

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954—55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 11th October, 1955.

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

Present:

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

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the Meetings which were held on the 20th and 24th September, 1955 respectively have been printed and circulated amongst honourable members. Unless there is any objection—

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I am not objecting to the Minutes, but I noticed that in the Minutes it is now written that Replies to Members' Questions are laid by command of His Excellency the Governor. That strikes me as being incorrect. I know that these Replies are laid along with other Papers, but these are Replies to Questions asked by honourable members of the Ministers themselves. I am merely questioning if it is correct to put in the Minutes that these Replies are laid by command of His Excellency the Governor. If it is not correct then we will write our Minutes differently.

Mr. SPEAKER: There being no objection, these Minutes are taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Annual report of the Director of Medical Services for the year 1953-54.

Hon. M. E. COX: Post Office Advances for payment of Money Orders, to 30th June 1955.

NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. M. E. COX: Resolution to place the sum of \$29,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955-56 Part II, Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1955-56 No. 33 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. M. E. COX: Resolution to place the sum of \$17,000 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. 34, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of \$4,500 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955-56 Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1955-56 No. 35 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. M. E. COX: Bill to amend the Seawell Airport Act 1950.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

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

Mr. MILLER entered the House and took his seat.
3.25 p.m.

PRIVATE NOTICE

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give on behalf of the honourable senior member for St. George, notice of his intention to move the passing of the following Address to His Excellency the Governor:—

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

The House of Assembly has the honour to draw to Your Excellency's attention the fact that the Ad-

ministration of justice in the law courts of the Island is neither swift nor otherwise satisfactory, and an investigation of and report on this unsatisfactory state of affairs is long overdue.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the honourable senior member for St. Lucy I give notice of the following question:—

Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER

To enquire of the Minister of Labour:—

Is the Minister aware that, during 1954, two thousand three hundred and twenty-one Policemen resigned from Police Forces in England and Wales before qualifying for an ordinary retirement Pension?

2. Is the Minister also aware that, on 31st January, 1955, the Police Forces of England and Wales were eight thousand and eight hundred and thirty-two men short of the authorised male establishment of 72,844?

3. Will the Minister adopt energetic measures with a view to getting Barbadians accepted for the above-mentioned Police Forces, as a means of relieving unemployment locally.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Seawell Airport Act, 1950, be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, be now read a first time.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker,—in connection with Order No. (1) I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

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

Houses at Enmore

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution for the sum of \$2,075 is in connection with the finishing of two houses at Enmore, being quarters built for the Medical Staff.

As shown in the Addendum:—

The sum of \$9,000 was provided by Resolution No. 15/55 during the last financial year under Part II—Capital Expenditure, Head III—Medical Services toward the cost of constructing and equipping two residences at the St. Michael Health Centre—"Enmore"—for use by the Medical Staff of the General Hospital. Up to 31st March, 1955, the sum of \$6,924.94 only was spent, leaving a balance of

\$2,075.06 expended, as erection was begun later than was originally planned.

In the current financial year's estimates, under Part II—Capital Expenditure, B—Available Funds, III—Medical Services—Quarters, Medical Staff, a sum of \$35,000 is provided which, together with the \$9,000 voted last financial year, makes a total of \$44,000 for constructing and equipping these residences. This is \$2,000 less than the original estimate submitted by the Director of Public Works in order to complete the construction and equipping of these residences on the reduced estimate of \$44,000, a revote of \$2,075 is now required.

As I said just now this was a revote of \$44,000 to finish these two houses; but because construction was begun at a later hour than was originally planned, that money has lapsed.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to enquire from the Hon. Minister in charge of this Resolution whether, now that those residences are completed, it is detrimental to the building of other residences and buildings on that spot. I think I remember on the occasion when the proposal for building these houses up there was made; I enquired if there was any comprehensive plan for the use of land at Enmore, and it would be interesting to know if the Government has any further plan for building residences up there and whether the siting of these two houses is still considered not an interference with the rest of the land.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that I heard all that the honourable member has said but I gather, from what I have heard, that the honourable member is asking whether these two houses as they stand now interfere with the land and whether it is planned to build other houses up there. To the first question I say I do not think it interferes with the land; that is my humble opinion; and as regards the building of more quarters there, there was a suggestion that when the expansion of the Hospital is completed we will need more Medical Staff and it is suggested to build a small block other than those two other houses such as might be needed in the expansion of the General Hospital.

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

3.35 p.m.

World Health Organisation

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman the next Resolution is for the sum of \$4,291 and it is needed to pay Subsistence Allowance to the Staff of the World Health Organisation. There are two Representatives at present in the island and soon there will be a third. One is a Doctor who will be in charge of the B.C.G. campaign and one is a Mrs. Helen Bowman who has been selected as the Public Health Nursing/Midwife Consultant for our health improvement Scheme. The third, Dr. Marion L. Bevis, is expected.

It is the policy of W.H.O. to pay full salaries to those people when they are in employment and when seconded, to pay half of the subsistence allowance. This \$4,291 is to cover the other half that Barbados is expected to pay in respect of these three officers.

I suppose members will like to hear something of the B.C.G. campaign. It was expected to be started towards the end of September but in consequence of the storm and the unsettled conditions which exists since, it is thought advisable to delay the campaign for a month, so it will begin towards the end of this month or early in November.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think that all of us agree that this allowance should be paid to these people and that the work which they are doing is very worthwhile indeed, but there are one or two points which I would like to raise with the Minister. They are more or less questions to clarify something with respect to the people employed in the B.C.G. Campaign — I do not mean in respect of those technical people but the other people who were in it so far as the spraying is concerned.

Recently I have been talking with one or two people connected with it and I gather, so they tell me, that their terms of employment are not as stable as they themselves would have wished. I have been made to understand that some of them who go around assisting in the spraying are turned on for certain periods and then laid off. I do not know the reason for that. It may be that they want to give as many people employment as possible and therefore they are using a shift system. It may be that after persons are employed they are found not suitable, therefore others are taken on. I only mentioned that so that the Hon. Minister can enlighten me on the points with respect of those who are employed in the Spraying Campaign, their terms of employment and what actually happened in cases where they are laid off.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I may tell you that these campaigns move from parish to parish. Persons in the parish which the campaign is conducted are given the opportunity to work, so I think that is the answer to people being taken on and then laid off.

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

Supplementary Estimates 1955—56 (No. 27) General Hospital

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of \$7,050, and I know when hon. members see the object for which this money is asked, that is, for the purpose of altering the Main Entrance to the General Hospital, so as to provide an area where visitors who now crowd the Highway may wait within the compound, they would readily grant it.

We all know that they have been a collection of visitors on the street outside the Hospital on visiting days that has been so for a long time; and it is now about to be remedied. The plan is that the existing Gate as it now stands will be moved in a bit and will be widened, because it is found difficult for big motor lorries and big vehicles to manoeuvre through the present Gate. On the area to the left of the Gate, sheds will be put up so as to serve, so to speak, as a waiting Room for visitors who come to visit their friends and families. That will give relief to the number of persons who collect around the gate on the street and who block traffic and also inconvenience other people. As I have said, the existing Gate will be moved in somewhat, and naturally pillars will be rebuilt. The Porters' Lodge and Office will also be removed to the opposite side to which it stands now. Also behind the Porters Lodge a small place will be erected to provide a cleaner's room where baskets and so on may be deposited.

It is estimated that the cost of these improvements will be as follows:—

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|---|---------|
| (a) moving back the existing gates and rebuilding the pillars—new cutting and walling to entrance | \$2,300 |
|---|---------|

(b) erection of a building to take the Porters' Lodge and Office and Cleaners store	2,500
(c) new shelter and seats for visitors	1,750
(d) new railings to Visitors Waiting area	500
	\$7,050

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, one can sympathise with the Government in attempting to remedy this situation, but, Sir, as far as I have been able to gather, and from what I have discovered, a number of tickets (I think they are two) are issued to the relatives of the sick person and those two persons can visit that patient on days which are visiting days. But there seems to be an arrangement where these two people can go in and visit their relatives and get the tickets back out side and after an hour of visiting there is any number of people in the Hospital to visit that one person on those two tickets. 3.45 p.m.

If you are maintaining just two or three days per week for persons to visit their friends and relatives in the General Ward, that is bound to happen. You cannot judge the congregation of people which you will have at the Gate by the number of sick persons you have at the Hospital plus the number of tickets which you are willing to give. I do not know if the number of tickets have been increased; however, the proposal has been made. I think it was made in this House, that visiting hours for all patients in the Hospital should be daily and I am wondering whether that method has been tried and failed. In the same way that paying patients are allowed a mid-day and an afternoon visit, the people in the General Ward should be allowed either two visits per day or one visit every day so that the number of persons visiting at present would be reduced on the two or three days which are allowed at present. I wonder if that method has been tried because we must remember that the old Hospital Board had devised a method by which visitors came into a part of the Hospital where they could shelter and chat, and then go in two by two to see their relatives; but that failed. I am wondering if you are not going to allow more visiting time; if you merely push back the Hospital Gate so that traffic could use the road perhaps you will find it to be just as congested as it is at present. So long as there are two or three persons in the road, they are in more danger than if a congregation is in the road, because nobody will approach a large crowd in the same way as he would approach two or three persons.

Can you afford to alter that Hospital Gate and go sufficiently far down to the Wards as to accommodate the number of persons who will be there? Have you tried any other method? Is the method of allowing people to visit their friends and relatives daily such an inconvenience to the Hospital? You should make the visiting time such that if anybody could not get down to the Hospital on Monday he could get down to it on Tuesday, Wednesday or on the following days of the week even up to Sunday. As to this idea of having two visiting tickets and thinking that it will help the problem, I say that it has not helped it in the past. All the Orderlies would have to traverse the Wards to ask "have you got a ticket?" You will find that several people get into the Hospital on the two tickets which are allowed; but if you increase the number of visiting days and thereby increase the number of visiting

hours and so make it possible to stagger the visits to the Hospital, you will find that you will not have that congregation of people which you now have. I am merely enquiring whether we should go to this extent to alter the Hospital Gate so as to accommodate visitors when we could try another method to meet the situation. I really do not see what they are doing at all.

Mr. GODDARD: Everyone will agree that it is difficult for even a small car to negotiate the Gates of the General Hospital. I think, that a little money spent in setting these Gates back somewhat is a wise move; but I am not altogether satisfied that bringing the people inside the Hospital is the wisest thing to do. I had hoped that the Government would have purchased that property which is opposite to the Hospital Gate and obtain proper facilities for people who are awaiting entrance to the Hospital. That would cause the control at the Hospital to be more effective. Besides that, the amount of land available for this project is very limited. The Hospital should be at least some place of beauty, and it should have open spaces; but if we are going to build on every piece of the land, then we are detracting from a most essential feature of a Hospital. It would have been more appropriate if that building at the corner opposite the Hospital had been bought; the corner needs to be widened and facilities could be more appropriately erected on the site of that building for the accommodation of visitors to the Hospital. It is rather late now, but I thought that during the year the Government would have come down with a Resolution for providing facilities at the Hospital. That is what I had in mind, but the widening of the Gates is necessary.

Mr. HAYNES: I have been hearing a lot of rumours in connection with the Hospital. The present Chairman of the Advisory Committee has approached me with the idea that instead of building the Nurses' Quarters at "Stockton", the same material should be taken to extend the Hospital at "Enmore" and utilise a lot of the space there. Each year they would give another Ward at the Hospital and so on. However, my object in getting to my feet is to ask the Minister of Social Services if he does not think that even if this Resolution is passed he should hold his hand about putting it into action. I am told that it would be an absolute waste of money if the other scheme is implemented, I am only throwing out a suggestion to let us know if they have thought of this new Scheme which the Chairman of the Advisory Committee has put up and which to my mind would be a modern building and would be a step in the right direction. I should like to hear his views on the matter.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: To answer the hon. junior member for St. Andrew first: I think it was about three years ago that the Hospital Planning Committee was appointed. That Committee held several meetings and submitted a Report. That Report was laid here in this House and I am quite sure that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew read that Report. It is on the basis of that Report that we were proceeding. You will remember, sir, that even before then, in 1945 we began considering the erection of a new Hospital on another site. The Waterford site was chosen first, but for reasons of health that site was abandoned. The Bay Estate was also suggested but that did not fructify because of the cost; the cost of that site was estimated at £1,000 or 1,200 per bed. The most recent Hospital in the area is the San Fernando Hospital and there has been a new Hospital erected in Jamaica.

As regards the San Fernando Hospital I do not know if they have yet arrived at any concrete figure as to the cost. But the Hospital in Jamaica costs £2,000 a bed. For the reason of the cost other plans were abandoned. In the interest of the economy of the Island the Hospital Planning Committee submitted that report. What the Committee recommended was a little over £1,000,000; I am not quite sure of the figure; probably it was one and a quarter million pounds.

3.55 p.m.

It is true I did hear it, and then I saw it in the *Recorder* published on Monday that somebody has come forward with another idea of building a three storey Hospital with 600 beds at "Enmore." Well, that has not yet reached me yet. I believe the Advisory Committee has had a meeting but the Report has not yet reached by desk. Therefore, I am not prepared to say at this stage what the Government will do as regards this recommendation. It is all a question of money. We would very much like to have a brand new Hospital with all modern equipment; but the question is, can we afford it, especially with the Emergency which we have just had? That is something which we have to bear in mind. I repeat that at this moment I cannot say what stand the Government will take. I personally will give it due consideration; and if funds permit I will undertake to furnish this new Hospital. The honourable junior member for the City has made a very good point as regards making provisions for allowing visitors to come in the Hall. I promise him that I will give due consideration to that suggestion.

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

Supplementary Estimate (No. 28) Civil Service Associations

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The next two Resolutions stand in the name of the Hon. Premier who is absent and I am asking leave of the Committee to take charge of these. In fact, Mr. Chairman, there are really three Resolutions.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is asking leave to take charge of the three Resolutions standing in the name of the Hon. Premier.

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

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: The next Resolution is for the sum of \$600. It is I think, intended to assist the Civil Servants Association to send two or three delegates to Jamaica to take part in the West Indian Civil Servants Conference. They claimed that they were unable to meet fully the expenses in connection with this Conference and have approached the Government for assistance. In as much as it was a Conference which would have some bearing on the conduct *etcetera* of the Civil Service it has warranted the granting of such a request. The Government will assist them through the extent of \$600 which, I believe is part of their passage.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, it is really deplorable that Trade Unions in this area are so impecunious as always to have to rush to Government for assistance. I am wondering whether they should not be more independent than that. I am not at all prepared to subscribe to the view, with unification of these Committees and commissions that have been set up, that they should be given any

funds. These commissions have gone around the island and have made a report and so I am not agreeing to this Resolution on that score. I am merely deploring the fact that the Civil Service Association could not find \$1,200 to send these delegates to this Conference. I am wondering, if it is regarded as a Conference, why the amount was not taken out of the Conference vote. I cannot remember just now where this Conference vote comes; I think it falls under Miscellaneous Services; and we now have Conferences under Subsidies and Grants. The next thing is that at some recent Conference—I think it is the custom that Government has to pay all the money and now it has come to the Civil Service Association they are only paying half. I am counselling these Trade Unions (because that is what the Civil Service Association is) to be as independent of the Government as they possibly can; and especially the Trade Union representing the Government Service.

4.05 p.m.

They cannot go hat in hand and ask Government to vote them money and then go to the same Government and demand their pound of flesh.

The next thing is that it is going to become a fashion for the Government to support these things either on a dollar-for-dollar basis or outright total expense and that is something which we will have to watch. If we pay our Civil Servants what we should pay them, they should be prepared to pay a contribution to a Trade Union which is going to protect their interest and keep it as independent as possible. However, sir, there are other workers, and now employers' organisations which are getting this Conference money, therefore, I see no reason why Civil Servants should not come and get some too.

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

Supplementary Estimate 1955—56, No. 29

Hon Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of \$18,455 to supplement the Estimates 1955—56 Part I. As it is comprised of individual Supplementary Estimates, I think we should take this Resolution Head by Head as we always do.

Head V. — Harbour and Shipping

Head V, Harbour and Shipping was Called

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: In moving that Head V — stand part, Mr. Chairman, I will read the Note, which is as follows:—

The total cost of docking and repairing certain harbour craft, viz: the Dredger and Barge, the Lord Willoughby and Water Barge, and No. 1 Harbour Launch, was far in excess of the actual amount estimated, as when these vessels were docked and inspected, certain work, which was not expected became necessary.

Extra casual labour was employed on the Dredger and Launch while they were on dock, as this expedited the work and thereby save the payment of dock dues for a longer period.

The need for this supplementary provision is the result of an increase in the price quoted for this unit.

I beg to move that Head V —stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, on the previous occasion I tried to get some information as to why the *Lord Combermere* or *Lady 'Something'* became unusable. I understand that there is a replacement Fund. I do not remember if any information has been given as to why, instead of your importing what suited you before, that is, a combined water carrier and launch, that you needed two things now. You are now up against it. When you are going to dock now for repairs, you are carrying the launch and you have to bring the water barge behind; therefore, it appears that what you had thought you would have saved you are paying for in this way. It is now \$8,000 in excess of the amount estimated. It is true that you sell water to ships; but I do not know if you sell at a price greater than what it costs you to produce it.

Sir, I just mentioned that on this particular Head. I would like to find out if the Government has discovered that it was a mistake to have the two Items instead of one. I have never heard anybody before condemn the *Lord Combermere* for the service which it rendered. These things are expected to last for many years.

I would like one of the Ministers to take sufficient interest in this matter as to come to the House and say: "We have made a mistake in having these two things instead of one. We saved then in the initial cost but it appears as if we are going to spend as much by taking them on dock."

And it is a fact that every time these things are to be docked, they are going to come here with this same sort of note. The only thing that can be changed is the figure which may be \$10,000 or \$15,000.

