position of queuing up in Queen's Park to get a little soup in order that he may be able to show off.

Someone told me that he went to the Park and wasted a day in a line to get a half pint of soup which contained two bits of salted meat as big as whole peas, and when he searched the bottom all that he found was two small dumplings. The hon. member talks about playing politics. What else is that but playing politics?

Sir, I was not prepared to say what I am saying to-night; I was prepared to leave this out for another occasion when I would have the opportunity of addressing tens of thousands of people to explain to them the truth of things; but inasmuch as the hon. member has chosen this occasion to say what he did, I take this opportunity to say it.

The Government worked on the suggestion of Mr. Hunte after he was put in charge of the emergency food supplies. The Government agreed that ration coupons should be distributed throughout the island to the homeless who would be able to carry them to the shops in their districts to get the goods which they wanted.

In Christ Church the system was adopted where every head of the home assembled on the site where his house was destroyed in order to get his ration coupons, and it was done in order to get some sort of accuracy of the statistics of the damage done by the Hurricane. Coupons were sent to the various Hurricane Relief Committees of the parishes to be distributed at the particular centres and areas where the people lived.

What is the position in St. Michael so far as the distribution of these coupons? There are thousands of people who are homeless in St. Michael and everybody, the blind, the lame and the halt were asked to come down at the Parochial Building to get their ration cards. When they congregated there, loudspeakers were installed and there you heard the Tammany Hall politician barking: "Mary Jane, so and so." The result was that thousands of people who went there on Saturday went back home without even seeing the man who was keeping all that noise, let alone getting a ration card.

Sir, should you ask a man from the end of Lears (near Exchange) to come down to the Parochial Buildings? You have asked a man from the end of Cave Hill and from the Lodge which is near to Husbands in St. James to come down to the Parochial Buildings. You also asked a man from the Flagstaff Road to come down to the Parochial Buildings. When they all got down there, they then heard that they must bring a letter from some responsible person. If that is not playing politics, what is it? That was not the intention of the Government.

At some time subsequent to now, I will say what I have to say about what I think of the set-up in the parish of St. Michael. I was told by Mr. Hunte that he had this thing so well organised, that all it needed was for the people to remain at the centres in their respective area to receive these ration cards. I am sure that if that were done in St. Michael,

everybody would be served on Saturday last. St. James and St. Lucy (which is considered as a backward parish) did it and everybody got served. In all the other parishes where that system was carried out all the people got served.

12.01 a.m.

All the places did it, but not in St. Michael; the result was that they worked an alphabetical system and I understand that they got as far as "D".

I saw quite a number of people and I almost shed a tear when I saw some old women whose feet were swollen, decrepit people the halt and the blind, go to this place only to discover that they had wasted a day.

There were people who remained at home and got nothing. I was told by people that if they did not take letters to the Churchwarden they would not receive ration cards, yet we were told that the statistics they had were better than those of the Police.

I ask any intelligent person; what is that? If the honourable member had co-operated in the first instance the Hurricane Relief Committee would have functioned just like the others in the various parishes. But he failed to do so. He runs on his own and makes people believe that he is very generous, kind-hearted and sympathetic towards the people; but he bluntly refused to distribute what the Government had in store for the people from sometime before the hurricane.

I have been informed that up to Tuesday the Churchwarden had only reached "J" in the alphabet. Is that not a disgrace and a glaring display of cheap politics?

I went to one or two centres on Friday night and I was told by a schoolmaster who is a warden at one of these centres, that he had the names of the people of the area who were rendered homeless, and I have given instructions for their assistance. I went to one or two other places and the same thing happened. I do not think I have had two hours' rest since the hurricane; I have visited all places to see what the hurricane has done, and I have touched as many centres as I could in order to see how the people are faring. [A MEMBER: Did you go to St. Peter?] There was nothing wrong in St. Peter.

I have said that the places where people should be taken for help should be the centres in the various villages. These people could not see the rich political man of the hour; they could not see the man of the big six. They did not see the man who says: "If you do something for me I will do something for you. Let everything pass through my hands and go along."

Nothing could be more disgraceful than to make people come down to Bridgetown and then send them back home in the afternoon without a scrap of anything; nothing could be more disgraceful for so many people who wanted to get home in order to see whether anybody had removed their galvanised sheets and things of that sort. These people were waiting in the sun when other people were speaking over a microphone. That is the position as it exists now. And the honourable member accused the Government on the last occasion of mismanagement and that sort of thing.

In the circumstances, he failed to co-operate and failed to carry out what was normally his function as has been laid down since 1952 in the booklet of the Hurricane Relief Organisation; that hurts me morning, noon and night. Anything that I have to say about the honourable member is gospel truth and I take care not to say anything which is not true.

I should like to take this opportunity to reply to a statement made by the honourable senior member for St. John about my having stopped the advancement of loans to people under the Labour Welfare Housing Scheme. I am sorry the honourable member made that statement; he is attempting to defend the behaviour of one of his recent so called bed-fellows.

Mr. ALLDER: I would hate to have to clash with the Minister of Communications; but if he is willing to have it, like the senior member for the City I can always defend myself.

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: On what occasion has the honourable member risen? You must raise a specific issue.

Mr. ALLDER: The Hon. Minister started off to accuse me of defending somebody.

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: I am asking the honourable member on what occasion has he risen?

Mr. ALLDER: I have risen on a point of Order similar to what I have risen on a few occasions.

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: Well, the honourable member must state that.

Mr. ALLDER: I presume the honourable member is speaking of those who sold houses through the Labour Welfare Department.

Hon. M. E. COX: The honourable member is making a speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister has not finished speaking.

Mr. ALLDER: Neither am I finished speaking.

Mr. ACTING CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is out of Order.

Mr. ALLDER: I am not out of order. The honourable member has charged me with associating with people who have sold houses through the Labour Welfare Department which I am not doing. I will rise to make objections to any statement made by the honourable member whenever I see it is necessary to do so. This is one occasion when I think it is necessary to do so.
12.10 a.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: I will tell you what happened. Some time ago it became necessary for me (I am going to speak with a very loud voice tonight) to suggest that the then Manager of the Labour Welfare (Housing Loans) Organisation should be asked to withdraw from the Aided Self Help Housing Organisation. I did so, Mr. Chairman, on receiving certain reports, and with a thorough knowledge of the fact that the individual was not friendly disposed to the policy of Aided Self Help Housing. I will say no more on that because I believe that at some future date there may be a debate on the question and I may have to revert to my assertions.

The honourable member came in here and without knowing the reason accused me of disposing of the services of an officer because that officer was not for political reasons on my side. I do not know whether the man had a political belief at all.

Mr. ALLDER: Rising on a point of explanation Mr. Chairman, I should like the Hon. Minister to state clearly whether he is making these charges against me or not. Nobody can understand what he is saying. He should be more specific as he is accusing some honourable member (I presume he means me) of charging him with the disposal of somebody's services.

Hon. M. E. COX: I felt that inasmuch as the officer was still in office, it would be far better to desist from any debate on that subject. The honourable member also referred to my advancing loans to per-

sons working in the Sugar Industry and he supports the principle of the organisation dealing with these house speculators. Well, I should like to say that it was not until it was drawn to my attention that people—As a matter of fact the whole system in my opinion is wrong.

There was a system of which I was ignorant; a system of which house speculators would go to plantation owners get them to agree to call up Messrs. A. & B who would say: "Yes I can put you on to John Jones; he would like a house." These speculators got forms and carried them in to the Manager of the Housing Loans, and they used to carry out large sums of money from this Department. In addition to that some persons who had not been qualified under the Labour Welfare Organisation were given loans.

That resulted in a state of criticism and some people openly came to me and said: "You would not assist me in getting a loan; but such and such a person has got a loan and he does not work in agriculture." That caused me to investigate and I found out that any people had got loans that should not have had them.

I referred to a particular case; a case where apparently, a man went to one of these house speculators to get a house. This house was for something like \$2,000; the house speculator apparently went to the Housing Loans Organisation with the individual's name, drew \$3,000 from the Organisation and went his way. The individual then offered this man a house which was much smaller than that agreed on when the transactions were first opened, and the person entitled to it refused to accept this small house for that money.

As I said before, I will give the details at a later stage. The aggrieved person went to the Organisation and reported the matter and the matter was in turn referred back to me. It was revealed that the house speculator tried to impress the Acting Manager even in the letter which came to me, that this man had given him \$500 which was 25%.

As you know in this Labour Welfare Organisation you have to advance 25% of the total value in order to get the loan. This individual claimed that this man had given \$500 but the man said that he never gave a cent.
12.20 a.m.

I investigated the matter as well as I could, and I found that they were more irregularities; and as a result, I issued instructions to cease any further transactions with those house speculators. Mr. Chairman, I may say that I was surprised to learn of that system where house speculators could go into the office of the Housing Loan Organisation and get money for persons whose names they carried in at the expense of the other people who might not have known of the existence of some of these speculators, or who might be willing to erect their own houses through their own carpenters.

I will say I know that I will be attacked always by gutter-hole people and people who are higher up, but whenever I see anything crooked or irregular I will put my feet down on it. Wherever it shows its ugly head, I am going to put my feet down on it.

Let me say that the money given by the British taxpayers to the sugar workers of this island was not intended to fatten a bunch of house speculators or the rogues who live as parasites on these poor working class people. That money is given to better the condition of those people who have borne the brunt of the burden of the day, who are the most despised, and who are looked upon by others as nothing.

Here it is, you are getting some sweet skinned buckies going around and saying: "We will build a house for you," and in so doing, living sweet off those people. Sir, as long as I hold this portfolio it is not going to happen.

I have just had a report of a case where one of those house speculators was selling a poor unfortunate individual a second-hand house for a new one. As soon as I took up this portfolio, I had the regulations amended so that the amount loaned for the repairs of those houses be increased from \$480 to \$600, and the maximum loan be increased from \$1,440 to \$1,600, and that it must be a condition precedent that all persons who are coming forward for loans must attach a toilet to the house which they propose to repair or erect. In other words, the person must borrow sufficient money to provide for a pit latrine.

As I have said, I had a report where one of those very house speculators sold a second-hand house for a new one and in addition to that drew the money. That was the type of thing with which you were faced. I am not saying that house speculators cannot build houses and sell them, but this is what I am saying and the honourable senior member for St. John can change it when he gets in my place: a sugar worker can go to a house speculator and arrange for a house, but when the worker arranges for that house he, himself, must go over to the Labour Welfare Organisation and report the matter to the person in charge who must go and see to it that that worker is getting value for his hard-earned money. [A VOICE: That was always done.] That is not so.

The inspector must see to it that the individual worker is getting value for his money. As soon as that is done, well, then the worker can report back to the organisation where he can pay down his 25% and the organisation will advance the other 75% on the purchase of the house.

Mr. Chairman, I must apologise for speaking at such great length; but when an accusation such as the one made by the honourable senior member for St. John is levelled against me. I am prepared to defend myself and appeal to members of this House.

Of course, I do know that with some members I would be wasting time; but even if that is so, I can appeal to the good sense of the electorate who look upon those house speculators with disdain.

Let me say again, Mr. Chairman, that I was glad when that case was reported to me so that I could take action. I am sure that any honest individual will agree that my action was the right one. I will just appeal to the honourable senior member for St. John to take heed before he flies off and accepts the point of view of somebody who is just giving him information for the purpose of attacking us. I will not say as much as I can say on that matter but I would like it put on record that the setup was an undesirable one.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister of Housing has said quite a lot; he has licked his tongue from one corner of his mouth to the other and has let his venom upon all and sundry. That is what I would like to tell the Hon. Minister. The reason why I rose—

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I object to the word "venom". Of course, the honourable member does not know the meaning of that, so he can proceed.