Not only that, but during the afternoon of the Hurricane or the afternoon afterwards, these tugs belonging to the Government that should be rendering some service when a motor vessel let loose and did damage, were not pressed into service. It costs \$1,000 to blow up a Schooner that was sunk there many years ago and that should teach them a lesson. I understand from owners of Schooners that these tugs are there to render them assistance. If they are there for that purpose, they should have been there to do it.

The question that Head V, stand part, was put and agreed to.

Head XIV — Judiciary

Head XIV was Called

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: As will be seen from the Note, it is not possible to estimate accurately the expenses to be incurred in any year in connection with Law Examinations. Payments have been in arrears and, as they are now being made promptly, it is anticipated that \$900 will be required if all expenses which will be incurred during 1955-56 are to be paid within the financial year.

I think that Note is very explicit. I beg to move that Head XIV stand Part.

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

4.15 p.m.

Mr. BARROW: While I appreciate that the present Solicitors' Act enable the Government to subsidise what is by no means an important branch of the legal profession, I think it is generally deprecated that in view of the fact that these facilities for free examinations do not obtain with other professions, the Government has not done something about seeing that the proper and adequate fees are

exacted from candidates who are taking the Solicitors' examination. No Barrister or Medical Man has his examination fees paid and the expense for the Bar and the Medical Profession are a great deal higher than those which solicitors are expected to undergo.

It has been suggested on the floor of this House that if the Government would remove some of the restrictions which now exist as to the taking of Solicitors' examinations by Articled Clerks, they would examine the cost of removing this subsidy at the same time. I do hope that between now and the time of the annual Estimates next year, the Government will bring forward some amendment to the Solicitors' Act in this respect.

Mr. BRANCKER: I would like to add a word in connection with this matter myself. I think that the Council of the Law Society has recommended that these fees of which the Government pays such a large percentage, should be paid exclusively by the candidate. It has been pointed out that there is hardly a profession, not even the Medical profession, which provides a more lucrative source of income than the Solicitors' branch of the legal profession [A MEMBER: Shame!] I doubt if any solicitor, like members of the senior branch of the profession, sends in correct Income tax returns; because they would certainly be on all fours with any upright legal practitioner whose returns are correctly submitted to the Income tax Commissioner. [Laughter.] This profession is too lucrative a profession for the taxpayer to contribute to the training of solicitors; you acquire it free of charge because no premium is exacted as it is done in England. There is only one solicitor who has exacted the premium of 100 guineas for an Articled Clerk. I think the Government is trying to raise as much money as it can in the Treasury for the carrying out of various plans, and so on; and I think that this is a proper source of increased income which can be considered. When the whole Judicial Establishment Bill is before us, I think the Solicitors' Act could well be consolidated and provision made to ensure that all expenses are paid by the candidates for their examination fees.

The question that Head XIV, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XVI — Prisons

Head XVI — Prisons — was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This Head deals with three items. The first item is "After care of Discharged Prisoners." For some time now the amount of \$580 has been voted in connection with that item. This amount has been almost spent and there is only an amount of \$25 remaining; it has proved to be inadequate.

[Asides.]

Mr. Chairman, I hope that you will call on the Hon. Minister of Communications to remain silent.

Hon. M. E. COX: I object to that; the noise is coming from elsewhere.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, this amount which is not required is due to after care given to long term prisoners who have been sent out during the year. Thirty-one long term prisoners have been sent out and they have been given clothes and in many cases tools as well. There are still more of these prisoners to go out and it is felt that this amount of \$580 which has been voted is inadequate. There is only \$25 in the

till and that will not be enough to help those prisoners who are going out before the end of the Financial Year.

I may add in connection with this item, that the present Superintendent of the Prison is now placing emphasis on handicrafts and trades. That is to say, no longer do the male prisoners have to go to Codrington to cut stones. They are kept in the Prison and taught handicrafts and trades, so that when they leave the Prison, they will have an opportunity of earning a living. [VOICES: Hear! Hear!] The Superintendent has given these people tools when they are leaving the Prison in order that they might find work and keep out of the Prison. I am quite sure that hon. members will agree with me that this is a laudable step, one which deserves the voting of this \$500 to carry them through to the end of the financial year.

As regards the next item "Purchase of Typewriter," the old one has been found to be 30 years old. It was purchased since 1927, it has been repaired from time to time until it cannot be repaired any longer. The need for this typewriter is so urgent that we cannot wait to include it in the next Estimates. The Superintendent is using a typewriter of his own; it is a very small one and cannot cope with the work which is demanded of it.

The next item is a new one "Animal Husbandry." The emphasis at the Prison is now, as I said a while ago, on teaching prisoners handicrafts and trades; and now there is animal husbandry. This money is required for the purchase of a cow. We have pigs, fowls and sheep and now it is thought necessary to purchase a cow so that the milk will be used in the Institution and the prisoners will be taught to take care of cows when they leave the Prison. A twofold purpose will therefore be served. I beg to move that Head XVI stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to second that.
4.25 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable senior member for St. Lucy.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, I am entirely in favour with this Resolution and the principle aback of it. I am going to throw the suggestion to the honourable member who is in charge of this aspect of Government affairs, that is, the after care of discharged prisoners, that the amount of the award is, in my opinion much too conservative to be of real help. I would suggest to the honourable member that he might well consider, with the assistance of his advisers and the Superintendent of Prisons in particular, increasing the scale of the award; because really now and again one meets former clients (any of my friends on my left can bear me out in that). After a long time away from home the amount which they receive is hopelessly inadequate to achieve even that which it is the intention of the Authorities in giving them this money. It is too small to be of any real value; and is just enough to provide for meals and board for a few days after the prisoner has come out. I would therefore suggest that this matter receive some consideration in the light in which these matters are thought of today, that is to say sympathetic consideration with a view to making some adequate increase in the amount which is provided for the after care of discharged prisoners. Because when once we get rid of the old idea that a prison is a Devil's Island, and we bring forward the idea that a Prison is to provide punishment and at the same time function as reformatory, we will ensure that the prisoners coming out of Prison will have a reasonable chance, at least,

of making a fresh start in life with whatever assistance Government feels to give them.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I am unable to give any expert advice on this subject after care of prisoners, but I do think you can increase the amount that would help the prisoners at least to pay for any legal assistance. [Mr. BRANCKER: The Crown Law Officers are adequately paid.] We should be able to tell what the rates are. Certainly considering all this treatment the Authorities must have some idea as to whether this is sufficient. What strikes me as peculiar is that it appears as though they are taking something from the Mental Hospital and having some sort of occupational therapy. If it is, it is a good idea.

Why do they only want one cow? It appears here that there are no cows at present; that is how it is. If you read line two of Note 7 you will see that it is proposed to extend the scope of animal husbandry.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I said at present we have some pigs, some sheep, and some fowls; hence the word "extend" [A VOICE: Is that an extension.] Yes that is an extension.

Mr. LEWIS: Are you going to get a cow and stalls for \$400, or is it a calf you are talking about? Surely if they are so doubtful about this, they have to try out one cow; but it does not seem as if there is any hope of their succeeding. However there is the Government Farm at the Pine to assist them with information to see that they get a good strain of cows. What I should like to know is this: is it intended that the prisoners should do this work, and will they be paid for it? As I understand it they are paid for other work which they do. It might be a good way of their earning some money, and when they come out of prison they may be able to say that they know something about this matter, and any assistance you may give them will be of use to them. Perhaps you may be able to give them sufficient assistance as to keep a cow for themselves.

Mr. ALLDER: If this amount is for the purchase of cows — that is milch cattle — and the milk from such cattle will be used by the prisoners, I am very willing to vote for it but if the prisoners will be asked to attend to these cattle and people —

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I said deliberately that the milk will be used in the Institution and there is also the object of teaching these prisoners animal husbandry; in other words the object is twofold.

Mr. ALLDER: I am sorry that the Hon. Minister of Social Services did not compel such a thing to be practised when the Head of the Administration was there because it is public knowledge that provisions reaped by the prisoners were not permitted to be used by the prisoners: and I am very glad to see that the Hon. Minister and the present Governor there are trying to better the existing conditions up there. I should also like to express my appreciation for the presentation of a supplementary vote for the after care of these prisoners. It is some years now since the House has been asked to give consideration to a supplementary provision to be used for the after care of prisoners. But unlike the suggestion of the honourable senior member for St. Lucy, while I consider an increase in the allowance is necessary for the prisoner, I hardly think you can give him sufficient as to keep him for very many days after he has been released; and I think that the Hon. Minister of Social Services should go into this matter. Many of those prisoners have been incarcerated for many years and have given service to the public free. The public, therefore, owes them a duty; because on

account of being there they lose all contact with outside. Some of them cannot even find their relatives and friends and it is the Government's duty in those circumstances to see that they are properly rehabilitated. What this means is this: that the Government has several Departments which have something to do with construction works and other occupations and they should be an Agreement between the Authorities at the Prison and the Labour Department, Social Welfare Department, Housing Board, Public Works Department or Highways and Transport whereby those who are to be released can be encouraged to go to one of these Departments and get work. 4.35 p.m.

Recommendations should be made to those Heads of Department who take on Labour so as to make provision for those people; and that would be a means of reducing the percentage of recidivists, which I have noticed from the last Report is considerably high. A person who is in jail for a couple of years comes out today and in the next couple of weeks he is taken back to prison for some offence. The reason is because he cannot find relatives and friends after he comes out of Prison and as he cannot get employment he is tempted to commit another crime. No employment is provided for him on his leaving that Institution. I am therefore passing on the suggestion to the Hon. Minister of Social Services that it is a very easy thing to find employment for such people. Of course, you cannot or may not employ a criminal as a porter in a warehouse where valuable things are stored but any man who has served a prison term and whose mind is not criminalistic should be given the opportunity of becoming a good citizen by giving him employment as a labourer in the Public Works Department or a job such as oiling the roads in the Department of Highways and Transport.

I should at this time express my agreement over the changes which the present Head of Glendairy has brought about and it seems as if he is going to turn out to be one of the best officers of this Government. He treats people like human beings. I feel that Government should give this officer latitude to institute those reforms which are practised in the larger countries as regards prisoners.

I hope the Hon. Minister of Social Services will bear in mind the suggestion which I make, that is to channel those persons who have been in jail for many years directly from the expiration of the prison term to some work into one of the departments where labour is employed so as to prevent them from committing other crimes. I may say that long service prisoners do not come out of jail in large droves. You might get somebody coming out today who was in there two or three years before; therefore, it is easy for the Superintendent of the Prison to contact the Labour Department or the Highways & Transport Department and tell them that he has a long timer who is coming out in say two or three weeks and to make provision for some employment to give him as he comes out.

If you are not going to do that you will certainly have to feed them for their life time; because they will find that wherever they go to get a job, somebody will be whispering in the would-be employer's ears: "Do not employ that man, he is a jail-bird." That tale will go around and you will find out that nobody will be willing to employ that man, yet he is expected to live as an upright citizen. I think the Government should assist those persons in living upright lives.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, while there will be always sympathy for the provision which is made in this Resolution concerning a prisoner and also sympathy with the point of view expressed by the Hon. Minister in introducing it, it is nevertheless patent that the Government has not as yet got around to a humane and progressive "prisoner" policy. It is true that since the change over at the prison, the incumbent of the office of Superintendent has shown himself very progressive minded, humane and to be a christian gentleman; and within the limit of his authority has been able to bring about certain changes in a more enlightened direction. All that is commendable: but I do not think it ought to be left to him to initiate policies which should be of benefit to the institution as such or even to do things on his own authority other than such limits as that authority gives him.

What is needed, Sir, is a well-considered long-term plan dealing with the discharge of prisoners. In England, for instance, at all the big prisons there is machinery set up for the guidance and enlightenment of all prisoners who have served their prison terms and are about to go into the outside world again. When I was in the United Kingdom I had the privilege to go to Wormwood Scrubs to take part in a series of discussions there which had been organised for the benefit of long term prisoners, who within three months from the date of the lectures were to be released.

The point about having those discussions was first of all, to bring the outside world into the prison, so that when the prisoner was discharged it would not seem strange or unnecessarily hard to him. The second thing was to fill them with information of the changes and adjustments which had taken place in the outside world when they were away from it that their own attitude to things and the determination not to enter prison again might well be strengthened. In addition, I have seen arranged in the manner outlined by the hon. senior member for St. John where steps were taken to provide suitable work for prisoners upon their entry into the outside world.

4.45 p.m.

I should just like to emphasise this difference from his view: not all people who go to prison are fit to do manual labour, because it is a fact that quite a number of people who are sent to prison are not necessarily the sort who have that aptitude. Therefore I would not restrict that provision for them to work with the Highways and Transport Department or the Public Works Department, but in any occupation for which their talents and ability fit them. [A MEMBER: Not if one is a banker.] Of course if the prisoner has been a banker, he can check the coupons which the Hon. K. R. Hunt is now issuing [*laughter*]; but here it would be a question of adaptability and talent. In addition to all that, a case could always be made out for giving financial and other provisions to prisoners; you cannot expect a man or woman to adjust himself or herself in the outside world after a long spell in prison; and you cannot expect to be able to provide for his or her maintenance in the first week or even in the first month after leaving the prison.

As things are nowadays, nearly all of them join the ranks of the unemployed as soon as they are released from prison and remain in these ranks for quite a while after; so that any financial provision made for them is indeed justifiable, and one can only hope that it will be given as generously as possible within the limit of what is allocated

to the prison and even more. If the practice of giving clothing has to be extended, I sincerely believe that more than one suit or change of clothing ought to be given. However, these are mere details. What is needed is a comprehensive scheme—a plan for the adjustment of prisoners to the outside world before they have to make that adjustment on their own, before they have to enter into the outside world without preparation.

I was wondering what had become of the Social Welfare Department; this Department is probably the only one of the whole lot maintained by this Government which does so little to justify its existence. I am one of the members of the House who cannot speak of the Social Welfare Department without some heat; I think it is about time that some justification be shown not only by the Department but by the Officer who is in charge of it and it would be a blessing if that Lady could be persuaded —

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I must draw to the attention of the hon. member that we are dealing with the Prison, not with the Social Welfare Department.

Mr. TUDOR: It may be the fashion amongst some hon. members of this House to speak without the use of analogy and comparison, but I naturally cannot do that. I think it would be a very valuable asset to the prison and the scheme which it is to advance if the Head of the Social Welfare Department could be pressed into the service of the after-care of these discharged prisoners. That is a matter which requires expert and technical handling, and it may be necessary to enlist the services of psychologist. Therefore I give my support to the proposal, but in addition to that, I do wish to urge upon the Minister of Social Services the necessity of treating this matter in a more comprehensive manner so that many more benefits would accrue to these people than those which are accruing to them at present.

Mr. Chairman, it may be that the shock of the Hurricane has worn off sufficiently as to enable this Government and its advisers to indulge in some moments of light relief. We are solemnly told here in the Note to this Item "Animal Husbandry" (which we are discussing) that the Superintendent of Prisons in consultation with Senior Veterinary Officer, has recommended that the scope of animal husbandry at the Prisons should be extended by keeping milch cattle there. The Note goes on to tell us as a first measure, funds are necessary to purchase one cow and to make provision for stalls, etc. They would have us believe that they should be taken seriously when they claim that they are extending the scope of animal husbandry and wasting our time and their own time by asking us to agree to the purchase of one cow. Mr. Chairman, some of us and even yourself have kept cows, and I do not think you would claim when you have one cow, even if you had some pigs, sheep and chickens, that you were extending the scope of Animal Husbandry. You might have said that you cannot afford to buy another cow but that you would do so when you could afford to buy it. But this is a Public Institution with persons who work in this venture, and with a considerable amount of pasture land for the rearing and feeding of these cattle. Yet it does not occur to them that there is something slightly absurd by purchasing a single cow to extend, as they put it, the scope of animal husbandry at the Prison. I well remember that the Superintendent of Prisons before the present one used to keep not a cow, but cows; and unless my memory fails me, he had three or possibly four cows. I have

not heard it said either by him or by anybody that he found it difficult to maintain them: or that he did not have the room to keep them: or that proper arrangements could not be made for their feeding and care. Since one takes it that a Public issue has to be made of this matter by bringing in the Senior Veterinary Officer, one takes it that it is a serious attempt to increase the milk production in the island by increasing the milk production at the Government Institution. I should have thought that one of the first things which the Government would think about would be to extend the scope not only by purchasing a cow but certainly by purchasing a bull. The scope could be extended quite naturally without any trouble, or fuss, and then you would have been able to say that you were purchasing milch cattle.

4.55 p.m.

In any case, if permission is given to purchase a cow and that cow is purchased, there will come a time when it will not give milk, and it would not surprise me when that happens that this House will be treated with the startling discovery made by the Government that one cow is not enough and that funds must be asked for the purchase of another.