12.30 a.m.

Mr. ALLDER: The reason why I rose is in respect of the question of suspension of the purchasing of houses by workers from house speculators through the Labour Welfare Department. The reason why that was taking place, was because some of the workers who were renting from other persons

called for such houses and as a result the worker was inconvenienced by having to move. Because he was renting he never at any time had sufficient money to build his own home. As a result, the suspension of such transaction caused people great difficulty.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: On a point of Order. As regards the speech which the hon. member is now making, is that relative to the matter which is now before the Committee?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is relative in this respect that the Hon. Minister mentioned the particular issue in connection with housing during his speech, and the hon. member is now making his explanation. He is quite in order.

Mr. ALLDER: When it comes to a question of housing people, you cannot avoid referring to those whose business it is to sell houses or the material for building houses. The remedy for what has taken place in respect of this business is not to stop the trade in such houses, because these houses are wanted.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of explanation. I have not stopped any trade in housing. I said that the potential owner has to go to the Board, make all the arrangements and get somebody to visit the house. If the person who visits the house is satisfied that the worker is getting the value for his money, then the potential owner will get a loan. The speculator must not go to the Board, draw the money and then give the worker a 2 x 4 house.

Mr. ALLDER: I hope that what the Hon. Minister has said is correct, because for months now I have had lots of information with regard to this matter from several people.

I think I am correct in saying that such transactions were totally suspended on the order of the Minister of Housing. I repeat: I hope that what the Minister has said is correct; that is to say, that a contractor can still build houses, but they will have to be inspected before the money is paid out for them. That is exactly what used to be done; but the suggestion seems to have been made that employees of a Department which the hon. member controls are condoning questionable transactions.

If what the Hon. Minister is saying is correct, if it is true that he is aware that the people who bought houses were being robbed, and if those who are in charge of the Department admitted it, I would like to know why the hon. member has not yet taken any action against such employees.

I have had great difficulty in trying to point out to people who wanted loans the ways and means to get them; and in my opinion the Regulations were too tight rather than being loose as the hon. member was trying to imply. I was trying to question the willingness or unwillingness of the Government to assist people in the re-housing, but I tried to avoid the issue with the hon. member for various reasons.

If the Hon. Minister has all this information, why does he not make a statement about this matter? I would back him in this respect.

I know of cases in which people have been put back for many months in this matter of loans. I made a statement earlier relative to the present suspension of loans to workers whose houses have been damaged, and I was hoping that the Hon. Minister would have cleared that up too. It has been said that no money was to be paid out to persons whose houses were damaged, and unless a statement in this connection is made, the public will continue to be confused; and hon. members will be forced to accept information and statements from quarters which appear to be willing to pass them on.

It is known that one cannot get any information from a Minister unless he makes some charge on the floor of this House; he will not know anything about the particular matter unless he makes some noise about it. But it is not always the willingness on the part of hon. members to start any noise.

12.40 a.m.

I would repeat that where there is ignorance there is always confusion. I do not know what the honourable member is referring to when he claims that I made the charge of his having disposed of the services of somebody or the other. [Hon. M. E. COX: I will show you]. Nor do I know about speculators being able to carry names and get loans.

Now, there is a charge against the Manager, but the Manager continues to remain as the Head of the Department; and the Hon. Minister does nothing at all about. The Manager should be suspended. [Hon. M. E. COX: He retired.]

The honourable senior member for St. Thomas knows that he was able to use that department considerably. [Hon. M. E. COX: What do you bring him in it for?] The Manager who has since retired was a Manager who rendered yeoman service not only to this Government but this island. [VOICES: Hear! Hear!] You must have heard, Mr. Chairman, his praises being sung. [A VOICE: All that glitters is not gold.]

There was a time when the Government appeared to be so generous to him that some honourable members of this Chamber wanted to become critical. I, however, know that he had accelerated the scheme for housing people in this colony. [Hon. M. E. COX: Talk about what you know and leave out the rest.] I would also suggest to the Hon. Minister that the ultimate aim of that department (and it should be the ultimate aim of Government's policy) should be to have the people rehoused irrespective of how they are rehoused, so long as they get value for their money; and do not make it so difficult for them to get loans.

I would like to appeal to the Hon. Minister now to state why at a time like this, when many peoples' houses are damaged, the order should be given to the present Manager not to give out any further loans during this period.

The Hon. Minister seems not to be listening; I was saying that I should like the Hon. Minister to explain why the advancing of loans has been suspended.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will be brief. As regards the Hon. Minister, I can only liken him to something anonymous, considering the tirade which he went through just now. In his usual pig-like fashion he rode in mud and mire, and he tried to create the impression that he alone is the only next best person to be heard.

I want to comment on one single point which he raised; the others I just smile at, because I can say with the same assurance what he can say: "whatever happens I can always be in the hands of the people." If he can vent his spleen upon the Chief Secretary or even upon Mr. Hunte, I happen to be among those upon whom he cannot vent it.

As regards the point which the hon. member made about the distribution of cards for the Government, I will say this: the Hon. Minister said that these cards should have been out, and charged that I was keeping them back. The Government, on Saturday last about 2 o'clock sent me about 3,200 cards with the addresses of persons who had lost their homes in this parish.

For the benefit of the Hon. Minister I will say that after being asked to assist in it, I found that

what actually happened in St. Philip was likely to happen in St. Michael. I found after sitting on a Committee — Mr. Hunte was also on the Committee — that the information which they had was somewhat contrary to the information which we had from the Sanitary Department through the district nurses who had brought in the information. The cards were addressed in a similar manner; alias Sonny, alias Joe, F. E. C. Bethell etc.

I asked one question: is it the Government's intention to distribute cards to Mr. Bethell and people who lost their houses? I also asked if it was also the intention of the Government to distribute cards to landlords who had houses rented out. Later in the day I got an answer "No"; that was not the intention of the Government, and I declared that the best system was to peruse them.

Apparently the Government had gone and got information regarding the ownership of houses; that information was put on cards which they asked me to distribute. But in the interest of all concerned, we discovered that by the third night after the Hurricane the shelters were crowded with people and in some of these shelters we discovered that 50% of the people had not actually suffered damage to property but had taken refuge because they were afraid.

12.50 a.m.

It therefore seems not proper to have them sent to the shelter; and the reason why, was because the names taken at the shelter were of those of some people who had lost nothing but who had only gone there for safety.

It is a matter of indifference to me if the hon. member thinks that I have done what I have done for political kudos. What political prestige I have, I have built up on my own. I am repeating that half of the names which were given were people who were not qualified to receive rations. The Police and the Teachers on the school centres took the names of the persons who went to those shelters for refuge. Those names were given to us, and it seems that some Government authority has written the cards sent to us from those names which were taken at the centres; and I discussed with Mr. Hunte the advisability of sending those cards to the centres.

I felt that this was for people who had actually suffered. Hence, when the Hon. Minister makes the stupid accusation about people having to get letters, I would like him to understand that there is no question of favouritism at all where I am concerned; we have discovered that crowds of people who went to shelters and whose names were written on the cards, only went there to take refuge.

If the Hon. Minister of Communications would like to dish out \$5,000 to persons who are not entitled, that is all well. All that we are asking is that some responsible person in the district who knows that your house was damaged or blown down by the Hurricane should give you a letter of recommendation to prove that you are entitled to this ration of \$5 a week.

If the Hon. Minister thinks that these people are just called to the Parochial Buildings by me purely for political kudos he is a mistaken man. Let me say that the Parochial staff which is comprised of assessors and sanitary inspectors, has discovered that a number of well-to-do people who are owners of houses which are insured against hurricane have been coming for a ration card. **Would the Government say** that it is its intention to give those people ration cards?

As far as I am concerned, I think it would be infinitely better for the Government to undertake the

distribution of those cards, because I would be able then to get on the floor of the House and point out the wrong set of people to whom Government is distributing those cards.

Sir, there are a number of people in centres who can go back to their homes. People come to me and say: "My house has been removed from the props," and such things as that, and then ask what compensation they can get from the Government for that. I try to dissuade them from claiming anything in such circumstances.

I say again, that as far as I am concerned, I would very much prefer if the Government makes its own distribution. I told Mr. Kenneth Hunte that it would be better if Government distributes these ration cards, because whenever you are finished, you will get the statement that you did not give them to whom they were intended. I therefore asked him to give me in black and white the persons they wanted to give this relief to, whether they wanted to give to those persons who rented homes which were damaged, or whether they wanted to give to those people who had houses to rent out and which were damaged.

I wanted it made clear if the owners of houses which were covered by insurance for hurricane should also benefit. I was told that I would get the reply to that, and I received a letter in the afternoon stating that it was not the desire of the Government to give to those people who were covered by insurance.

In passing let me say that the Parochial staff worked through the night and all through Sunday to give the people the ration cards. That is unlike the Government's employees. The ration cards were put in our hands at 2 o'clock on Saturday, and with no notice in the Press to tell the people what to do.

As regards the statement made by the Hon. Minister of Housing that I made people come down to me for the cards, let me say that from the Friday after the Hurricane people were coming to the Parochial Building and were receiving a sort of card to get a meal in Queen's Park.

It is not practical in St. Michael to have a set-up as you have in St. Philip and Christ Church for the distribution of these rations. In those parishes there are fewer people and again the storm affected a particular area. In St. Michael you have a range of houses in which several families live in small rooms, and we found it difficult to apply the Christ Church system of distribution to St. Michael. The Hon. Minister also talked about my bringing people from one end of the parish to the Parochial Building. Does he realise that the people from the Pine Estate Housing Scheme are living in the Ministerial buildings at Bay Street? Those are the people who come to the Parochial Buildings.

1.00 a.m.

I have gone to centres at Queen's Park, St. Mary's and Buxton; and people's names were written on cards and we tried to go through all of them so as to avoid persons who were not entitled from drawing anything. After the first day the number of people who actually tried to get something, but who had lost nothing was amazing.

There is one further point I would like to make, and it is this: The Hon. Minister read from a book which was prepared sometime in 1952 and he said that the Social Welfare Department had nothing to do with the administration of hurricane Relief. He has not yet denied the statement I made as to the Assistant-Secretary and the Social Welfare Officer; and I asked who was the author of that book.

The Hon. Minister read a letter which I was supposed to have got, but he seemed very reluctant to

read the last part of that letter. I have a copy of that letter and at the appropriate time and place I will read it. Anything I do for the parish is said to be used for political reasons; but in public life one always does things for political reasons.

When the honourable member said that he went to schools on the day of the Hurricane, he seemed to have made the statement that it appeared to him that I had not gone there. I want to say that it is my duty to give relief in any acute stage. I mentioned on the floor of the House that I found that the honourable member had carried salmon and biscuits to St. Barnabas School. I went on to say that that was a good idea, and I make no apology for what I have said.

I disagreed with the members of the Hurricane Relief Committee because I put forward suggestions which were not accepted. I was asked whether I would work under the aegis of the organisation and I did not agree with the way in which they were starting.

The Minister said that on Friday morning he got hold of Mr. Chase and asked him to take care of the parish of St. Michael. I am not a member of the Hon. Minister's Party; he knew that I had started to give relief to people. When the honourable member went out of the way to get hold of Mr. Chase, he knew that I was willing to assist.