Mr. Chairman, if these trivial matters engage the attention of the Ministers, the very least assurance we can have from them is that, despite their triviality, there is some aspect of realism about them. However the honourable member must feel that if there is going to be a model farm a bull, and possibly three cows would be a tidy enough unit. I do not think you so much need a bull nowadays because the practice of artificial semination which is quite wide spread now is quite satisfactory; but they should have at least three cows. What I suspect (and I cannot help facing my suspicion) is this: that in no way has a serious attempt even to do the things set out in this Resolution been made. The milk of one cow could not suffice or meet the needs of an Institution such as the Prison, and since in addition to the cow stalls are to be provided, it appears that a cow costing something like \$200 is unlikely to provide the abundance of milk which the Government has in mind. It follows, therefore, that when all is said and done, they may well purchase an inferior type of cow whose milk yield falls surprisingly below the estimate made: and they will then admit that an awful mistake was made and money wasted. I, therefore, want to impress upon the Minister that it is doing us less than justice if the Hon. Minister asks us to elevate this matter to the level of a serious discussion. We cannot, of course, stop him from purchasing a cow or from spending more on the stalls than he would spend on a cow; but we do impress upon him that he is not to be taken seriously when he says that he is only going to purchase one cow, when that cow as a milch cow might be out of commission at any time for three months in a year. If the Hon. Minister and the persons concerned would like to give a little more thought to the matter I am certain that they would receive expert advice from any of the Livestock Stations in this Island; and there are grades of cattle at the Pine especially which could be transferred over to this Station in numbers large enough to warrant the venture which they are making and also large enough to make the venture something of a success. I, therefore, think that the Government ought to think very seriously about it, and have further consultations with the Superintendent of Prisons and the Veterinary Officers, and impress upon them that the idea is not a bad one; but that,

circumscribed as it is, the purchase of a single cow borders on the absurd and does not merit the attention of serious discussion. If these cows are to be kept at the prison, I was wondering too, why there should be provision for stalls. Those cows I remember being kept up to about a year ago by the last Superintendent of the Prisons, were kept in stalls which were there; (there were more than one) and I have never heard any complaint being made; that the accommodation for them was inadequate. It may well be that they propose to obtain another system and keep that cow or those cows within the present stalls itself. I do not know how that would affect the milk yield. It may be that since the women's prison contains but few (I think they are only four now), the Government, by one of these brilliant association of ideas, intends to keep cows to justify the maintenance and existence of those cells which formerly were used by the women. That, of course, would be hard on our cows; but one wonders whether provisions will be made for any new stalls. If there are houses and buildings adequate enough, little or no trouble would be afforded in the proper accommodation for these animals.

Mr. Chairman, as I said before there is a temptation not to take the Government seriously in this matter. I, myself, have been a little surprised that we have allowed it to come before us like this. It seems such a pity that in so beneficial a scheme as the one proposed, there should not be more largeness of vision and imagination as to make a thorough investigation of the possibilities and also to make thorough preparations for bringing those possibilities into issue and consequently to ask the House to consider seriously so beneficial a proposal as the large scale production of milk for a public institution. Had that been done surely we would have felt more pleased than we do now. As it is, while we could not prevent the Hon. Minister from spending \$400, we feel that he is almost wasting his time and the time of the rest of us.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the point I was making just now is this: I know that this Department has a new Head and he might not have been here when the last Estimate was prepared; but I do feel that when equipment is being bought it should be done through the Estimates.

5.05 p.m.

I do not think any Board of Survey should be called in the middle of a financial year and after we have passed the Annual Estimates. Of course, Government might not be always able to keep to that principle, but there are really certain items which are asked for by Supplementary Estimates which are out of proportion. Why wait until the middle of a financial year to condemn something? You will never know where you are with estimates when you do that. Supplementary Estimates should be for things you planned to buy, but due to the increase in numbers or price, you will have to pay more for them; Supplementary Estimates should not be made out for condemned things.

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

Head XXI — Public Library

Head XXI Public Library was called.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the sum of \$2,040 is asked for under Head XXI, — Public Library — for the upkeep of the Hometown Branch Library. It is proposed to convert the wooden building at Hometown, St. James, which formerly housed the District Post Office into a Branch Library

for Hometown. The building has been inspected by the Director of Public Works who gave an estimate as to the cost of putting shelves, paint and one or two other things and the money for that purpose was taken from the vote against Minor Works under Head XXV.

This vote is to purchase some books and pay staff up to the end of the financial year. I may say that it will be a part-time arrangement as the Library will only be opened for a certain time until the development shows that it warrants to be further extended to provide more books and a full-time staff.

As I was saying, the sum of \$500 was needed for shelves, paint and one or two other things and that was taken from Minor Works under Head XXV, so there was no need to come here for that expenditure. I beg to move that Head XXII stand part.

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

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, my idea of a library, firstly, is that it must be architecturally attractive; a library should be housed in a building which commands attention. Incidentally, the Public Library in Bridgetown from the point of view of architectural appearance is perhaps one of the finest, if not the finest, in the Caribbean. I cannot envisage that the Old Post Office at Hometown, unless it is radically reconverted, could possibly serve the purpose of an attractive Library.

I would also ask the Hon. Minister what has become of the plan for a proposed library for the parish of St. John. As far as I remember, it was very seriously proposed that a Library and Community Hall should be a combined building for that parish and I was one of the most amazed people to discover when the Community Hall was near completion that the idea of the Library had been at least temporarily abandoned. It is not too much to say that some people's education have come completely from the use they made of a library. They have had only an elementary education but they have made such wonderful use of a Public Library in after years that you are bound to speak of them as being broadly educated people. A wide reader can become a much more educated person than one who is more highly educated in an institution but who has not looked into a book since leaving the institution. Therefore, Sir, I advocate the implementation and spread of community libraries and I think any parsimony in the spread of such libraries throughout the colony is false economy. It is a wonderful addition to the broadening of education which our schools exist to furnish, and as a matter of fact, schools can only serve half of their purpose without the existence of a Public Library.

I want to emphasise and draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Social Services that the spreading of community libraries is one item on which they cannot waste money. The money spent in the creation of a library is always money well spent because it means the broadening of the base of the citizen's education.

I have been informed by the present Librarian that there has been a tremendous multiplication of readers at the Public Library and that is a healthy sign. I do hope that a similar multiplication would ensue in all country districts where libraries are provided. There is one thing which I am very pleased to say is a common trait of the ordinary Barbadian and that is: he loves reading. The most humble and hard-working Barbadian on the average loves to read. Even if he cannot afford to buy a newspaper, he tries to get hold of one to read it. Such a people should be encouraged by the provision of libraries to broaden their knowledge.

I am very dissatisfied, I must express it, that the Hon. Minister for Social Services has not pushed the proposed library for St. John. I thought that

by now it would have been a completed idea. So far, I am not even in a position to know if it still remains an idea. It was proposed that there should be a combined Library and Community Hall for the parish of St. John, which I considered was an excellent idea; but today, we have an excellent Community Hall but it will not serve its fullest purpose with the absence of the Library.

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman, it is certainly a pleasure for me to know that Government is establishing a Branch Library in the parish of St. James. Some months ago, I asked Government to establish a Branch Library in the parish. I am not in agreement with the honourable junior member for St. John that a Branch Library should be something looking like the Public Library in Bridgetown because I never placed my mind on the structure of it; I placed it on getting somewhere for the community to go to read. When the building which housed the Police and the Post Office became vacant, I thought it would be an asset to the parish to have the Branch Library put there so that people can go there and read. I think the Government would certainly improve on that structure in the course of time.

It is known, as the hon. member has said, that a Library is a stepping stone for the community in general after leaving school. I have asked a question about this matter and I will not dwell on it for very long; it is certainly a pleasure to me to know that this Branch Library at Hometown will soon be started.

5.15 p.m.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, it is a great pity that the taxpayers of this island have to wait for public amenities to be granted by the Government, and those amenities depend upon the loyalty of the representative to the ideas of the Government in power today. It is some time now since the hon. senior member for St. John and the hon. junior member for St. John, before his defection, had been requesting the Government —

Mr. VAUGHAN: On a point of explanation. I would like the hon. member to say exactly what he means when he refers to my "defection."

Mr. BARROW: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I should have used the word "affection" for the ideas to which I have referred. [A MEMBER: Deflection] [Laughter]. We have been agitating for a long time for the services of a Branch Library in St. George and St. John, two of the most enlightened parishes in this island. I do not in any way resent the fact that the parish of St. James has been chosen for these services before the parishes which I have mentioned; but I very much regret the manner in which priority has been granted. I would like to see the service of several Libraries in the parishes of this island. Normally one would not expect people from one part of St. Joseph to have to walk down to Bathsheba just to borrow a book if a Library was there.

I find myself in agreement with the hon. junior member for St. John in this respect; the building in St. James is a wooden building which, in itself is inadvisable, and green in colour with a red top. It has none of the physical resemblance of what we would expect or want in housing such valuable services, because it happens to be in the periphery of Social Services, it does not mean that the architecture of the building should differ so much from the main Library. The appearance of Public Buildings tends to follow this particular rule which the Government seems to have developed in dealing with the people outside their own sphere of influence. One would find in St. Michael that the public buildings which are not of Central Government character but which are none the less erected by the Cen-

tral Government, bear a marked difference from the public buildings which you will find in other places. If you take the example of a public bath, you will see the comparison which I wish to draw.

I personally welcome the buildings which have now been erected adjacent to the old Police Station because I feel that at least the eye sore of the old Post Office would have been removed. The other aspect of the matter is that only a small percentage of the people in Barbados have electricity installed in their homes. There is very much the propensity of people who live in the country to congregate under the street lamps. Despite the fact that we have had the Electric Company for some years and that the Chamber of Commerce has asked the Government to do something about it, comparatively few people have electricity installed in their homes. If you are going to provide reading facilities for the working population, you would expect them in a nice, airy building into which people could go at night. You do not want the people to borrow books once a week when they have not got any electricity in their homes so that they can take the books there and read.

The Government has been stampeded into giving St. James priority in the establishment of a Branch Library there when the accommodation is so glaringly inadequate as some of the imaginations which go on behind the scenes, *vis-a-vis* the loyalties of members of this Chamber. Since Government funds have been used, we must deprecate that and call attention to it. Just to say that you have put up a library building is not enough, because it cannot cater to the spiritual needs of the reading public of St. James. The people who would be able to take advantage of the lending services of that Branch Library will be the very people who do not need any Library at all; because they will be able to go into the Library during the day time twice a week and they have adequate electricity in their homes and therefore they would not need the Library at night. I do not think that the Government is wise in spending this amount of money for this particular purpose. If the Government had asked for money to erect a decent Library in St. James one would expect the extension of the Library service even to the tune of \$15,000; but to spend this \$2,040 purely for political purposes, is not indicative of that high standard of public morality which we as representatives of the people of Barbados expect. It is not a standard which we ourselves should set in our dealings with public finance.

Mr. HAYNES: I did not want to enter this debate, but there is one point which has been worrying me for sometime. It is this: these Branch Libraries are opened about 8 o'clock in the morning when people are going to work and they are closed at 4 o'clock in the afternoon just when people are going home. I am wondering if the Government would alter those hours in some way because working people are working at the hours when the Library is opened. I am wondering if the Government cannot make some alteration in the opening hours, say, from 3 o'clock in the afternoon until 10 o'clock at night. I am sure that these people to whom the honourable senior member for St. George refers would go to the Library during these hours and that would be a great advantage to the community. I am only throwing out this idea for what it is worth, and if the appropriate Minister thinks anything about it, he will implement it; but it is well worth considering and the idea might be started with this new Branch Library which is to be opened in St. James.

5.25 p.m.

Mr. LEWIS: Before the honourable member replies I should like to make this comment. Note eight starts off by saying that:

"It is proposed to convert the wooden building at Hometown, St. James, which formerly housed the District Post Office, into a Branch Library for this purpose."

Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not see one cent for this place. I am wondering if the honourable member can tell me whether this is going to be converted and whether the actual work and material is going to come out of the Public Works Department. Where is this money going to come from? Not a chair, table or shelf is provided for and the books are 500 in number. I do not know if they can get 500 books for that amount. Then there are book ends, signs, issue trays etc., a clerk, fire extinguisher, stationery, periodicals and newspapers. Then the balance of the money is made up of allocations to the staff: two part-time clerks at \$25 per month for five months, one at \$20 per month, one part-time cleaner at \$3 per month for five months. I do not see a brass farthing there for the purpose of putting in even a single chair in the building. If there is a vote from which it is coming I think that the honourable member would consider it reasonable to say that there is not a chair or table and no shelves provided for these books.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: In reply first of all to the honourable junior member for St. John and the honourable senior member for St. George, I must say that the whole question of Branch Libraries is receiving consideration. In this particular case here is a building (I am not saying that it is the most beautiful building in the world) and we have been wondering what use we could make of it. I do not know if the idea had occurred to the honourable senior member for St. James; but the question was raised that it might be considered as a Branch Library and so it was done. That does not imply, however, that St. John and St. George will not get their Branch Library; but they have to start from scratch. I repeat that there was a building with a little decoration and it was decided to make it into a part-time library to be used only in the afternoon. I did say earlier that this \$500 for conversion, painting and furniture was taken from Head XXIV, Item 30, Public Works (unforeseen minor works). [Mr. LEWIS: I did not hear anything of that.]

In answer to the hon. junior member for St. Andrew; if you will remember, there is a similar Branch Library in St. Philip. It is part-time and it is opened at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The Library was started and within a space of three months we came back to this House and asked to increase the vote stating that it was so very much used by the people in the area that we had to have an increase of the vote for additional staff at that Branch Library. [VOICES: Hear! Hear!] It has proved a success and we hope soon that the numbers at this Branch Library will be so great that the hon. senior member for St. James will come and ask us to put another new building in St. James. This is not a question of playing politics as the hon. senior member for St. George thinks; but in this particular case there was a building already available to the Government and we thought that we should make use of it. A question was tabled to that effect and the Government acceded to that request.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, on this point of the Library, as you know, for years in considering the Colonial Estimates [A VOICE: There are no Colonial Estimates now], I raised the question as to why no Public Library was opened at night and I maintained that it should be opened

every night until 10 o'clock with the exception of Sunday night for the benefit of the vast number of unemployed and uneducated in this country. Every parish is entitled to, at least, one centrally located library for itself. There should be no question of a favourite or beloved parish. It is the people in the eleven parishes to whom there should be a centrally located library. At least one of the hon. members for St. James is satisfied with this little building. As a legal man, a small portion of my livelihood is earned in Holetown; and up to today I could not help noticing this building and it is not big enough to be dignified by the name of a Library. There is no provision here for opening at night; because as you know, there is nothing here in this Resolution for either electricity or oil or even candles for the lighting of this place. It really falls short of what one expects even of a modest library. In every place a certain amount of emphasis is placed on the appearance of such buildings. A beautiful building is more impressive to the mind of the pupil or student than one which is not. 5.35 p.m.

We are told that that building was there, but on the other hand, I am wondering if it might not be used as an additional room to shelter those people whose houses were damaged in the recent disaster; and whether we could not provide a nice stone room extension to the building we have recently erected there in which books might be housed and which would provide ample reading room in the afternoon for people other than the leisured few. Even the hon. junior member for St. Andrew is complaining about the amenities which this building would offer. When that hon. member complains, you can realise the hardship the professional, the middle and poorer classes would be labouring under if they want to make use of the facilities of this library.

Sir, I will again stress the point and ask the Hon. Minister to give the matter his serious consideration. I think he promised this Committee during the consideration of the Annual Estimates this year and last year that this matter would receive careful attention. The same principle should apply now because the people who want to study at or take advantage of the Library facilities are people who between the hours of 10 in the morning and four in the afternoon are out earning a livelihood. You want the Library opened from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. to accommodate those people. We have, as I reminded the Hon. Minister, eleven parishes and there is no question of considering them in alphabetical order or in order of preference. It is a matter of library schemes. It is a question of policy and that policy is that every parish should be supplied with such educational facilities as are really necessary in an enlightened community.

It has been pointed out to us that there is no real suggestion as to how you will house the books. Perhaps, they will be sent down in boxes. I do not know if all of the furniture that was in that old Post Office has been transferred to the new building. What I know of the new building which was built for the Judiciary in Bridgetown is that all of the old furniture was transferred into the new building; therefore, from the outside you have a very attractive looking building but from the inside, it looks as old as the old one because of the old furniture. The Hon. Minister of Works might perhaps be able to give us an idea of how it is proposed to convert this building, or whether it is to be used as it is, or what shelves would these books be placed in. At least the books should be placed in attractive shelves so that one can look at them and review them in their correct places. Unless they are attractively

arranged, people would not be encouraged to visit this Library.

Mr. BARROW: I note with interest the excuse—if one might term it that way] for the reason given for granting priority to St. James for a Branch Library. They say that St. James has a building with which the Government does not know what to do. In other parishes we have several buildings which would come in useful if that is to be the yardstick by which they will be granted. In St. George, we have an old building which is eight times the size of the one they have now taken over in St. James. It is called the 'Boer House,' which is temporarily used now to house the victims from the recent disaster. It is a building far more impressive both in size and proportion than that in St. James. We also have in St. George a large number of barracks at Gun Hill, the use of which have not been invoked by the Public Librarian or the Minister of Social Services. Added to those buildings, I can conjure up several buildings throughout the parish which to my mind can be used for such a purpose they being at present not utilised by the Government or by any other person.

I do not think that kind of flimsy excuse for the utilisation of unoccupied buildings at all convinces members of this Chamber. I am sure that other hon. members can think of several buildings in their particular constituencies which can be put into use in the same way as the building which the Government contemplates using in the parish of St. James for a branch library. If the Government does have a library scheme it should be implemented in a comprehensive manner. This piecemeal way the Government has adopted of granting a favour and dispensing of largesse to constituents of a particular parish, I must draw to their attention is not a satisfactory way of spending Government funds.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

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

5.40 p.m.

On Re-assembling,

LEAVE FOR APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to move for the appointment of a Select Committee to reply to His Excellency the Acting Governor's Message No. 24/55 relative to the offer to the bus concessionaires of 15 per cent rebate of the cost of petrol per gallon consumed solely for operational purposes of the buses operating on certain routes.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I am not objecting to the leave being granted the Hon. Minister, but it would be a good thing if the hon. member would say why he wants a reply to that Message. All Messages are not replied to.

Hon. M. E. COX: All right sir, I ask leave to withdraw my application.