The honourable member says that whatever statement he made to the Board could be borne out; he knew that I was Churchwarden, if he wanted co-operation, I was there to give it. Nobody was willing to ask any of the Ministers to give assistance to those who are not of their Party. I repeat: I was pleased to see that the Minister of Communications had taken something for the relief of people on the very night of the Hurricane. He knew on Thursday night what was happening when he went around, because everybody was trying his best to relieve this situation.

Hon. M. E. COX: I knew nothing of the honourable member's activities on Thursday night. It was only the next morning that the Acting Governor mentioned it. I knew nothing at all about it.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: He was told that I had gone around to the schools and had already left. There were people sitting in this House when he said he was told that I had already gone around and left when he visited the centres.

1.10 a.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: When I went to St. Barnabas Church, St. Barnabas School, Public Works Department, Department of Highways & Transport, nobody was around there. Up to 2 o'clock I was supplying the last man in Nelson Street. It was only when His Excellency the Acting Governor informed us on the following day that I knew that the hon. member had gone anywhere.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister knew that I had got Mr. H. O. Emtage to open on that Thursday afternoon; and when the Hon. Minister went to the school he must have known that I had got kerosene oil and lanterns at that school. Any way, that is beside the point.

The hon. member said he knew only at 9 o'clock the next day. May I put it this way: if the Hon. Minister knew at 9 o'clock the next day, what had been my attitude on Thursday night? You had a storm on the Thursday and on Thursday night it was drawn to the attention of no less a person than the Acting Governor. What is the attitude of the hon. member? Should he not have got in touch with the Churchwarden; or see to it that the Churchwarden should get in touch with the senior member for St. Michael?

But no; his attitude was: get in touch with Mr. L. A. Chase.

Say whatever you like whenever you are finished, one fact remains, and that is that it was drawn to your attention on Thursday night that the Churchwarden of St. Michael had delivered rations to the schools. Call it what you like; but I repeat that the Hon. Minister knew that before 9 o'clock the next day when the Governor-in-Executive Committee met.

The attitude of the Hon. Minister also should have been this: "It doesn't matter whether I like the Churchwarden or not; this is a calamity; let me get in touch with his office or let him get in touch with the Ministry." I realise I have to work for my living; and instead of the Minister doing that, I am asked to come to the Chief Secretary's Office one day to discuss something relative to rationing.

I sit down to discuss the matter; the Hon. Minister sees me there, and comes to the conclusion that the Churchwarden has gone there to complain.

If I were in his position as Minister with my greatest enemy being the Churchwarden of St. Michael, and the country has been faced with something as serious as a Hurricane, do you think that I could not rise above that? [A VOICE: Above what?] But his mind being too small, he decides to get Mr. Chase and to get Mrs. Vaughan.

I do not object to his getting anybody. However, I went ahead distributing, seeing that the wrong approach was being made by the Government; and though it has been said that I gave them pills and cockroaches, I know that the people's bellies were still full.

I just rose to make that point plain. However, the point which I should like to have cleared up has not been done in spite of the hon. member reading his letters. The Hon. Minister for instance, has not denied for one moment the fact that in 1952 all the Vestries were responsible for Hurricane Relief.

Anybody listening to those letters and regulations as to what should be done in case we have a Hurricane, will as once realise that there is no time for any of that nonsense in case of a Hurricane. I should like him to remember that at many of these stations to which people were expected to report, there was no responsible person there. One man took four hours to get to his station and when he got there, not one officer was there.

After all, you had a Hurricane and the first thing you had to do was to get out. After you got out, the next thing was to get communications by road. When the Hurricane was over, whatever I could do, I did in order to help my people. This time I consider that even if I have not served the Government, I have served the people.

It was fairly obvious when the Hon. Minister says that the Hon. Mr. Turner told them on the morning following: "Well, I went out and saw that the Churchwarden has gone around to some of the places in St. Michael",—it is clear that the Churchwarden was not impudent or lazy. The Hon. Mr. Turner did he say he saw the Churchwarden going around the City? He said he saw the Churchwarden going around in St. Michael [A VOICE: You are a Vestryman and Churchwarden].

1.20 a.m.

What is the next step which the Hon. Minister took after he found that the Churchwarden had acted in an emergency? The Hon. Minister says this: "The Hon. Mr. Turner came down, got in touch with Mr.

Bob King of Alleyne Arthur's, got some supplies and went out.

1.20 p.m.

I am not the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Organisation; Mr. Skeete is running the Relief Organisation. I did not find Mr. Skeete. As a matter of fact, I did not want to go to anybody in a crisis like this.

As I have said already, as Churchwarden for St. Michael, I got hold of Mr. H. O. Emtage and got kerosene oil, milk, sugar and biscuits from his store, and got some bread from Messrs. Johnson & Redman to distribute to those who were in the shelters in St. Michael. I would not say in all the shelters.

I started off with those who were in the schools and churches; but strange enough, next door to me there were people seeking shelter in a Non-Conformist church and I did not know anything of it. There were people in small places which we did not take into account. I found out the next morning that in small places like the Pilgrim Holiness Churches and King's Chapel there were people sheltering.

Now, sir, whose duty was it to get in touch with the Churchwarden of St. Michael at the acute stage of this crisis? Was it not the duty of the Ministry to get in touch with the Churchwarden of St. Michael?

I am Churchwarden for St. Michael. At three o'clock I received a telephone message pointing out that there is a Hurricane. I replied: "Okay, alright, I am in my house with my children." I was then asked: "Can you tell me anything about the regulations and what is to be done in St. Michael?" The only obvious thing for me to do was to reply by saying: "Will you communicate with the Clerk of the Vestry." If you telephone the Minister of Social Services about something, he will tell you to communicate with the Director of Medical Services.

The Hurricane having abated, I came out and got all the schools and centres opened. The next thing I did was to proceed to the places which I have mentioned before to get something to put in the shelters for the people. [A VOICE: What did you do during the Hurricane?] I was at home; suppose you would say that all the Ministers were out trying to push back the Hurricane!

After the Hurricane was over, as I have said, I proceeded to put stores in shelters for the people. It is only after they discovered that something was going wrong, they wrote the Churchwarden a letter saying: "Will you work under the aegis of the Central Hurricane Relief Committee." It was Mr. Hunte who asked me "Are you prepared to work under the aegis of the Central Hurricane Relief Committee?" I replied, by saying that I am prepared to work under anybody.

I was then asked to distribute the ration cards. Now, the Minister would have you believe that I was not co-operating. I was prepared to offer my co-operation to the Government; but I was not prepared to do their work.

The Ministers will go, but Barbados will remain. I do not look at the members of the Government as individuals; everybody will go, but the Government of Barbados will remain.

It is amusing when Ministers have already found out that they have incompetent persons under them, to hear them say that they can take letters up and read them to you. They say that they wrote a letter to the Vestry Clerk of St. Michael. Of course, I do not know anything about that, therefore I am not defending it; but I do know that as far as the Hurricane Relief Committee is concerned that I was not

Chairman of that Committee. The Minister is totally inaccurate and absolutely wrong when he says that the Churchwardens of the various parishes are usually Chairmen of those Bodies. I can tell you that the Churchwarden of St. George is not the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee of that parish. You will find that state of affairs also exists in other parishes.

The Chairman of Committees left the Chair.

1.30 a.m.

As far as the Chairmen of the various parishes is concerned, it is not true to say that the Churchwardens of the various parishes are the Chairmen of the Hurricane Relief Committees.

One last point which I would like to make is this: the honourable member read out a communication from the Assistant Director of Education saying that he had written to the St. Michael's Vestry all the way down in June and that they had asked for details and had not got anything. He went on to say that Hurricanes were knocking all around the area and that was the interest which the Vestry took.

What would you say of a Government who had written to ask people to serve on the Hurricane Relief Committee, and away back in June, they had been notified that they were not serving; and when a storm comes down in September there is no Committee? Whom are you blaming? The honourable member does not see the danger which he is doing to his own Government when he said so.

The Government is responsible to the people, and the honourable member reads out a letter in which he says that the Assistant Director of Education wrote to the Vestries, and though they got communications from all the other Vestries they would not act. Whom has he found to be negligent? Certainly not the people whom they have asked to serve.

If this is something which you have to get done, then you have to get somebody to do it. I am not now defending Mr. Redman; I cannot do that because I do not know the facts. All I am saying now is that on one occasion the Hon. Minister of Agriculture came in here and made a statement about some transaction at the Agricultural Department and then he had to come back and say they were letters there which he had not seen between certain dates.

The Minister of Communications said that Mr. Redman had promised to send a duplicate by way of reply. You are bound to see logic in this argument; the Government is responsible for granting relief to these people. You write them in June and nothing could be done because they will not have anything to do with it; who are you blaming in this matter? The position seems to be that you have a Hurricane Relief Committee and those are the people who are doing nothing about what should be their responsibilities.

I am not thinking so much of the Vestry as I am thinking of my position as Churchwarden of the parish. I am submitting that rationing your food supply is not the first thing to work on. The first thing we did was to turn out our staff, and the next step was to take some rations to the people. The Government knew that; you have the Government's Scheme being carried out; you bring in Mr. Chase and you put him in charge!

I came in here and I commended the Government on the speed at which they were going. I say that in the matter of housing, the Government has done a good job; they have done well; but when it comes to the question of rationing they have bungled

the whole job. The answer which the Minister gave to me—

1.40 a.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: The answer is that you refuse to co-operate.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: You say that I refuse to co-operate, and I say that somebody has bungled.

I submit this to the Hon. Member for his own information: the honourable member tells you that on Friday he had Mr. Chase in the position of looking after supplies, I decided that there was no more need for the Vestry to supply because he had Mr. Chase on the job. [Hon. M. E. COX: Yet he is trying to defend himself] I do not have to defend myself against you.

On Sunday there were people at various centres who had not got anything. I am only putting it this way that honourable members may be able to judge the case for themselves. When, on Friday, they knew that the Churchwarden of St. Michael had attempted to ration or start something, was it not the duty of the Government to get in touch with the Churchwarden or ask him to get in touch with the Government?

Whatever political or other differences there may be between the Hon. Minister and myself, in a calamity of this sort, and the Minister of Trade, Social Welfare or other Minister wanted to see us on this question, would any of the employees of the St. Michael Vestry refuse to comply?

The Hon. Minister says: "He went and got a 'gill', two little 'pills' " and what-not; but what did they give them? One gill of rice per person. I could not understand the whole idea.

When I went to a certain Centre I saw a school teacher and I tried to learn from him how many people he had there. He was unable to tell me because there was no time for reckoning. You placed things in a teacher's hand and said: "try your best with these."

Upon going to another centre, you saw a man with a card upon which he was writing the names, addresses and things like that of people. Can anybody imagine a Government doing things like that in an emergency? The Government bungled the whole job.

If the Hon. Minister would like to hand out the ration cards with the names which they have written on them to the people whom they want to get them, I notify his Government that they can get them tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. There is sufficient work for us to do otherwise, but we can attend to that. The information which we have collected on behalf of the Government is there to be passed on; and if they want the cards they can be had.

Hon. M. E. COX and Mr. Brancker rose to speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I draw to the attention of the House that there is no quorum.

Mr. BRANCKER: Well, Mr. Chairman, you should have the bell rung.

The Bell was rung for three minutes.