There being no objection leave was granted the Hon. Minister, to withdraw his application.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY RESUMED

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

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

Head XXIII (3) Mental Hospital

Head XXIII (3) Mental Hospital was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The object of this vote is to purchase certain equipment for the training of staff at the Mental Hospital. Hon. members will ask why this amount of \$560 was not put in the Estimates and the reason for that is this: the Assistant Tutor who is to train the Staff was not appointed until after the Estimates had been sent in. For the first part of the course the Assistant Tutor was borrowing equipment from the General Hospital, the course has now reached an advanced stage where she cannot any longer borrow this equipment. This money is for the purpose of purchasing the equipment which is set out in the Note to this particular Item. That equipment is as follows:

1. Skeleton, Skull, disarticulated bones. etc.	\$200.00
2. Wall Charts, Anatomy, First Aid, Hygiene, Prac- tical Nursing	70.00
3. Plastic models of eye, ear, nose, throat, kidneys etc.	15.00
4. Instrument, all kinds, including Rub- ber, plastic, vulcanise and gum- elastic Articles	100.00
5. Reference Library books	75.00
6. Other furnishings	100.00

that makes a total of \$560. There are advanced methods of treatment and as we want to keep abreast of what is going on in big places with modern Mental Hospitals, and Assistant Tutor was obtained for the purpose of training the Staff at the Mental Hospital. I beg to move that this Head stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. LEWIS: I was glad to hear the hon. member explain why this amount was not put in the Estimates, but it appears to me that if the policy was to have this training scheme down there, the equipment should have been bought. If that is the Government's policy I do not see why this matter should have been held up pending the appointment of a Tutor: they should have had this equipment so that when the Tutor is appointed the equipment would be there already. It is a very necessary part of the curative methods employed down there that we should have properly trained people and that we should have that equipment so that people will be properly trained. I do not think it is right to delay getting this equipment until you get a teacher.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: You cannot get equipment for the teacher until she comes and says what she wants.

Mr. LEWIS: The only thing I am not satisfied about is the explanation which the hon. member gave. This sort of training cannot be peculiar to the person whom you are appointing; there must be some

standard and essentials for this training. Do you mean to say that if you get one person she will say that one set of equipment is alright and if you get another person you have to get supplies to suit that person? You will be appointing mad people themselves.

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

Head XXIII—(8) Maternity Hospital

Head XXIII (8) Maternity Hospital was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This amount of \$700 is required for the purchase of a sterilizer for the Maternity Hospital. This is a new Item. The former sterilizer, due to the neglect or carelessness of someone, in my opinion, was burnt out; there is no one to whom you could attach any blame but the fact is that this sterilizer is now useless and another one has to be obtained. A Board of Survey has said that this sterilizer is unfit for further use but it might be used for spare parts when they are needed.

I beg to move that this Head stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to second that.
6.30 p.m.

Mr. LEWIS: I should like to ask the honourable member to let me know what the life of a sterilizer is.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: As far as I remember the last one was about two or three years old.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, having heard the Hon. Minister say that to the best of his knowledge the sterilizer might be two or three years old, I should like to ask whether it has gone out of use through carelessness or the natural time has passed when it could be used. It seems odd to me that equipment like that should only last three years, and it would be interesting to know just whether it had been improperly used or badly handled by people who do not know how to use it. In an Institution like the Maternity Hospital, a sterilizer would be one of the most important bits of equipment you could have and it is strange to hear that you only have one. I wonder what is being used now. Are they borrowing one from the Hospital or have they got one which is serviceable? Will the Hon. Minister say whether they have got one and what is being done now appending the arrival of the new one?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I thought I made it clear when I first got up that a sterilizer of that sort should last a few years. This one was bought in 1952; and in my opinion its present condemned state is due to neglect; but the trouble is, how are we to pin it down to a particular person? On whom can we pin it? I admitted that fact and I tried to get some information regarding it; but it was just a case of butting my head against a wall. Anyway, the fact remains that you must have a sterilizer.

There is nothing more I can add at the moment other than to repeat what I said before; that is that a sterilizer of that sort should last a number of years; that this one is only three years old and that in my opinion its present condemned state was due to the neglect and carelessness of somebody but that the difficulty is to be able to say who that person is. Some of the nurses use it; the matron may use it. Finally the one now being used is a borrowed one.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, it is usual in electrical equipment to have the vices which would obviate the contingency of the elements being burnt out, and I hope that the Hon. Minister will address his mind to the problem of having an automatic cut out on any future equipment which may be pur-

chased for the Maternity Hospital. It does not seem to me to be a satisfactory state of affairs in these enlightened days that you should have equipment which is capable of being burnt out before its normal life span has elapsed; and I enjoin the Hon. Minister to see that it should come from a reputable Hospital or suppliers such as John Bell rather than that he should succumb to the blandishments of his local agents as to the efficacy of his local product.

As we are on the question of the Maternity Hospital I should like to enquire as to what is the basis on which expectant mothers are admitted to the Maternity Hospital. I really thought that when the Maternity Hospital was established that the members of the general public would be encouraged to make use of it in preference to (a) having deliveries at home or; (b) having to go to the General Hospital for Maternity Treatment. I understand that it is extremely difficult for an expectant mother on the verge of delivery to get admitted to the Maternity Hospital and they only accept them into the General Hospital when complications are likely to arise in the delivery. I should like some clear declaration from the Hon. Minister of Social Services as to the policy of the Government on this particular aspect of hospital administration. I also hope the Hon. Minister will pay some attention to what the honourable junior member for St. Lucy has said in regard to the advisability of having more than one sterilizer in an institution of that kind.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman,—I notice that in Note 10 of the Supplementary Estimates it is stated that "the present sterilizer at the Maternity Hospital has been condemned by a Board of Survey as unfit for further service." Now, you have an Electrical Engineer and an Electrical Inspector; if this is an electrical sterilizer, I am wondering whether you should have a Board of Survey to deal with that. Is that correct? If you have an Electrical Engineer, I think that he should be able to tell you something about it. If I were making up this Note I would put down the name of the manufacturers so that somebody could be able to help the Government in cases like this. It must have some name.

These things will happen, even in the best regulated families. Somebody may see it and may meddle with it without supposing that anything might go wrong.

I do not know if these little things, apart from what is general, are inspected. The fluctuations in current supply or drop or whatever the term is [A VOICE: Ask Freddie Miller.] may be responsible; this has not always to do with the particular person using the appliance. Other electrical engineers who came to Barbados (not the engineers at the Electric Company) had to tell us that these people were not supplying the current. Let us get after these Electrical Engineers, and tell them that they are doing wrong. If not, they will keep on coming here for electrical equipment and blaming somebody whom they suspect of having meddled with it.

We are not going to get good service with matters as they stand now; and I must repeat that the engineers from the suppliers came here and told them that the fluctuations in current were sufficient to destroy the element.

Another thing, Mr. Chairman, is that this is one of the cases where you come in the middle of the financial year for something which should be put in the Annual Estimates.

6.40 p.m.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: The hon. senior member for St. George asked about the method by which people go to the Maternity Hospital. The system is

that as soon as possible after pregnancy, that is within three or four months, you go to the Hospital for examination and then you go regularly every month until you are about to be delivered. Being a small hospital with only twenty beds, people who have not attended the Hospital during pregnancy find it difficult to get in when they are in labour, but it is not true to say that there is some difficulty to get admission to that Hospital other than that. It is true to say that sometimes the Matron of the Maternity Hospital has to refer patients to the General Hospital. I repeat: The patient must be attended at the Maternity Hospital in the early stage of pregnancy. She cannot wait until labour sets in to go to seek admission because the beds are already booked up.

Mr. TUDOR: Before the question is put, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to remind the Hon. Minister that we think it a very important matter that two sterilizers should be placed in an institution such as that. Sir, we have heard nothing from the Hon. Minister to indicate that the mistake which has taken place with the sterilizer which is now not usable will not occur again. I tremble to think if the same carelessness is exhibited with this new one what would happen. Even if it is easy to borrow one from the General Hospital, the Maternity Hospital is deserving of having two. This is not a matter upon which I can pronounce with any finality, but I think the Hon. Minister ought to turn his attention to providing two sterilizers instead of one. It may be possible for him to give a general warning. He may put it as firmly as he likes that responsibility for the use and the attention paid to this equipment should be pinned quite clearly on some person or group of persons. It is not good enough to have valuable equipment in institutions which can be destroyed through carelessness and then find you cannot pin the responsibility on some persons.

There is one other matter arising out of the reply by the Hon. Minister to the hon. member who asked questions with respect to the administration of that institution that I will touch upon. I, myself, did not know that the Maternity Hospital was an exclusive teaching Institution. I know, of course, that midwives are being trained there; but I thought it was an Institution catering to the needs of poor expectant mothers. Therefore, I thought that more women than the mere number of 20 would be able to avail themselves of that service. I doubt whether a Hospital of 20 beds can offer the variety of experience necessary for the training of midwives, but the experts will have to tell you that. It does not seem that the experience available would give the adequate training. I was astonished to hear the Hon. Minister say that some maternity cases which are difficult have got to be taken over to the General Hospital. That is not good enough; it ought not to happen. You ought to have there a well equipped surgery and all the requirements necessary for the carrying out of operations of a serious nature. If patients have got to be moved from there to the General Hospital, not because you do not have room but because you do not have equipment to give them treatment they desire, that is not good enough.

Obviously, since the scope of that Institution is so limited, and the Government has not even contemplated owing to such conditions to provide a refresher course, it seems to me that after any woman has been qualified as a midwife and has been practising for at least five years, she should think seriously of having a refresher course. I am not saying that the Government is hostile to the course; I am saying that no provision is made for the training. It is well known that the use of new drugs and new techniques would be very valuable knowledge and it is true to say that every five years the technique changes. It is,

therefore, very regrettable that no provision is offered for the training and the teaching of those persons trained at this Hospital, but it may be that that is due to the fact that the Hospital serves a limited purpose due to the limited conception which the Government has of it. It is incredible to think that only twenty people can be accommodated there. That is out of all proportion to the members of expectant mothers who might need this service. I think they ought to think seriously of extending the scope of the service offered at the Maternity Hospital by increasing it to 50 beds, and with a properly equipped surgery, and all the equipment necessary, electrical or otherwise.

The question that Head XXIII (8) — stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIII — Barbados Regiment

HEAD XXIII—Barbados Regiment was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: This is for the purchase of Wireless Equipment for the Barbados Regiment. The Note says:

The Signal Equipment at present owned by the Barbados Regiment is worn out. In addition to use for internal security purposes this Equipment would also be essential in the event of a hurricane. The greater part of the equipment now used by the Hurricane Relief Organisation has to be borrowed from amateurs and commercial firms.

The type of equipment which it is intended to purchase is used by the British Army, is considerably cheaper than that now owned by the Regiment, is sturdy and reliable, and is easier to operate. Spares are also easily obtainable.

As can be seen the Barbados Regiment has been borrowing Wireless equipment from amateurs and commercial firms for a while. They ought to have their own. During the recent Hurricane they also had to borrow such equipment. As can be seen from the note, the type of equipment which is to be purchased is considerably cheaper than that which is now owned by the Regiment.

6.50 p.m.

It has been said that this type of equipment is more sturdy and considerably cheaper than that which is now used by the British Army and that spares are also more easily obtainable. There is nothing more I can add to what I have said: I beg to move that this Head stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I have not had the time to look up the various votes which have been passed for equipment of this nature, but I am sure that in the past we have voted money for Very High Frequency equipment to be installed at the Drill Hall. I think that they were to put something up there so that in case of a hurricane or other disaster we would be able to get in touch with people all over the island. That is subject to correction, but do you mean to tell me that it has now dawned upon the Government, or rather the Regiment, that they want to purchase this wireless equipment? Money has been voted for the purchase of equipment to replace that at the Drill Hall and I understood that that equipment was to be used in case of a hurricane. Has the hurricane brought this vote out? Or is this something which has been hanging fire for a long time?

I am sure that if we got these Resolutions earlier to permit hon. members to look up previous votes and other things about these matters, we might be able

to help the Government. However I distinctly remember that votes were passed for putting equipment at the Drill Hall for the use of the Army and at the same time to be used in case of an emergency. This Resolution would give the impression that absolutely nothing had been voted but that they are walking about borrowing equipment from radio amateurs. I have had to remark that it was these amateurs who render yeoman service in case of emergency; their services were very advantageous during the past war but they have been very badly treated by the Government since the War. Here we find that equipment has had to be borrowed from radio amateurs! I am not armed with the facts and I hope that this equipment will now come and at least it will not only be a play thing for the Army; but as far as this V.H.F. equipment for the Police and the Army is concerned, we have passed numerous votes in this House in this direction and I am surprised to find that there is absolutely nothing at the Drill Hall and that they have had to walk about and borrow equipment from the commercial firms.

Mr. ALLDER: I thought the Minister who is handling this Resolution would have given us a clear idea as to the existing conditions of the existing equipment. Like the honourable junior member for the City, I can say that Resolutions for the supply of this equipment have been dealt with in this Chamber several times when they were criticised. If you look at the Estimates you will find that we spend \$450 every year to keep this equipment in order. It is surprising that equipment on which you spend that amount every year can suddenly go out of repair. These are things which the Hon. Minister should explain.

I should like to report one of the numerous things that I have tried to draw to the Government's attention: that is, the rapidly increasing cost of the Regiment. With this Resolution this Department will cost \$79,000 per annum and I have often said that this Department is not a productive Department, and therefore care should be maintained as to how much we allow that Department to cost us annually. If you compare what that Department costs us with the cost of running the Maternity Hospital which renders an essential service, you will find that that Hospital is run at a cost of \$33,000 per annum as against \$79,000 in the case of the Barbados Regiment. There seems to be a readiness to give the Regiment everything they ask for.

I feel that this explanation should be given by the Hon. Minister in view of the fact that equipment is sent there from year to year, money is spent on it and the annual grant that we are giving for it is sufficient to ensure its service whether we have a hurricane or not.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I am sorry that I cannot give the information for which the honourable member is asking, but if he insists on having it I will get it for him probably on the next occasion this House sits.

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

7.00 p.m.

Head XXVIII — Subsidies and Grants

HEAD XXVIII — Subsidies and Grant was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, Head XXVIII. Subsidies and Grants. In connection with this Head, Note 12 of the Supplementary Estimates reads as follows:

(12) A revised estimate shows that the amount (\$4,175) allocated for payment of allowances to Bovell Scholars during 1955—56 will not be adequate. It has been necessary to adjust payments of allowances in order to make payment of one instalment which had lapsed at the end of the financial year 1953—54. The need for adjustment was not discovered until after the submission of the current year's estimates. It was then considered advisable to await results of this year's award of the Bovell Scholarship before applying for supplementary provision. Action has been taken to secure prompt payment of instalments of allowances, and to avoid lapse of funds.

The total estimated expenditure on scholarship allowances during 1955—56 is now \$4,680. Supplementary provision of \$505 is accordingly required.

So it seems from the text of this explanatory note that the allowances have probably increased and have not been paid as they fell due. This was not discovered until after the submission of the current year's Estimates. This \$505 is now required to bring it up to the amount required today.

Note (13) reads as follows:

(13) The contribution payable by Barbados as a member of the Bermuda/British Caribbean Group of the International Telecommunications Union for 1956 is \$105.60. Contributions to the Union are payable in advance, and if not paid in advance will accrue interest after the 31st December, 1955, at the rate of 3% from 1st January to 30th June, 1956, and 6% from 1st July, 1956.

It has been decided to pay the contribution in advance for 1956, and it will therefore be necessary to provide an additional sum of \$90 to supplement the amount provided in the current estimates.

I beg to move that Head 28 stand part.

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

The question that Head 28 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXXII—Highways and Transport

Head XXXII was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman,—Head 32, Highways and Transport, 58. Dredging of rivers, Drainage works and Outfalls. Note (14) of the Supplementary Estimates states that,

"It has been found necessary to construct a new outfall drain at Oistins, Christ Church, and execute certain drainage works at Lodge Hill in order to control the periodic flooding of private property in the area with storm water coming off the highway.

Supplementary provision is therefore needed as the provision in the current estimates is earmarked for other specific works."

It seems that the owners cannot easily get out of this state which was due to flooding of the area by storm water coming off the highway.

I beg to move that Head 32 stand part.

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

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I would like the Hon. Minister of Communications to explain why work at the Newcastle Bridge was stopped. I notice that there is provision in the current year's Estimates for the sum of \$35,000 to do two miles of that road. They have started to do part of it; but every now and then the men gather and work for a couple of weeks and then they are taken away and the work is left unfinished. The residents in that area are very perturbed over the roads in that area, which as the Hon. Minister knows, have been in bad condition for years. They would like the road put in proper order; a step which would enable the bus service to reach up there. People living as far as Newcastle have to drive

up to Bathsheba and then walk across that long Foster Hall road in order to get to their homes in Newcastle. It is felt that if that road were put in proper repair there is a possibility of its being used to a greater extent by vehicular traffic by persons wishing to get to St. Joseph and St. John. What baffles the residents more than anything else, is the continuous coming to and going away from the job, leaving it in an unfinished condition for so long. Travel by night is worse for vehicular traffic. I should like to ask the Hon. Minister to explain that.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, it is the intention of the Department of Highways and Transport to put the road in good order as far as is possible; but it must be borne in mind that that area is subject to land slides, and every now and again when work has been effected on that particular area, you get breakages and slipping high up on the hills. In addition to that I think the hon. member will agree that due to damage resulting from the Hurricane (September 1955) that Department has not been able to concentrate on its normal activities. I do not know if work has been resumed, but I shall make enquiry and see that the work on that road is continued.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the answer given by the Hon. Minister; but if, as he says, the area is subject to breakages, I do not regard it as economic to start and then leave it in an unfinished condition. You may as well consider, while you are working on it, giving it the necessary strength which it deserves. I agree that roads which are in greater demand should be attended to first; but the trouble is that they have left this job unfinished too many times; and this time it is not due to the Hurricane which we had two weeks ago. I investigated and found that work was stopped or threatened to be stopped sometime before we had the Hurricane. The Hurricane, therefore, is not the cause. [Hon. M. E. COX: All right, I will check on that.]