Mr. BRANCKER: I have observed last night and this morning, that the easiest method of making any number of speeches is simply to get up on a point of Order. As honourable members know, the Chairman has had some difficulty to prevent those two people (the Minister of Communications and the senior member for the City) from see-sawing for the whole night. [Hon. M. E. COX: That is our democratic right; this is not a Facist country.]

If I may be permitted to refer to the Resolution for the sum of \$280,000, I shall make a few comments on the perspective. One matter which has been referred to by a few previous speakers, including your-

self and my colleague, is the Standing Committee in the Department of Agriculture.

What strikes me about this Standing Committee is this: the other day, in connection with some agricultural land, (I appeal to the honourable senior member for Christ Church to take note) I discovered that it was though we seem to have the same reactionary gangs who have been the committees of the past and who, instead of being scrapped, are still continuing to function as committees of the present. I was really struck to see the faces.

Apart from the Deputy Director of Agriculture whom everyone knows is a West Indian and a conscientious officer, and very sympathetic to the people, I looked and saw some more blond faces; and I said to myself that one should see more brunette faces. I presume that there are a sufficient number of coloured business men who could occupy such places on such committees; and I do not have to remind honourable members of Mr. J. O. Tudor, Mr. Stuart of Stuart and Sampson Ltd., and others. One would expect to see a few of such faces instead of a lot of faces which one sees to-day and which I am sure I would have seen 5 or 20 years ago. It is time for the Government to go through their list of members on such committees and see that they have a representative selection on each.

I am not suggesting that they should be selected according to colour; but I am suggesting that if you have more than five people on a committee, you should find room for one or two of our people who are known to be sympathetic to the present regime. There could be obtained an efficient business man who would be able to advise in a matter such as this.

1.50 a.m.

It is high time that Government put their heads together and look into the formation of all their Standing Committees and the process which is used for forming them, with the view of ensuring that you have a really representative group functioning. It really makes one feel odd to go to discuss a matter to find that the person with whom he is discussing it does not know anything about it. One feels as if he were in Scandinavia.

It is a fact that the Committees in St. John comprise of some of the most reactionary and inept nit wits, such as the ones you have been so much accused to for so many years in the past to find, and whom one does not expect to see those members in the majority.

Now, there is another aspect to this matter, and it is in connection with the expenditure of this money; I think we should pay more attention than we have done in this matter. On the question of communication, it is a very important one and it does seem to me to have broken down almost completely during the period the Hurricane was approaching the island, that is, between 11 a.m. on Thursday and 3 o'clock p.m. of that same day.

If one were fortunate enough not to have been cut off, but to be listening in at that time to Rediffusion, one would have heard the most up-to-date information from that source. We had a lady broadcasting around 1 o'clock and she announced that it seemed in the City as if the storm may have veered off. A little later she announced that it does seem as if it had shifted its course, and a quarter of an hour afterwards she announced: "We definitely believe that it has moved away." At 2 o'clock she announced: "We have ventured out of our Studio since we have received no communication, and now we are definitely of the opinion that the Hurricane has just barely missed us." Around 3 p.m. she announced: "At long last

we have now received the official communication from Government that the Hurricane has passed us and the worst is now over."

Where was the expensive wireless equipment of the Police Department? Apart from the fact that one would expect the Police to be a source of information between Government and Rediffusion for those who had no Rediffusion Service or whose service of Rediffusion had broken down, one would have expected to hear something from them. Their telecommunication sets should have been of some use to the people on that occasion but throughout the island, I have been hearing complaints to the effect that when the Hurricane was considered to be over, except from their observation of the diminution in the speed of the winds, there was no official communication whatsoever. As a matter of fact, they had no official communication whatsoever of what was taking place. With what we are spending on the Police communication sets, one would expect better results. Anyhow, they may have regarded the incident of Thursday before last as a full-scale dress rehearsal, and they should do better if we have the terrible misfortune to be visited again by such a calamity.

Sir, it is as well for Government to consider and make an official announcement in connection with the repairing of houses by those who are physically able to do the carpentry, and who if they have not the money to do so may be able to borrow it. There are some such persons who are willing to affect a loan in order to repair their homes if they know beforehand what is Government's policy in respect of those persons who do not have the money but who may be able to borrow it. Let it be known what is Government's policy in regard to that aspect. Can those persons forward to a refund? If they know what is the policy of the Government, they would know what they are about and would be able to go ahead and repair their houses.

It is true to say they are afraid that if they go ahead and borrow the money to repair their houses, they may learn later on that Government will not be giving them any help, therefore, they will not be able to repay the money which they have borrowed. I do think that it is high time that an official announcement should be made in respect of that.

There is another matter which has been referred to but in a somewhat different manner than the way in which I am going to touch on it, and it is with respect to school children. It is known that those school children who are in secondary schools are working for public examinations; and certainly, if they unfortunately had to lose a week or two on account of this calamity taking place, then the next vacation should be curtailed in order that they may still have at the end of the next academic year their full 36 weeks in order to study for the public examinations.

Sir, people like yourself and me, who are connected with the Governing Bodies of certain Secondary Schools realise what it means to those schools with which we are associated, such as the Lodge, the Coleridge-Parry, and the Alexandra. You cannot afford to take away a week from the 36 weeks allotted for study, as that is the minimum amount which they can study with any reasonable hope of having a chance of obtaining success at the public examinations.

Now, you will remember that the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Lennox-Boyd, telegraphed this colony to enquire what he can do. I think he should be told that he might accelerate the issue of making the preference money available to this island at the earliest possible time; while any other money

which we are accustomed to get later would be more welcome at this time. It would be a blessing to get the preference money at this stage which would be a few weeks earlier than we normally expect to receive it.

Now, sir, I wish to refer to another matter which is in connection with the ration cards. Apparently, the Government is working them out on a basis of five in a house, but there are many houses in which they are no less than eight persons. I think that five is too conservative an estimate; and I suggest that although these cards are already printed on that basis, an arrangement can be made that houses of more than five persons be issued with a supplementary ration card. Obviously the \$5 in food which those cards represent is inadequate for a house with eight or nine persons in it.