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman: before you put the question, I should like to comment briefly. In my opinion, this road is as equally important as almost any other highway in the Island. In the absence of a proper East Coast road, this road serves the purpose of connecting the eastern part of the country with the northern part; and with the approach of the tourist season it is a highway that will be regularly used by visitors to the country. I can see no earthly reason at all why there should be such a long delay in finishing that road. It has been virtually impassable now for fully two years, if not more. [Hon. M. E. COX: That is not so.] If the Hon. Minister says that is not so, then he does not know what he is talking about. Does the hon. senior member for St. John mean the road to Foster Hall? [Mr. ALLDER: Yes.] Well, that road has been closed now for fully two years. As a matter of fact, it has been closed for over a year, and traffic has been going through Foster Hall for more than a year. [VOICES: More than that.] I repeat that I can see no reason at all why it should have remained in that condition for so long. Each time you go there you see the road impassable; and it is a mistake to say that the road is not an important road, or a road that is not constantly used by vehicular traffic. I regard that road as one of the most important roads in the country. I remember going through there sometime earlier this year with members of the Parliamentary delegation and being very embarrassed over it and having to make all kinds or sorts of excuses for its condition. [VOICES: Where is the Leader of the Opposition?]

This is no advertisement to the country; it is no advertisement at all; and in view of the fact that the Government consistently refuses to provide a

proper East Coast Road, the least they can do is to make that road passable.

7.10 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: I should further like to stress this point as regards to the dredging of rivers. I am wondering, Sir, if the money which was allocated for the carrying out of this Newcastle Road is converted to other projects. [A VOICE: The hon. member cannot talk about that.] I am only trying to draw something to the attention of the Hon. Minister for Communications.

Sir, a lot of money is being wasted on the Constitution drain. I am not an engineer, but if one were to take a careful look at what is being done there, one would have to come to the conclusion that what is being done cannot give the benefit which it was hoped would have resulted in improving the area. What is being done is just taking up mud from one place and putting it somewhere else without any general improvement to the area.

I would throw out as a warning that the Hon. Minister should make sure that too much money is not wasted on that project. I do agree that something has to be done in the area but it does seem as if you must have that area improved you will have to go farther up to drain it than where the Department is now working. It appears to me that you will have to start the drainage from somewhere near Glendairy and also that you will have to get engineering skill to give you the necessary advice to make that area more safe. It is the general opinion that what the Government is doing there is only a waste of money. All that is being done is to pick up mud from one side of the river and put it on the other side without any bulwark to prevent it from washing back to the place from where it was taken.

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

On motion of Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, that the Resolution for the sum of \$18,455 do now pass; the question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Supplementary Estimate 1955—56, No. 30

Parliament Buildings

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, the very next Resolution is for the sum of \$156,622. The Notes set out clearly the object of the Resolution. I think hon. members will recall when it was first decided to construct the Government Headquarters at Bay Street that it was also then agreed that the Bay Street Boys' School should be removed to the Bay Estate and be erected there. Now that the Government Headquarters are nearing completion, it is appropriate to begin construction of that School in as much as preparation for roads giving access to the Headquarters would reduce considerably the Playing Field attached to that School.

Part of this Resolution, the sum of \$143,000, is for the construction of a new Bay Street School. Hon. members will also see from the Note that the present number of pupils housed at the Bay Street Boys' School is 460. It is proposed that the new School should have an increased accommodation for another hundred pupils making the total of 560.

I have here with me a plan of that School which I shall pass on to hon. members for their scrutiny and so that they can see the proposed layout. The new School will be sited on the eastern side of the ex-Wanderers Cricket Ground, which is a few yards from Culloden Road.

I need not say much more on that because hon. members knew that it was the intention of the Government to move the Bay Street Boys' School and construct a new School on the Bay Estate. As

regards the other items under the Resolution, Mr. Chairman, I shall speak of them at a later stage, because it is customary to move Head after Head. With that explanation I beg to move that the sum of \$143,000 standing under Head IV — Education, do now stand part.

7.20 p.m.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: What intrigues me is that in this Addendum this is what is stated:—

"In view of the present Combermere 'crisis' it has been found necessary to commence the construction of this school at an earlier date than was originally planned."

Therefore I had hoped to hear the Minister give us the connecting link between this new Bay School and the so-called Combermere 'crisis.' I want to know what is the connection between this Secondary school crisis and the construction of the new Elementary School. [Hon. M. E. COX: If the honourable member sits, I will explain that in a few words.]

Mr. CRAWFORD took his seat.

Hon. M. E. COX: Since the Combermere 'crisis' we have had to remove the Education Department up to the Highways and Transport and send the pupils of the Combermere School to the Education Department. Now we want to remove the Education Department to some quarters of its own in order that the Highways and Transport Department can function at their Headquarters at the Pine. That is the connection between the Combermere 'crisis' and the construction of this new school. I thought the honourable member knew that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I assume that the plans for Combermere School are also made. Therefore, why not proceed with the Combermere plans as such entirely separate and distinct from the Bay School Plans? As far as I am concerned, the utilisation of the Bay Street School for Government offices was contingent upon the erection of these new public buildings contiguous to the present Bay Street School. I want to know if a project like this should not be postponed in view of the recent hurricane. I do not see how we can afford to take up \$143,000 to build this new school when there are thousands of people without any shelter over their heads, people who are now in churches and in the schools in which we want to educate our children, and people whom we have to feed. Unless I can hear some proper explanation as to why we should do this, I could never agree with the utilisation or the expenditure of this money at this time on a new school which, as a school, is not immediately necessary in view of the fact that there are thousands of houses which have been completely destroyed and which we have to assist people in rebuilding. As a matter of fact, in my opinion the need for rehousing caused by hurricane is so great as to make it necessary even to postpone the completion of the Parliament Buildings themselves. [Hon. M. E. COX: And leave them there for what?] At least, if you finish them certainly do not embark on the expenditure of building a new school. This money would go a long way towards rebuilding some of the houses which are now flat and the owners of which do not know where to lay their heads; and many of whom are living under shocking conditions without any privacy or anything at all in these communal sectors.

I cannot imagine any Minister or any Government having the idea of keeping a few hundred people in a Church or a school week after week without any immediate prospects of getting their own shelters over their heads. None of us would like that for a week. We were told that there were 4,000 houses which have been completely destroyed. Let the

country know that you have the money to rebuild them and that you will commence to rebuild them before you begin to talk about building a new Bay Street School, which I cannot see for the life of me to be immediately necessary.

The damage done to this island by the hurricane is over \$4 million. So far as I know we have half a million dollars which is hurricane relief and we may get another million and a half dollars; if the Government can tell me that they have the remainder of this money which should be used for rehousing the people, then I am willing to keep quiet and vote this money for building this new school. Until I am convinced on this score, I fail to appreciate the necessity for starting work immediately on the new school when we already have a school there which is capable of accommodating 460 pupils: mark you, the new school would accommodate only 100 more accordingly to what the Government says. We have to bear in mind that all the Government Departments which will occupy the new Bay Street buildings are at present housed; the Ministers are not housed under the sandbox tree; they are in buildings at present. The Education Department could be temporarily put in the new Ministerial Buildings when they are finished if they want some place for it. But before you start to make room for your grandiose ideas of new Ministerial Buildings and what not, let us keep before our minds that we want to get the people back in their houses.

When we agreed to this development programme there was no hurricane nor were there 4,000 houses destroyed. Conditions were normal but it does appear to me to be entirely oblivious of the position which confront the country with the regard to housing for us to contemplate on embarking on the construction of this new school before you have complete plans for rehousing the homeless and before you know whence the money for rehousing the people is coming.

7.30 p.m.

I repeat, that if the Government is satisfied in its mind and can rest content that financing this Rehousing Programme is an easy matter, then let them go ahead. But they have not yet appointed an overall Rehabilitation Committee. You have not even estimated the financial damage to the Country. How on earth can you start embarking upon a building programme involving \$143,000 for a school in the present conditions? This appears to me to be foolishness in the extreme and demonstrates a complete indifference to the position which has been created by the calamity of the past few weeks.

The hon. senior member of St. George and the hon. senior member for St. John rose to speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for St. George may proceed.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who has just sat down has rendered a great public service in taking this House back to the conditions which really confront this Colony today. A lot of these large sums of money which the House is requested to vote from time to time must be subjected to close scrutiny of the Legislature, especially in view of the fact that the full effect of public opinion is not allowed to come into play due to the misinformation and the lack of proper reporting of the debates of this Chamber by the press of this Island. Not only is that the fault of the daily press, but it is also the fault of the weekly press as well. I have time and time again drawn the attention of this House to the fact that there appears to be a conspiracy of silence on the part of the press of this Island in respect of the deficiencies of the present

Government, especially in regard to the expenditure of public monies and the misappropriation of monies which are voted in this Chamber from time to time. What we need more than anything else, apart from the fact that we should retain a "mens sana in corpore sano" in times of crisis is a sense of proportion. It has always been my argument that since I have been in this particular Chamber, that far too often public money is squandered at the instigation of officials rather than in consultation with, and at the suggestion of the elected representatives of the people; and it is that kind of foolhardy policy on the part of the Ministers which is at present sending them on a mad rush down the slope of disaster like the Biblical doctrine—I do not want to use the word which is used in the Bible although it is one word which is in no way offensive; but rather than allow the members of the Government, physical resemblance notwithstanding to feel that I am making aspersions about their outward appearance, I would refrain from the use of the expression.

Mr. Chairman, what you want to avoid in Barbados is that, in this precipitous slide which they are making towards the nether regions, they do not pull the rest of the country with them. It is no concern of ours that they are heading in that direction; but I must repeat and reiterate that the public of Barbados should be aware of what is going on; and that the true issues should be placed fairly and squarely before the public of this Island. The exercise of democracy as I said before, is a permanent essay in the conditional mood. The whole essence of democracy is that it should be a permanent essay and should not be experienced by fits and starts. The honourable senior member for St. Philip has rightly pointed out that the Government contemplated some six months ago the rehousing of the Education Department. No such suggestion has ever come from any of the elected representatives of the people; neither, to the best of my knowledge, has it emanated from the democratic opposition members of the Government Party. Rehousing of that particular department is entirely a matter of the personal idiosyncrasy and predelection of the Minister of Education and the Director of Education. That is clear; but for that particular decision the Ministers must accept collective responsibility. The situation with which we are faced, Mr. Chairman, is this: That every Government is at present occupying a building. Every single Government office in Barbados has a roof over its head which is more than I can say for my constituents in St. George [VOICES. Hear! Hear!] Every Minister has an elaborate office. Every Minister has an office at least, four times the size of the average house in my constituency. At present—I am not talking about the new mausoleum erected overlooking the harbour with private bathrooms etc. in that building you have tiled bathrooms inside the Ministerial offices [Mr. CRAWFORD: That is for when the Ministers get hot]. Perhaps the Hon. Minister of Social Services has not seen that bathroom because he would be as shocked as I was when I first saw it. I should like to know what emergency at this hour would drive the Hon. Minister of Communications or any other Minister to decide that it is a matter of high priority to spend the sum of \$143,000 to provide accommodation which does not exist for the Bay Street School but which in truth and in fact is for the purpose of the Director of Education and his staff.

7.40 p.m.

The honourable senior member for St. Philip asked the Hon. Minister of Communications what

was the connection between the building of Combermere School and the present Resolution, because the present Resolution has no provision for Combermere School itself. I would like to explain the fact that the missing link is the Minister of Communications himself and his own susceptibility. If you remove the Minister of Communications, no normal reasonable man would be able to see the connection between the Combermere School and the new Bay Street Boys' School to be erected.

Now, Sir, I am not against providing accommodation for schools; I would like to see more schools, particularly more secondary schools; but in this Resolution, you are not in truth and fact providing a new school where a school does not exist; what you are doing is providing a larger office for the Director of Education who is an importee. My opinion is that our consideration must come before giving comfort to any official, no matter what is his origin, geographical or otherwise. We might get criticised for looking at it from that point of view, but my submission is that it is the only point of view, for a Barbadian to adopt in a matter such as the one with which we have been confronted today.

I have heard that it was said during my absence that criticisms of the Government at this time are not welcome. They are not only unwelcome but the criticisms are even frowned upon and are the subject of comment in the Press. Sir, I would not like to see the day when one cannot criticise the Government. During the Second World War, if the people in Great Britain who had the interest of their country and humanity at heart did not criticise the Government, and go further than criticism and stand up on the floor of the House of Commons and literally hound Mr. Neville Chamberlain out of the House of Commons and out of politics, we would not be expressing our feelings here today in this Chamber. I do not think that is in dispute; and we are not facing the crisis now in Barbados that Great Britain was facing in 1939 and 1940. It was no less a person than the patron saint of the members of this Government (and I refer to the revered Sir Winston Churchill) who spear-headed the attack in the name of democracy against the maladministration of the late lamented Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the effigy of whose father graces the galleries of this Chamber. If they think they are all efficient in presiding over the futures of the unfortunate people and that they have become canonized and sacrosanct and are not open to criticism, and if possible, removal from office for the vicious charges which are levelled and will be levelled at them, they have a mistaken conception of what parliamentary democracy is. It is in times of crisis, when Resolutions of this kind are presented. You see a complete lack of a sense of proportion and the sense of doing right. It would appear from all I have seen and observed that the Ministers, especially the Minister of Communications, cannot act correctly if they try because it is not in their psychological make up; it is not an element of their personality. The ability to think, read and do right instinctively which should be the hall mark of every statesman — these characteristics are unfortunately for Barbados sadly lacking in the Ministerial benches. I for one will never cease to express on the floor of this House and outside, my complete disgust and dissatisfaction with the manner in which they are now handling the affairs of this colony. There is absolutely nothing personal in my saying so. If there is a difference in personalities, it is the same difference in personality that existed between the archangel

Michael and Lucifer when he was expelled from Heaven. It is essentially a question of right and wrong.

Now, the last person that I would have expected to adopt the same policy as that of the Hon. Minister of Communications is the hon. senior member for Christ Church, who sits there like sleepy Silenus surrounded by that Sybaritic symposium of sycophantic satellites. He is the representative of a parish which has not been literally devastated in a manner which has not been inflicted upon this Island for three score years and ten. He is a man who professes to have some sense of morality and who professes to have the interest of the people more than any representative of this Chamber at heart; so much that he has been attacked for his parochialism on previous occasions. His stifling of his conscience in accepting such a dastardly suggestion as contained in this Resolution is a matter of profound regret.

7.50. p.m.

That only shows the heathenism of luxurious living; and the proclivity to make politics not so much the means to an end, but an end in itself, has usurped the more decent instinct of the human beings whom we grace and dignify by calling them representatives of the people. I hope that when I get to that stage of accepting things for the sake of keeping my job

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You are going on now to the question of keeping jobs, but this is a vote for education.

Mr. BARROW: I hope when they get to that stage where all education has been thrown to the winds that they will do what I would invite the members of the public to do with them; not so much to try them, draw them, and quarter them, — but crown them with laurels, and usher them out of their seats.

Mr. TUDOR: When I listened to the Minister of Communications speaking on this Resolution, my uneasiness began and it continued as I read and re-read the Addendum to the Resolution; and it further increased when the hon. senior member for St. Philip was speaking and when he reminded us that according to the Government the sum of \$143,000 is going to be spent on a new school when the houses which have been destroyed by the hurricane have not yet been replaced. When we look at this matter carefully there comes ample evidence to the charge that the members of this Government have not really got a clue as to what is going on. They do not give the impression that they follow up all the happenings in this colony. I would have thought that the Minister of Housing would have been so pre-occupied with getting the homeless back into their homes and seeking shelter for those who have not got it at the moment or who have got it temporarily, that the carrying on of the normal run of the Government would have been out of his mind. When you weigh the priorities, anybody (except members of the Government) must come to the inescapable conclusion that it is more important at this juncture to rebuild one hundred houses than to contemplate building a school. There is no shortage of schools of which you could speak in the same way as of a shortage of houses at the present time and the one argument which they could possibly use to justify the building of that school is the one argument which is not serviceable. It is this; if at anytime we had been claiming that the schools should not be built for different reasons they would say that they are trying to give employment to the unemployed, and that we, by our criticisms and even by our votes, were preventing them from getting work. That argument does not hold good at this time; because if

all the carpenters, masons and labourers who are available for work in this island are not yet employed in rebuilding and repairing people's houses, then that is something for which this Government must stand condemned.

I would not like to hear that they can embark on a new project and find the labour with which to do it when something which is more needful should be done. That leads me to something which is more important. Even if it were admitted that there is no shortage of labour and materials, yet the labour and materials which we now have are just enough—at any rate for the time being—to do properly the work which we have in hand, and that work is to repair and rebuild the people's houses. Is the Minister of Communications solemnly going to tell this House and this island in cold-blooded fashion that he proposes to divert labour and materials from the necessary jobs of rebuilding and repairing the houses of the poor people to something else which is of less priority at this moment? Is that what he wishes us to believe? That the urgent work which has been left by the hurricane is so well covered that he can chuck about labour and materials? Does he not think it is a crime if he were allowed to slow down the work on behalf of people who are now homeless and more uncomfortable as time goes on? We could not be claiming to be bringing in additional carpenters and masons because he would only be taking them from one sort of work and putting them on to another. I think it is time that the Ministers of this Government really realise that the administration of a country is a serious business, and takes vision, foresight and a certain amount of hard commonsense; and more even than this a great portion of human feeling. They must realise that they should not make the colossal blunders which they seem to be making and of which this seems to be the principal one.

I wish to say therefore that the members of my Party look upon this matter with grave concern and we are not convinced that it is a right and proper thing for them to embark upon the spending of \$143,000 on building a new school before the more necessary task of rebuilding and repairing the people's houses has been engaged in. We therefore feel that we cannot agree to the diversion of labour and materials from the more urgent work of rehabilitating the people to this project which can well wait.

8.00 p.m.

In view of all that has been said, in view of our feelings on that matter I beg to move that further consideration of this Head be postponed.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman,—

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

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I cannot understand what goes on nowadays at all. The hon. senior member for St. John gave way to the Hon. Minister of Social Services because he thought a wave of decency had swept over the Ministers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is out of order.

Mr. BARROW: I am not out of order; I am on a point of order. I asked the hon. senior member for St. John to give way to the Hon. Minister because I thought as I said just now that a wave of decency had swept over the Ministers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I say the hon. senior member for St. George is out of order.

Mr. BARROW: You cannot tell me I am out of order when I am on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House is asking for an adjournment because it is dinner time. [Mr. ALLDER: The hon. member should have said that; I thought the hon. member was going to make a statement relative to the previous speaker]. But you should have known that eight o'clock has gone. Are you a mule? [VOICES: Order: order!] You should have known that it is dinner time.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I should like to hear you again correctly. Did you ask if I were a mule?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I called you no such thing. I said that you should have known it is time for dinner; you are not an animal.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, in view of the insulting remarks which have been made by you, the Chairman—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No insulting remarks have been made by the Chairman.

Mr. BARROW: I am asking that the words be taken down. [Hon. M. E. COX and VOICES: Shut up! shut up!] You cannot shut me up. If it is the pleasure of this House that—
[Asides].

I am not appealing to the members for nothing. A certain amount of order should be preserved, Mr. Chairman; and if you cannot preserve it, I ask that you call upon the Speaker to preserve it.

Mr. Chairman, I should also like to point out to you that there is no Rule which says that this House should adjourn at eight o'clock; absolutely none.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking to the honourable senior member for St. John.

Mr. BARROW: You should be more articulate, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Speaking to the honourable senior member for St. John. I hope you have not taken it that I have called you a mule; I have not. Do not take it from the others poking it into you!

Mr. ALLDER: I did not hear you clearly, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not called you a mule.

Mr. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Did you not call the honourable senior member for St. John a mule?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not. [Hon. M. E. COX: Make him sit down].

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, with all respect to the Chair, I am glad to see that you wish to come to terms between yourself and the honourable senior member for St. John. Nevertheless you did ask him: "are you a mule?"

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair and reported as follows:

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am afraid that the Chairman did not report to you accurately what transpired when the House was in Committee. If we are using the system of thought control and the system of Hitlerite Germany I think we are coming to a very serious pass. I think there is an old adage which says *verbum sat* (and the hon.

junior member for St. Joseph will know what I am driving at). I shall like him, even when he is involved in an argument to report accurately what transpired in Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the Chairman has reported to me the result of what took place in Committee.

The question is that this House do now adjourn for three-quarters of an hour. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye" any against please say "No." I think the "Ayes" have it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

8.15 p.m.

On re-assembling.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY RESUMED

Mr. SPEAKER: When the House adjourned, it was in Committee of Supply.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable senior member for St. John was addressing the Chair last.

Ministerial Buildings

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, the speeches which were started off by that of the honourable senior member for St. Philip caused me to expect an early reply from the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works. It is extremely disappointing to see that resolutions of this sort are brought down by the Government, especially at a time like this when one expected that the disaster which recently overwhelmed this colony would have caused the suspension of all other activities carried out by the Government. It does give rise to the feeling that we have to be careful that the Government has not abdicated from the responsibility of rehabilitating the homeless in this colony. If it is true that two weeks ago when Government suggested that it wanted all carpenters and masons to work on rehabilitation of the people and the restoration of their houses, one cannot expect to see Government continuing with its other projects such as the Ministerial Offices and the construction of schools. I have not said so because I feel that those things are not requisite to be carried out, but I feel they should not be carried out at this stage.

It was suggested in this Chamber a week or two ago that this disaster may affect the Deep Water Harbour. If it is going to affect the construction of the Deep Water Harbour which means the enhancement of the economy of the island, then I cannot see how the building of the Ministerial Buildings even although it has been started already or an additional elementary school, would not be affected. Regardless of what happens, it must also be taken into consideration that the expenditure of \$143,000 to build a new school at this time would only make accommodation for an additional 100 children. The explanatory note to the item states that the present Bay Street Boys' School accommodates 460 pupils and that this new building which is going to cost \$143,000 is for the accommodation of 360 juniors and 200 infants. I do not feel that the Government should continue with this project now in view of the fact that the existing Bay Street Boys' School can be allowed to continue to accommodate the 460 children which it now accommodates and because the Ministerial Building is not so important at this stage that the work should be continued on it.

What is more, if we were to give our blessing to this resolution, you might find that the Government would call upon the Heads of those Departments which are carrying out these schemes, to start working on them immediately; and that would mean the taking away of those artisans who are now employed in the rebuilding of those houses damaged by the hurricane to go back and work on those projects.

How do the Ministers plan these things? At the Ministerial Buildings, at present you have families from the adjoining area living because their houses have been blown down. We have already spent over half million dollars in the rehabilitation of the people; and as far as I have learnt, that money was fully spent since last weekend. If that money was fully spent last weekend, then work is still carried on by the various departments in the rehabilitation of the people. There is no resolution brought to this Chamber today to make provision for wages and other commitments that has been undertaken this week in that respect for the coming weeks; therefore we have to come to the conclusion that the Minister and the Government are not aware of the immensity of the inconvenience which a large number of householders are suffering. It also gives one the impression that the Ministers who ought to know better are not really laying down policy but that some Chief Secretary or some person in the various Ministerial offices who are not directly responsible for the proper running of the colony are saying to the Ministers what they must do. You will see that I am magnanimous when I take that view because, in my opinion, it would be worse if the Ministers say that they have advisers who have made a recommendation such as this when they are responsible. It is quite easily seen that if that is so, you need not worry to carry on a ministerial system.

Sir, everybody has agreed that because of the hurricane, we must cease doing the things which we intended doing. The only persons who seem to be content to do unnecessary things at this time are members of the Government and if I make an unjust charge against them, Mr. Chairman, the Ministers must blame themselves; because, as I have said, I had hoped that the speeches of the hon. senior member for St. Philip, the hon. senior member for St. George and the hon. junior member for St. Lucy would have caused the responsible Minister to get up at an early time and explain to the Committee what is the Government's intention.

9.10 p.m.

The Hon. pseudo-Minister of Trade does not even help the Government to explain its business to this Chamber but all he does is to steal the behaviour of a puppy [*Laughter*]. We are here as responsible representatives of the people; each and every one of us is attacked on all sides by the people who are suffering, and quite rightly so. Regardless of Party politics, it would be wise for the Government to get up and say that it is willing to suspend a Resolution like this. If that does not happen we will have to fight it as long as our energies can afford us. [Hon. M. E. COX: You are talking nonsense.] It is nonsense when the Minister of Communications fails to convince us that a Resolution of this sort is more expedient than the rehabilitation of the people who are homeless and sleeping all about in churches, in schools, and on the floors of their neighbours' houses. It is not sufficient to sit there and sneer at constructive suggestions — the kind of suggestions which do not seem to enter the brains of the worthy gentleman in front of me. I hope that the honourable

member, with all he has said, will get up when I sit down and cause me to feel differently.

What is more, you should not at this time of our development house the Education Board in a school which houses 460 children. It is too elaborate a set up for an office like the Education Department. If you take into consideration the kind of quarters they occupied for all these years it is just wasting Government's buildings. I do not know if the honourable gentlemen prefer to have monumental structures to their memory even at the expense of the happiness of the masses, but I would hope that the Government Bench will see the wisdom of the remarks which have been made by those honourable members who have spoken already. I do not know if I should limit my charges to the Government Bench in this hon. place or if I should include men who claim to have vision and who are associated with the Ministers in Executive Committee in agreeing to send down a Resolution of this nature at this time. I take it that they should be more responsible in their handling of Government business and even if the Ministers were minded to send down a Resolution of this sort, those who say that they are highly qualified in the administration of Government should suggest that it is unkind to do such a thing at this particular time.

I am only hoping that it is not the intention of the Government at this stage to take away those artisans from what they are now doing and carry them back to build these Government Offices. While this may well be a proposal for the future the Government should decide not to go ahead with the building of a new school. Mr. Chairman, I will sit now with the hope that I will hear something more tangible from the Government Bench. I beg to second the motion which has been made by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: It is very seldom that I have had the displeasure of listening to a more confused trend of thought than what has emanated here tonight. When I say that, one will fully realise that anyone who has studied the general programme as far as Government buildings are concerned will realise that one thing hinges on another *ad infinitum*. The Central Market hinges on the Department of Highways and Transport, the Public Works Department and things of that kind.

When we stop to consider that for the last fifty years no Government buildings have been constructed to house anybody at all, let alone Government offices, when we think that the Government rents offices in this town, we will fully appreciate our full position.

Combermere School is a relic not of this Government but of a Conservative Government ten years ago; therefore do not place that at the hands of this Government, place it at the maladministration of the Government of ten years ago. We need accommodation on a secondary basis; we want to stop renting Post Offices.

Mr. BARROW: On a point of Order. I do not think it is good for the Hon. Minister to speak badly of the past because the Premier was on the Executive at that time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I was not on the Executive with Mr. H. W. Springer and the present senior member for St. Philip when they were there. 9.20 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I do not see how I came into it at all. All that the honourable senior member for St. George said was that the Hon. Premier

himself was on the Executive when Combermere was previously built. That is all.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, the building which is regarded as a monumental building for the Labour Party is not a monumental building for any Party at all. It is a matter of dire necessity for the community and coming generations, and is now serving the purpose of sheltering many homeless, needy and poor people who now have cause to seek shelter. We are hoping to provide the necessary accommodation for the children at the Wanders' pasture and at the same time to solve the Housing problem in so far as elementary education is concerned. The honourable senior member for St. George and his kin are always braying in here on the question of employment and finding work for the people.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I rise to ask the honourable member to withdraw that remark about braying.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member is asking you to withdraw the remark.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, it, probably, is wrong for me to say so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member has withdrawn.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member said: it is wrong for him to say so, but he did not, in my opinion, withdraw the remarks.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, with all due deference, it is wrong. The honourable senior member for St. John is usually heard in this House in a very aggressive manner, at the same time appearing ridiculous to many other honourable members, giving expression to his views on the working class people, and now that we have opportunities for employment the same honourable member is talking down the Vote for \$143,000; turning it down and preventing employment. He has said that — [A VOICE: No.] He has said: do not vote \$143,000. People are still unemployed and we are trying to help as many as we can to secure employment. That is the type of people with whom we have to deal.

This Government is still a tenant. It is not a landlord; and has not erected any Government flats or Government buildings or made any such accommodation for many years. We, therefore, want to have our Central market, Cold Storage and Deep Water Harbour. We also want mass-employment for the people of Barbados, and in connection with that we see an Opposition Party trying to destroy it.

The question now of top priority we fully understand; and that is, that Government has constructive plans in so far as the homeless are concerned. It has a plan whereby many slum areas will be developed into three storey-flats. Furthermore, anyone who needs lumber or material to assist them in development will be granted some.

I am speaking on Christ Church now for the benefit of the honourable senior member for St. John; because, he seems to be in a trance. So far as Christ Church is concerned, I think the labour and endeavour of our Director of Public Works, Captain Tomlin, is very satisfactory. Captain Tomlin's work is so pronounced in Christ Church, he builds so many houses every week that no one could complain; and that is all due to the Labour Government and the Hon. Minister of Communications Works and Housing. When honourable members jump up and talk they do not seem to know what is happening. I have had no less than 200

calls on me; I am speaking of the cases which I personally have handled.

Mr. Chairman, this Government is doing and has done very valuable work and constructive work and has solved the problem in many respects and maintained law and order. In spite of all the sabotage movements and in spite of all the things that have been done to destroy the Labour Government, this Government will live on. In spite of all the sidelights (and I do not care to use any insulting language), in spite of all these things, everything is working very satisfactorily; and people like the honourable senior member for St. John must realise that although St. John has not functioned under the Hurricane Relief Committee, and although he was elected on that basis, yet, if there is any turncoat, it is no fault of the Labour Government. You should try to live with the Labour Government or be destroyed forever.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable senior member for St. Michael has caught my eyes.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I will give way to the honourable senior member for St. John.

Mr. ALLDER: When it comes to the attitude of the honourable senior member for Christ Church, we all sympathise with an honourable member who disports himself as the honourable member is disporting himself, because we all know that inebriation is a thing which leaves its effects on the brain irrespective of how one lives after.

The honourable member accuses me; but I am inclined to think that the honourable member might have done better if he had not got up to speak.
9.30 p.m.

The honourable member accuses me of confused thinking, but certainly the honourable member would have done better if he did not get up to speak because this Minister who should give us something concrete, gave us nothing more than mere abuse, told us of something which happened ten years ago. The honourable member has not shown us yet, with all his rantings, that the continuation of building schemes other than replacement of people's homes is more expedient. He has not told us that. I can be as fantastic in my campaigning remarks as the honourable senior member for Christ Church. I heard him at St. Patrick's in one of his campaign meetings telling people: "I am going to become a Minister and each of you is going to get a bungalow."

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of Order. Whether it is through lack of comprehension or whether it is a malicious intention on the part of the honourable member that he said so, I do not know. He, apparently, does not seem to know what is true or untrue owing to his having such a distorted memory.

Mr. ALLDER: The honourable member has told a man called Dr. Jekyll that he was going to give him a bungalow.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking to the honourable member for St. John. Do keep to the Resolution and do not stray.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I have always depended on your impartiality and I had hoped that you would have stopped the Minister when he was taking advantage of the situation. What the Hon. Minister said makes all honourable members who know what Government should do more scared. All I ask the honourable members of the Government Bench is to state that in view of the fact that you have been asking for this money to continue with the construction of the Ministerial Building and to build

a new school, — something which is not very expedient at this time — how do you intend to continue with the rehabilitation of the people's houses which you have promised to reinstate? That is all I am saying and the honourable member has not replied to that. All he has done is to add confusion to the whole situation. We have nothing to do with what happened ten years ago, nor do the people want to know what happened ten or fifty years ago. The people are showing by their actions that they are willing to forget that time. What they want now is conscientious service and to let first things come first.

The honourable member talks about opportunity for employment. That is purely an indulgence on popular slogans to bamboozle the public because everybody knows that more people are employed today because of the hurricane than were employed, so to speak, by Government previously.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I rise on a point of Order, Mr. Chairman. It is true that the hurricane has caused more employment but my point is this: although the honourable member always argues about finding more employment for the people, he is trying to belittle what the Government is doing.

Mr. ALLDER: The Hon. Minister says that the Government has plans for housing. We heard that long ago. What we are interested in at the moment is the implementation of Government's housing policy. Do not say that it has a programme for housing. What we are asking is that it does nothing to retard the progress of the rehabilitation of the people.

I do not see how the rebuilding of Combermere School has anything to do with the present Resolution. It would look more businesslike if the Government had brought a Resolution to get money to rebuild Combermere School; not that I would prefer Government to start on the rebuilding of Combermere School before they get back up to the people's houses, but it does seem more reasonable to replace Combermere School before you build any more elementary Schools. I still expect the Government to display less of a confused way of thinking, and be more constructive in its way of thinking, especially at this time.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I will begin by saying that in so far as the honourable senior member for St. George is concerned, no one will ever expect him to contribute anything worthwhile to the debates of this House. I am sure I am right in saying that from the time he happened to be a member of this House, if you look through the records you will see that he has never at one time in the history of his presence in this House contributed anything valuable to any debate which has taken place. Rather to the contrary, he has been making personal attacks on members of this House and more particularly the Ministers who are in charge of Government business.

Mr. BARROW: I rise on a point of Order, Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that if the only thing I have done is to point out corruption on the part of the Minister I have contributed something.

Hon. M. E. COX: I will not ask him to withdraw, Mr. Chairman. I know the Chief Justice had to call him to his Chambers and make him give back a man his money. He robbed the man and the man had to go to the Chief Justice to get back his money.

Mr. BARROW: Now, I would like to say this, Mr. Chairman. This is one occasion upon which I am going to ask you to call His Honour the Speaker, because the senior member for St. Michael is im-

puting of me improper conduct in my profession which is the grossest libel you can impart against any human being.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am going to bring chapter and verse to prove it.

Mr. BARROW: On no occasion in my lifetime have I been summoned to go into anybody's Chambers to give back any money, neither have I robbed anybody as the hon. member robbed the Government out of its huts.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of Order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I say, allow me, please.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am asking that those words be withdrawn immediately.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I say, allow me, please.

Mr. BARROW: I am not going to allow you to permit the hon. senior member for St. Michael —

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. senior member for St. George to take your seat.

Mr. BARROW: I am not going to allow anybody like the senior member for St. Michael to make the grossest, foulest and damnest accusation against me and allow it to go unchallenged. That is what the people of Barbados get for putting people like him in the House of Assembly. If the only thing I have done is to point out corruption on the part of the Minister since I have been in the House of Assembly, I have done something.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am asking Mr. Chairman, that those words be withdrawn. If they are not withdrawn I am asking that the words be taken down.

9.40 p.m.

THE SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR

The Chairman reported to Mr. SPEAKER who took the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chairman of Committees has reported to me an instance of disorder, involving the conduct of the hon. senior member for St. Michael and the hon. senior member for St. George in that both hon. members have used rather uncomplimentary references one towards the other. The Chairman has also reported to me that he wanted to restore order in Committee and called on the hon. senior member for St. George to take his seat, that the hon. member disregarded his authority and did not resume his seat until the Chairman had actually sent and called me to restore order. There is no question of words having been taken down because neither hon. member has requested any words to be taken down.