2.00 a.m.

There is one other point to which I will refer. The Hon. Minister of Communications has said that there was very little if any, damage done in the parishes of St. Lucy and St. Peter. It is most unfortunate that the Hon. Minister has been misinformed about the Northern parishes.

Only a short while ago he was also misinformed as to the number of standpipes in that parish. If he would go around with me he would see that his information was quite incorrect.

He has been informed that there was very little, if any, damage in the parish of St. Lucy. Well, I would invite his attention to the up-to-date and revised estimates, estimates which I understand were submitted to the proper authorities only this morning.

The Hon. Minister might say that the damage in St. Lucy has not been as extensive as it has been in other places, but to say that there is very little, if any damage, is an understatement. He might pass that information on to the authorities who are under his control.

Why did the hon. member not think of putting us under the sphere of influence, under the capable, efficient and non-partisan Director of Public Works. Any one who knows the two persons in whose hands the rehabilitation of these houses have been put, would much prefer to have his area to be looked after by Captain Tomlin than by Mr. Tom Lashley. [Hon. M. E. COX: Six houses were destroyed in St. Lucy and they came for a thousand dollars.] Mr. Acting Chairman, am I interrupting the hon. senior member for St. Michael? [Laughter]. It is a misfortune that we should have come within the sphere of influence of Mr. Lashley and not within that of Captain Tomlin.

There is one last point which I would like to make. There seems to be the general impression that in almost every case the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee is the Churchwarden of the parish. In St. Lucy the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee was the Registering Officer of that parish, and the Churchwarden was the Deputy Chairman of the Committee. [Asides]. Mr. Acting Chairman, I can hardly bear myself for the loud, sonorous *sotto voce* voices of honourable members on my right.

Anyhow I have made my point. If anyone were to have a notice inserted in the Press calling for carpenters, he would be surprised to see that there would have been no less than 2,400 applicants instead of 240 offering their services. We have enough carpenters, and to spare; and they would be good enough to do the work which is required of them; therefore do not let it be thought that there is any shortage of fully qualified carpenters in this island.

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

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the ACTING 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 was read a first and second time and agreed to.
02.10 a.m.

RATES OF PAY

Barbados Regiment

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, there is a Resolution for the Barbados Regiment. It is very important because these men have been in the service since the 22nd and have not yet received their pay. This is an increase over the last rates passed in 1950. In one or two cases there has been a small reduction. I may also add that the Regiment also received their rations and meals. We need not read out the figures for each grade. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, there is just a little information I should like to get. In respect to the higher grade in this Schedule, if any of these happened to be in Government's service, would the hon. member in charge of the Resolution tell me whether he would be drawing his full salary from the Government (if he is a Government Servant) as well as whether he will be drawing this amount in the Schedule? The remuneration proposed here is not really so adequate; and I am just wondering if these amounts will be paid out from the Treasury as well as the full salary of those who are employed in the Public Service of this country.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: They will get their full pay plus the difference; and it is hoped that the volunteers who are employed by firms will act similarly. [Mr. BRANCKER: They will get their full pay plus the difference; what exactly does that mean?] Suppose, for instance, in a particular case the normal pay is \$10 a day and the Colonel should recommend \$15, the man will receive his normal \$10 plus this \$5.

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

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I think every hon. member present will agree with these abstract Resolutions which I shall now ask the House to pass; they have been circulated. These are Resolutions to place on record our thanks to those people abroad who have expressed their sympathy in our recent hurricane disaster involving the loss of life.

There is one due to Her Majesty the Queen, and also Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret.

There is also a Resolution including the islands of the Caribbean and Venezuela. I shall move the passing of the Resolution to Her Majesty first. The Resolution reads as follows:

House of Assembly.

RESOLVED THAT the House of Assembly place on record their profound thanks to Her Majes-

ty the Queen for her expression of sympathy towards the people of this Island for the loss of life and property occasioned by the recent Hurricane.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: My only comment on this Resolution is that we are only placing it on record. That is something for our Minutes and archives; but we are taking no step as a House to send to Her Majesty our expression of gratitude. Even if the Queen's representative has returned thanks, as we are taking action, I am wondering if it is not more appropriate that the thanks of this Chamber be expressed to Her Majesty; and not merely his thanking Her Majesty on our behalf.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Well these telegrams have been received at the Secretariat and have already been answered as from the Government. If members so desire that these Resolutions be replied to by the House as well, perhaps we could; the only difference is that in the case of this Omnibus Resolution which I am about to move, it would be difficult to send replies to all of them, because it includes people in America, Venezuela and the Caribbean. But we thought that for the sake of placing it on record the expression of thanks of this House would be quite enough.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The next one is similarly worded; it reads as follows:—

House of Assembly.

RESOLVED that the House of Assembly place on record their profound thanks to Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret for her expression of sympathy towards the people of this Island for the loss of life and property occasioned by the recent Hurricane.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: There is an Omnibus Resolution which includes the vast number of other individuals who have rendered assistance in our recent disaster. The Resolution reads as follows:

House of Assembly.

RESOLVED that the House of Assembly place on record their profound thanks to Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom, the several Governments of the Caribbean, and Venezuela, Col. Hubert F. Julien and Mr. G. Gorcey Husbands of New York City, and the vast number of individuals who have rendered assistance, both spiritual and material in our recent disaster.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Mr. BRANCKER: The only change I recommend is in the word "spiritual", I am referring to the way in which the word is spelt in this Resolution; should it be left like this: "spurtual".

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I think that is quite all right "spiritual".

ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourn until Tuesday next, 11th October, 1955, at 3 o'clock p.m.

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

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

62.22 a.m.