Hon. M. E. COX: I said that if the hon. member did not withdraw the words I would ask that they be taken down.

Mr. SPEAKER: No report has been made to me about any request for words to be taken down. If the Chairman of Committees wants to clarify that point he is in a position to do that.

Mr. SMITH: When the hon. senior member for St. Michael asked that the words used by the hon. senior member for St. George be withdrawn, the hon. senior member for St. George would not take his seat. I rapped the gavel more than once calling on the hon. member to take his seat and His Honour the Deputy Speaker had to call on me to send for Your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is one thing which seems rather clear to me; it is that there was disorder in the Chamber which involved the conduct of the two hon. members to whom I have already

referred. The hon. senior member for St. George by the report of the Chairman of Committees disregarded the Chairman in not taking his seat and allowing him to restore order. I must tell hon. members this — and I think I should stand in addressing the House in this fashion — that in order for hon. members to be able to debate any subject matter before them, there must be order: [*Cheers*] and there must be that respect for the Chairman of Committees or for the Speaker. When any hon. member refuses to obey the Chair it is the duty of all other hon. members to intervene. There is a specific Rule which says that members of the House may intervene in order to stop disorder. I think the action of the Deputy Speaker is most commendable in this setting. However I would like to hear the hon. senior member for St. George who has been specifically charged with disobeying the Chair.

9.50 p.m.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the fact that at long last Your Honour has given me the opportunity to speak, since the accusations are of a very grave nature. If Your Honour will look around the Chamber you will see that the Ministry is divided into two; viz: the Hierarchy and those below. To make a long story short, the hon. senior member for St. Michael in reply to certain statements and suggestions which were made, started his speech by delivering an attack on me, personally, during which the Chairman did not intervene or call him to order. It was an attack in which he said that I had not made any contribution to any debate since I had been in this Chamber. I called for Order, but he was not stopped by the Chairman; whereupon I said: If I did make any contribution in this Chamber it was to point out corruption on the part of the Minister of Communications. The Minister did not, at that stage, ask the Chairman to ask me to withdraw my remarks. He took advantage of the situation and then attacked me both in respect of my profession and made certain unfounded charges of a very grave and serious nature to the effect that I had robbed somebody and that the Chief Justice had called me into his Chambers. All those are charges which he levelled against me and which are completely unfounded and which are not expected even from somebody labouring under the circumstances such as those under which the Minister of Communications has to labour.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member may continue.

Mr. BARROW: At this stage, Mr. Speaker, — hon. members can tell me whether I am leaving out anything or misrepresenting anything that actually took place — at that point, I rose on a point of order to ask the Chairman to ask the hon. member to withdraw those remarks, and the Chairman, just rapped on his gavel continuously, while the hon. senior member for St. Michael continued to shout and said that he could bring chapter and verse. I then said: Mr. Chairman, I am on a point of Order. I also started to make my objection; and somehow or other, in a very short space of time without any hiatus at all the junior member for the City suggested that (since it appeared that a general atmosphere of Billingsgate persisted in this Chamber) that your Honour be sent for. If the Chairman called upon me to sit down I cannot remember; but at no time did I refuse to sit down, and he just kept on rapping. If there was any disturbance, it was on the part of the Minister of Communications himself and not on my part. I had no intention of allowing any remarks made by the hon. senior member for St. Michael to pass me or escape unnoticed in this Place.

The accusations amount to incarceration; and I have absolutely no intention—Even now when I am trying to address the Chair, the honourable member is attempting to interrupt. What I have related, Mr. Speaker, is exactly what took place. At no time did I attempt to sit down. There was disorder; but I submit that I was rightly on my feet to object to a most heinous accusation, without any foundation, by the honourable senior member for St. Michael. If the Chairman took it that I disobeyed him because he said that I failed to sit down, I consider, Mr. Speaker, that I did not.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that sufficient explanation has been made by the honourable member for St. George. Every honourable member must realise that if the House is in Committee the Chairman cannot be expected to make a ruling while the House goes to pieces. The honourable member did not disobey the Chairman; if it did appear so, I believe that it was because of the general noise; and if he did attempt to speak it was on a point of order. I can imagine what it was. I counsel all honourable members just to bear in mind that without order, without even tempers, we are bound to create for ourselves just the sort of atmosphere that is not fit for debate.

[Cheers.]

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

10.00 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I was about to say that in so far as this Resolution is concerned, even though I am conscious of the fact that some people would seize an opportunity such as this to make it appear as though the Government is not fully conscious of its duty and responsibility towards the housing of the homeless people at this time, I will say that perhaps if I were in the position of some of the members who have spoken, I might be inclined to feel that before we embark on a scheme of building schools, we should concentrate our efforts on rehousing the people; but, sir, knowing as I do the Government's plan, and having to assist in formulating that plan, I am satisfied that with the passing of this Resolution it cannot in any way retard the progress of the housing of the people in this Island who are homeless; but rather, on the other hand, it will assist the Government to a large extent in reducing some of its expenditure at present, in so far as the rental of various offices to house officers of the Government. As I have said before, everybody knows that we agreed to build Government Headquarters; some members have taken the opportunity to make it appear as if the Ministers—and incidentally they are admitting that they will never get into power, in which case they will never be able to occupy those offices—are building offices—monuments they call them—to their credit. Perhaps, they might have said, to their everlasting credit. I am not denying the fact that offices are being built for five Ministers but then offices are also being built for the Attorney General, the Financial Secretary, the Chief Secretary, and a room for the Executive Committee meetings which are now held at Government House. We are building offices for the whole Secretariat. What are you going to do with the offices which the Ministers are vacating? you may ask. The Post Office will be extended for the whole length of the bottom floor of this building. Every now and then letters appear in the Press about the matter and even honourable members come in here and criticise the Government for the lack of space in accommodating the public in the General Post Office and the

Government Savings Bank. We are saying, that as soon as the building of Ministerial offices is completed, we are extending the Post Office from one end of this building to the other. We are putting the Auditor General upstairs in the other building, incidentally in the office which the Premier now occupies. We are putting the Savings Bank back where it was before. The offices which we now rent from the Royal Bank of Canada for the Accountant General, we will no longer have to rent, as he will occupy a part of downstairs and the office which the Chief Secretary now occupies. The office of the Natural Gas Corporation will also be housed in one of Government buildings. The office of the Income Tax Commissioners is now being rented from Messrs Plantations Limited, and when the Ministerial offices are finished, we will not have to pay Messrs Plantation Limited any more rent as we will find accommodation in Government buildings for that Department. We also have to rent offices for the Controller of Supplies, but we will no longer have to rent offices for that Department.

Those hon. members are making the public to believe that we are just pushing up buildings for our own glory. It is an absolute necessity if the taxpayers' money is to be saved that we construct this Ministerial building and these other buildings so as to take the Government offices out of the premises which are now rented.

As regards the erection of the Bay Street Boys' School, as I have pointed out earlier, Combermere School has given no end of trouble. Large sums have been spent on it from time to time during the last few years. We now find that the School is broken up in many places and is no longer any good. On account of that, we had to commandeer the barracks and huts and things of that sort which were used by the Barbados Regiment to house Combermere School. We had to take the Education Department from the Garrison and push it into the Highways and Transport Department which has been removed to the Pine. All that we had to do in order to accommodate the whole of Combermere School at the Garrison. We are not leaving that School there indefinitely, neither are we leaving the office of the Department of Education at the Pine, because as the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has said, we have earmarked the site on which the Department of Highways and Transport now stands for a Central Market, something which is sadly lacking and needed in this community. We are going to take that Department up to the Pine as soon as we can and get on with the building of a Central market there.

Government's position, is, that we cannot at this stage because of the hurricane say: "Oh, we are going to abandon all our construction programme," as some honourable members say. We cannot leave our building programme entirely alone and suspend all our activities and concentrate on building houses. Again, I say, with all emphasis and indeed I know that the people are fully conscious of the fact of what Government is doing on their behalf and they are going to say on no uncertain terms that they know their real friends from the sham ones.

What is the position with regard to housing? Even if all the machinery was geared to build all the houses necessary, we have to consider the question of land, which is a very important item. The acquiring of that takes plenty of time. The Queen's Solicitor has to be called in, the site has to be chosen, and the negotiations have to be conducted for the purchase of the site. From my experience it takes sometimes eight months before you can get a conveyance for the land. How can you get ahead building your houses during that time? It is true,

we have some plans at our disposal and I intend if I am spared, (not by man, of course) to tell the House in a week or two the plans that Government has afoot in so far as buildings are concerned.

10.10 p.m.

The Hon. Minister of Agriculture hinted that we are building flats and terraces in the very near future in several parishes of this island. There are roughly about six parishes in which we have some land and I will be coming down to this House next week [A MEMBER: Say we will be coming down]. If I went to "Bromley" he taught me what to say, not you. When you are in power you guide yourself. I was saying, sir, we have a Scheme for the construction of flats and terraces in at least six parishes where we have land. In other parishes, we are making a survey with a view to purchasing land so as to be able to build permanent structures for the people. In so far as rehabilitation is concerned, that has reached a stage where we have to taper them, so to speak. According to the last figures there were something like 3,000 houses rehabilitated by the Manager-Secretary of the Housing Board; and as far as the Public Works is concerned there are 1,500. You can see that a substantial number of houses have been re-erected and in so far as rehabilitation has been concerned, it has been agreed that the Director of Public Works will now withdraw from the rehabilitation and concentrate on constructing these permanent structures. There will be three-storied flats for Bridgetown and two storied terraces for the country districts. It has been agreed to hand over the rehabilitation work to the Manager-Secretary of the Housing Board. We are reaching a stage when we are getting some sort of over-lapping; and therefore it is necessary to carry stuff to a place, deposit it there and have carpenters working in the area rather than have numerous squads running around.

In addition to that, as the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has pointed out, we have also agreed that where an individual can effect his own repairs—whether he can repair his own house with his own labour or whether he is hiring labour and he is willing to do so—we have agreed to have an assessment of the material necessary for effecting the repairs, deposit the material with the individual and let him sign for it, always bearing in mind that that material cannot be used on any project other than that for which it has been given. We have agreed to let the individual sign for that amount of material and carry out his own repairs. Therefore you can see, Mr. Chairman, that every aspect of this housing position has been considered, stupid as the Ministers are, and everything has been working and dovetailing in so far as rehabilitation is concerned.

You might hear quite a lot of things, but the Government has never delayed one half-second in rehabilitating these people. On the morning after the hurricane, as I said in this House already, I went around and saw the damage which was done and I gave instructions to the Manager-Secretary of the Housing Board to start immediately to rehouse these people. He started on the Friday morning and on Saturday we met in Executive Committee to have these squads put out by the Housing Board, and up to Saturday night they were still getting out material. They even worked on Sunday. I want to say that no member of this House could have the interest of the people at heart more than the Government; anybody can see the speed with which we have worked. We ought to have intelligence enough to know what is best to be done. We have devised a plan; the Public Works Department

will be concerned, in addition to building these flats and so on, with certain works which we feel are essential, even although it has been pointed out that the rehousing of the people must take priority; but there are things which must be done. We cannot leave the Bay Street building there; if we do not build the school we have no place to put the Director of Education; and in finding quarters for the Director of Education, we are providing accommodation for another 100 children whom it is difficult to get into the schools at this stage.

Again I must emphasise that we have plans for every phase of this reconstruction. I want to remind honourable members that much as we have had quite a lot of employment for people, even if we employ 1,000 people they are still 2,000 unemployed. It is all very well for people to say that we should not build offices, but there are limitations which we cannot get over in a day.

Two years ago the Public Works Department was employing approximately 283 people. Last year on capital works it was employing over 2,000 and they were another 2,000 or 3,000 people still begging for work. Letters came in from the honourable senior member for St. George, the honourable senior member for St. Philip and so on. Even though we had our work going on, there were still many more people who wanted employment. If we only concentrate on one thing, there will be many people who will still be without jobs. Honourable members who have been keeping their eyes on things will remember that in this rehousing programme there is more opportunity for work for carpenters than for masons. In the majority of cases within the orbit of the Public Works, the bias is on carpenters and labourers; and we have to try as far as possible and bring in as many types of artisans as we possibly can. That is what we are doing; we are saying: "We must build this school; we must finish the Government's headquarters; we must build a school at Holy Innocents" and there are also buildings on which we must continue to carry out the Government's programme in addition to housing, in order to provide suitable accommodation for schools and things of that sort. Therefore I must appeal to honourable members to see that it is not a question of ignoring the more weighty question of re-housing people; but in addition to that we have the carpenters and the masons who can carry on with that building, and on a similar scale with certain other buildings that are essential.

With regard to the question of finance, the House can leave the question to the Government as to where the money will come from. If we were stupid enough to follow the suggestion of the honourable junior member for St. Lucy, we would not have any money in hand. The Hon. Premier has always said that any wise person always puts up something for the rainy day, like the ant. That is the source from which we intend to draw now that the rainy day has come.

10.20 p.m.

In so far as the hon. sennior member for St. Lucy is concerned I can assure him that we would not live long enough to take the type of advice which he is capable of giving.

Mr. Chairman, I think I have answered the points, at least to the satisfaction of the hon. senior member for St. John who knows that we still have to build an elementary school, especially since we have had this calamity; because we have found at this time that these schools are very necessary. In this plan for rehousing we have also included St. John for some flats, provided the hon. member does not object.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Three hon. members are on their feet. When looking across the hon. senior member for St. Philip caught my eye first.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I merely want to assure the Committee after listening very carefully to the apology of the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing that what we on this side of the table tried to make the Government understand was that, while it is true that there is congestion at the Government Savings Bank and at the Post Office, there is also to-day overcrowding and congestion in these Relief Centres, in the Schools and Churches throughout the Island which housed the people who were left homeless by the hurricane. It is all well and good to say that rehabilitation of these houses is progressing and that an appreciable number has been restored; but I can speak with authority for the parish I represent. Many of the houses were partially destroyed. [Hon. M. E. COX: That is not correct.] Houses which have been demolished beyond repair have not been dealt with. The Government has reached a stage where it has empowered the Minister to hand out some material to the people and leave them to help themselves.

Hon. M. E. COX: I did not say that. I said: In addition to the Governments Housing Programmes, any individual who is effecting the necessary repairs whether he has a carpenter or not will be able to get some material.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The houses are flat. You give them some material and tell them to help themselves if they can.

Hon. M. E. COX: That is not true. Again, Mr. Chairman, I have to correct the hon. member. We have had numerous people coming to us and telling us: If you give us some material, we can get along ourselves. Not that we are leaving up anybody and saying: Get ahead by yourselves.

Mr. CRAWFORD: What I am saying is that we have passed that stage. The houses which the Government has to think about now are the houses that have been completely destroyed. What is the use of telling a man: here is some material; help yourself. Who is going to pay the labour? In St. Philip, for instance, you may have about 40 to 50 houses completely destroyed. The owners are homeless. In Christ Church, there may be more and in St. Michael you will find people absolutely homeless.

10.30 p.m.

In the face of that, how can you think in terms of having another Bay Street Boys' School when you already have one? If, for instance, you said that as the Holy Innocents' School was destroyed by the storm and you are reconstructing a Holy Innocents' School in order to provide for those children, we would say to you "well, you can", but you have the Bay Street Boys' School standing.

Now, you have stopped working on the Christ Church Foundation School; the Bay Street Boys' School is intact. Merely in order to add to your Government Buildings, you are going to build a new Bay Street Boys' School somewhere else. Which does the Hon. Minister believe the people prefer? Does he believe they prefer to go and queue up at the Post Office or the Savings Bank, or to concentrate like cattle in some school house or church as they are now doing?

Sir, entire families, as many as forty and fifty, are living together in schools and churches without any privacy and with insufficient latrines and bathing accommodation. In other countries, the first thing which would be done is to get the people back in their houses before talking the nonsense which the Hon. Minister talked about saving money

by erecting Government buildings. What saving is it with a Government that has borrowed already two million dollars and is about to borrow six million dollars more? We have already borrowed \$3,500,000 under the Loan Act for which we are paying 4½ per cent. That means something over \$15,000 a year we are paying as interest on that loan. Ask the Hon. Minister if the Government is paying \$12,000 a year for the rental of Government offices? We are renting a room for the Government Electrical Inspector at \$60 a month. [A VOICE: That is not so.] I will get the Estimates to prove we are renting an office for the Accountant General and may be one or two others. How much is that to pay for rent? Is the Hon. Minister saying that we are spending \$15,000 a year in rent for Government buildings? According to the Estimates we are paying \$720 a year for rent of the office for the Electrical Inspector. That is \$60 a month. I do not have the total figures for rent before me, but I am sure they cannot be \$500 a month; therefore, we are not offering the country any saving in money by erecting Parliament Buildings.

The whole thing about it is that they figure themselves in this lavish Parliament Buildings because they believe that the outward appearance would have something to do with their working, and that is why they come with their monkey excuses. We are worried because people who will finally be Ministers hate to think of the legacy of unnecessary expense with which the present Ministers have burdened the country at this time. Somebody, when they leave office, will have to think of repaying it. Taxation both direct and indirect of this country has increased beyond all imagination to finance their glorified schemes.

I am saying, that no argument can be advanced in this Chamber to justify the removing of the Public Works gangs from reconstructing those houses demolished by the hurricane and putting them back. It is fantastic. Every day of my life I am persecuted by people from all over the country, who want to know when or if their houses will be put back. Every time I see the hon. member on my right, the hon. junior member for St. Philip, the first thing he tells me is that people are annoying and cursing him because he would not help them to get their houses put back up. Up to now, the rehabilitation programme headed by the Local Relief Committee of St. Michael and the Central Government Programme has only touched the southern part of St. Philip. You are now withdrawing the Public Works gangs from carrying out the rehabilitation programmes and starting them back to work on those fancy programmes of yours. The only work of any importance that is done up to today has been done by the Public Works Department Gangs. What they have done in one week in the Penny Hole area was almost equal to what all the other people did before they went in. All along Penny Hole, to Foul Bay and all the way up the line you will find houses which are completely damaged. The Governor himself the very day after he came back to this country promised the people that he would see to it himself that the gangs get up there as fast as possible. When he, (I refer to Sir Robert Arundell) promised them that, the appropriate official had not even got up there.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I am seizing this opportunity to correct that statement. I visited up there before His Excellency visited it. [A VOICE: Who is His Excellency?] The Governor visited and the following morning we dispatched four lorries to Penny Hole. I went up there again

yesterday afternoon and I saw the work that was done by the Hurricane Relief Committee in the very Peany Hole district in addition to the work done by the Public Works Department gangs.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I characterise that as a deliberate lie.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I am asking that those words be withdrawn.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am going to prove that that is a lie.

10.40 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am asking that those words be withdrawn.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I was saying Sir,—

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I am asking that those remarks be withdrawn.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member going to withdraw the words?

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am not doing anything of the kind.

Mr. LEWIS: Sir, it is very regrettable that we should have these interruptions but I think that this matter has reached the stage when members of this Committee would like to hear what the hon. senior member for St. Philip has to say now. I deplore the fact that any unparliamentary language should be used, but the members of this Committee—

Hon. M. E. COX: When a member asks that words be taken down no other honourable member is to speak until that has been done.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I have already had to say that the Hon. Minister is misleading you. He is profoundly ignorant of the Rules of this House; he does not know one of them. I had to tell him that just a week ago. If he would read Rule 133 he would see what the position is. However it is the right of the Committee to speak on that matter; can he not learn that? Is he so vindictive that he cannot learn? If he is so profoundly ignorant of the Rules of the House, how do we know that what has been said about him is not true? This is a matter for the Committee; it is not a matter for him and the other member. He has to depend on the vote of the House. He has objected to some remarks about dishonesty and I would like to know what is his position after the vote on the last occasion. He should have resigned as a Minister; that is the position from which I was trying to save him last week. The hon. member cannot understand; he does not even understand what is happening now. I say let the honourable senior member for St. Philip have an opportunity to say what he wants to say. Let us have some order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will read Rule 131 now. It says:

"In a Committee of the whole House, the Chairman, if it appear 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."

I would have to find out whether it is the pleasure of the Committee that the words objected to be taken down.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The position is this. I think it is regrettable—

Hon. M. E. COX: The hon. member cannot speak until this matter has been settled.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want to know whether it is the pleasure of the Committee that these words be taken down.

Mr. LEWIS: I am appealing to you, Sir, to let the hon. member whose words have been objected to be heard in his defence. Let the honourable member explain why he said what he said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the Committee that these words which have been objected

to 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 "Ayes" have it.

A MEMBER: Divide.

A division was being taken.

Ayes: Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS;

Mr. BARROW: (Sitting) Mr. Chairman on a point of Order. The hon. senior member for Christ Church was not in the House when the event occurred. He was summoned like Cincinnatus from the plough to come in and take part in the voting. The hon. member cannot vote.

Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS: (Sitting) He was in his place when the question was put.

Mr. BARROW: (Sitting) Mr. Chairman, I do not want any ruling from over there; I want a ruling from you. The Minister of Agriculture cannot vote on this matter at all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Was the hon. member in his seat when I put the question?

Mr. BARROW: (Sitting) Yes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, he is entitled to vote.

Mr. BARROW (Sitting) I do not agree with your ruling, but I will have to abide by it.

The division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Hon. H. G. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. Cox, Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. R. G. MAPP; Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN and Mr. MILLER—7.

Noes: Mr. BARROW, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TUDOR, Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY (Cheers) Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ALLDER, Mr. GODDARD and Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY—8.

10.50 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question has resolved itself in the negative seven hon. members voting "Aye", eight hon. members voting "No"; I now declare the "Noes" have it.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I think I owe an explanation to the Committee and I want it to be perfectly clear in the records.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I hope the hon. senior member for St. Philip is not questioning the authority of the Chair; because I think the Chair has acted quite wisely in the result.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I think I owe it to the Committee and to the public that when I said that the Public Works were working in St. Philip I knew what I was talking. The Hon. Minister has said that he and the Governor went to St. Philip and on the following morning the lorry went. That in itself means nothing; and in so far as the ordinary course of events is concerned it may have transpired like that; but what I am saying is that neither he nor the Governor knew that the lorry was going next morning; and neither he nor the Governor had any say whatsoever. I understand that the Governor passed through, but his visit had nothing at all to do with the lorry's going next morning; absolutely nothing. The time will come when I shall explain how they got there.

Now the position is this: I do not want us to get away from the real argument we have before us. All those red herrings across the trail do not carry the country anywhere. But I am saying that neither this Committee nor the public could be satisfied in their minds that at this stage of the rehabilitation programme (the Boy's School is a calamity itself) the Government could be justified in saying that they are going to withdraw the Public Works gangs from the rehabilitation work and get on with the building programme. In my own opinion, the most important part of the rehabilitation work is now to be done. The houses are match wood. You cannot even get back the inside, floor, or any-

thing else. My contention is that we should not continue one project; we should not take one single workman from the Public Works gangs until those houses are back up. You are not saving money by building a new Bay Street School. So long as the people's houses are down, you have got to house and feed them and even give them clothes. You are obstructing and interfering with the normal life of families. No Government would think of starting work on a new Bay Street School except this Government; and to talk about erecting flats in some parishes is really the height of stupidity at this time. Even the Hon. Minister himself admits that they have not finished negotiating for the land. Then it must be considered that you want to build these apartments in stone; and this is nothing you can build up in a month. Are you going to do this merely to justify the building of the School in Bay Street? Your programme was based on rehousing the people; but that has nothing to do with the special conditions caused by the hurricane. We are not asking you to buy land upon which to rebuild the hurricane houses. The Minister of Communications seem to think that the houses destroyed by the hurricane were built in the sky; but they were standing on land. Put them back where they were. Talking about buying land at this stage is merely characteristic of the Government's policy of throwing dust in the eyes of the people. Put the people's houses back and then carry on your general housing programme. There are no slums, in the strict sense of the word, in the two parishes hardest hit by the hurricane. The slum areas are in the City of Bridgetown. Rural areas are different from slum clearance areas. Do you think that in the rural areas people who live there would allow the land to be sold? People want their piece of land to cultivate their garden. Do you think they want flats? A man lives in the country because he wants a piece of land for his cow or goat. Have you heard of any flats in the agricultural areas when nearly every agricultural man rents from somebody in the area? I know that in the parish I represent that we can use both the Public Works lorries and the other lorries at least, for another six weeks before normalcy is restored; and it is the height of indifference to retard even to the slightest extent your rehabilitation programme in favour of renewing your Public Works programme at this stage, especially in a case like the one for which this Resolution is before the Committee. The Bay Street School has absolutely no priority in comparison with cases to which we should devote our utmost attention now 11.00 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Even at the risk of being considered by Ministers that we cannot contribute anything over here worthwhile, I shall try to add my quota, Mr. Chairman. After listening very carefully to the speeches in opposition to the passing of this amount of money for the Bay Street Boys' School and after listening to the reply by the Hon. Minister of Housing and Works, I have made up my mind to vote for the postponement of this item, even though it might be twisted to mean that the Opposition feels that you should not go on with these works. Mr. Chairman, let me sum it up in this way: you want offices whether they be for the Ministers or for the officers of the Highways and Transport Department and you also want to put back the people's houses. Please note this also: Acts of God and Her Majesty's enemies have also changed plans in the United Kingdom and in all nations of the world. The damage to the people's houses is an act of God and I do think that the

Government's Five Year Plan can be changed on account of that.

According to the Hon. Minister for Works and Housing, they have to get on with their works, their markets and all those things. I am the last to oppose any of those schemes; they are important, but I am asking him to look the facts squarely in the face. Housing is something for which the Government has planned but the rebuilding of these damaged houses is something out of the ordinary plan. It is through an act of God that a large number of people are now suffering. You have at present the Housing Board and the Public Works Department assisting in rebuilding those houses. Are you conscious of the fact that 20 per cent of the houses which have been destroyed cannot be rebuilt at all? If the Hon. Minister is conscious of that, let me ask him this next question. The three parishes which have suffered seriously in the hurricane are Christ Church, St. Philip and St. Michael. Now, the Hon. Minister has said that the reason why he is asking for this money to build this school is because he wants to continue to hire some men. There is land available in St. Michael, Christ Church and St. Philip at present and there is a most competent man as Director of Public Works to advise the Government. The Hon. Minister said that their plan is to put up two or three-storied flats.

You want schools but at the moment you can use Bay Street Boys' School. You want offices but at the moment you can continue to rent. Never mind the discomfort of a few officials. What matters at the moment is that you have 20 per cent of the people's houses blown by the hurricane and the people will not be able to go back in them unless you do something to them. If you have money (and the answer is yes), if you have land (and the answer is yes), if you have somebody who is able to give you a plan within two weeks (and the answer is yes) and you consider that of the three things which you have to do the rehousing of the people is of the greatest importance, then go to Waterford, go to the land which you have bought in Christ Church and in St. Philip and make a start. The strongest argument used by the Hon. Minister of Housing is that when you finish rehabilitating, you will have a lot of people for whom we will have to get work. I am saying that you should give them work now but do not rate schools as priority projects when you have so many people suffering for their houses.

Sir, nobody is accusing the Government of saying that they do not want to house the people. But, are you thinking seriously over this matter? Are you really giving it full thought? Do you think a Walcott-Wilkinson Government would have come down to this House to-day and say in the face of so many people living in schools (and it is pathetic to hear them say how much they would like to get back in their homes) that they want \$143,000 to build a Bay Street School? I wonder what members of the Government would say if they were back-benchers and such a Resolution was brought down.

Mine is an appeal to commonsense, to common decency and to common reasoning. You want three things: (1) you want schools and we all agree that you want schools; (2) you want public offices and you should have them; (3) you have had a hurricane and as a result you have to build back people's houses. If you had a hurricane and you have to build back people's houses, then you must change all your previous plans. You must agree to that. Think it out for yourself: if you have these three things which you want to do, which do you think is the most urgent? Is it more urgent to get the Director of Education or somebody else in good

comfortable offices or is it more important to go to Station Hill or St. Barnabas where the people's houses are blown flat to the ground and who have to take shelter in the Ministerial Offices and rebuild the houses of these people? That is an appeal to your soul. If you do not want to do that, then somebody must be misleading you.

The Hon. Minister of Housing has actually said that they have the plans to build houses for the people. Have you ever heard the saying that while the grass is growing, the horse is starving? How long do you intend to keep these people living in schools? If you were thrown out of your house tonight and you were carried to Government House to live, you would feel uncomfortable there. A man's house is his castle. We agree that you want schools and that you want public offices, but first things should come first. You have 20 per cent of the people's houses destroyed by the hurricane which cannot be put back up. Should you not build houses at once for those people?

11.10 p.m.

These are the things on which you should start now. Of course, the Government had a programme at the Bay, and so on, but there has been an act of God. There is no plan for a hurricane. I say this: in common decency to this country and to your grandmothers, cousins and nieces, you should withdraw this Resolution. If you tell me here tonight that you have to wait for three months to get flats, I am fully conscious that I will have to endorse the remarks which the honourable senior member for St. Philip has just made. You have a competent Director of Public Works; if you call on him to erect buildings on land at Christ Church or Waterford, he would put them up within a few weeks. Does the Honourable Minister want to say that they have to go to the Queen's Solicitor in connection with the land?

You are going to remove the employees of the Public Works Department and put them to build schools; you are trying to minimise the damage from which the people of this country are suffering by suggesting that after three weeks you will not continue to assist in the rehabilitation of these houses. You may do it by accident or by design, but it is being done nevertheless. When people read that in three weeks' time you have been able to take Captain Tomlin and his men from this work of rehabilitation, they will come to the conclusion that we did not have all this damage.

Personally I am not voting for this Resolution. The Government has plans for housing people; you are going on in the normal way with your plans. You have plans for schools, plans for Ministerial Buildings to which a lot of us have objected, but by an act of God you have a calamity and a lot of people are thrown out of their homes. You are bound to admit that in many cases houses have to be sold out for fire wood. If you have to rehouse these people and you have to build a school or Ministerial Offices which, of these things should you do first? Anybody who is not blind is bound to see it this way; is it because you are drawing money from the Government? Is it because of that you would harden your heart and turn your face from the people and say that it is wiser to build schools and offices and put people in them than to rehabilitate the suffering people? No sympathetic persons would say that; I say that it is bad judgement.

I have found that a lot of masons made better carpenters in this crisis, even better than many of the carpenters they have had. A good mason could be a carpenter in this crisis. [MEMBERS: Oh! Yes.] But a good carpenter cannot be a mason.

You could not think of saying that you have all of these masons on the work and therefore you should show something for it.

I took time off on Sunday for the second time to go to the parishes of St. John and St. Philip and in these parishes you have houses which cannot be re-erected. A large percentage of these houses is occupied by old age pensioners, people who are just spending their last days in 10' x 8' houses. I am appealing to the Minister of Social Services to say if he thinks it is right to come here for this money to erect these buildings on the excuse that you have to move people from place to place and you have to house these people? "I do not mind the talk," they will say, "we will go on with this Resolution," but in the circumstances I cannot vote for this Resolution to-day.

The motion for the postponement of this Resolution will receive my support. It has reached the stage when the backbenchers of the Government—[Mr. MILLER: Your appeal is failing.] I do not owe my seat to the honourable junior member for St. George; I have to be guided by my conscience in respect of those to whom I owe my seat. But so as to the other people, well, they know what they have to do. Mr. Chairman, I ask you if you were on the floor of this House and you saw some of the houses and the circumstances of the people, would you say that you would build these offices before rehabilitating these people? To the members of the Government, I say that I have had to price some land and I ask what is the good of their having Emergency Powers if they are not going to use them. I know that in an emergency the Government can take land, build on it and pay for it afterwards.

11.20 p.m.

I know this: if the Government wants to take any land let them take it and build on it; whether the land is for sale or not. Six Roads is there, Silver Hill is there. I therefore feel that of the three things with which we are faced, viz. The School, the Office, and (I am not talking about general housing) just the rehousing of people whose houses have been destroyed, the last mentioned should be attended to first. I am therefore going to vote for the postponement. The Government will see the wisdom in getting Captain Tomlin to prepare a plan and let these people go there. Only today, when I was discussing with the Director of Education a certain matter at a time when he had removed some people from the School, I mentioned then that the big problem is to get the children back in School. If, therefore, you go to the rehousing of Schools and not to houses you are going to keep people in the Schools longer. I think you should get on with this as soon as possible and therefore I am going to vote as I said just now for the postponement of the Resolution with the hope that the Hon. Minister will find a solution out of it. In regards to the parish of St. Michael you cannot merely argue that the Bay Estate is built up, and the Pine is built up; you should make a move in the direction of Waterford.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for St. George may proceed.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, in the first place I feel that the Resolution is unfortunate in that it is somewhat untimed. I have heard all the argument here tonight; but the question that strikes me is this: people all over the world have been making efforts to help us. I think that in Antigua there is the picture of an old lady draped in rags throwing something into a motor car. In silent dignity and with respect to the people including the people from foreign countries who gave us aid, I think it is going to have an ugly effect upon the appeals that are being made

today. If you will bear with me, Mr. Chairman, what I am worrying about is that it is not likely to have any beneficial effect upon the help that we need so much.

The argument of the Hon. Minister bears somewhat on this fact. It is true that masons are not employed on the large chattel houses; and for that reason if you think of nothing else but working classes there is nothing wrong in carrying out construction work upon this School; but if it is going to involve the taking away of labour from the construction of those other houses it should not be. The work of the Housing Board has been, to some extent, brought to an end. I was told that two days ago there was a great rush for about two or three truck loads from the Housing Board. I think it was due to a shortage of material. If for any reason this new job is likely to curtail the construction of these houses (since you would have to use wood that would be employed in construction) I do not know if any hon. member of this House would be willing to carry it through. I think many of us realise that whatever we do many of those chattel houses will have to be rebuilt. This is an opportunity which, I believe, the Hon. Minister should be willing to grasp with both hands.

We next come to the question of land. I do not believe that there has been any serious problem in connection with grass lands, the only lands available to the Government for construction purposes. We have been told how important grass lands are to these plantations that grow canes. I can appreciate that argument. It is also true that there is a question as to the amount of grass land available for canes. Lands, that several honourable members of Parliament and the Minister have seeking, have suddenly been changed, and have now become so important to plantations bent on providing canes. We are up against the fact that the population is going to produce on the existing soils.

What are you doing about housing? If we cannot use rab land (sometimes used as house land) then, there is no hope; and what is more important, I emphasise that if you take a ride from Bulkeley's factory through to Lower Estate and pass through the social centre in St. George, it will be seen that there is not one single house on that main road. I believe that you are in a better position, in respect of St. George and St. Andrew.

11.30 p.m.

If it is true that the Hon. Minister of Housing can tackle the construction of the Schools with stone alone for the moment so as to make work for masons, go ahead with this plan, but I am pleading with him, for heaven's sake, do not attempt to use one bit of lumber in the construction of this School now that this country is in this position. I was in the Barbados Cotton Factory the other morning and I saw them using scraps of lumber to make minor repairs to one of their buildings. It is true to say that you can work on your School building for anything like ten weeks with stone without using wood or any lumber in appreciable quantity. The present trend of building is against this entire use of match wood, and it is not advisable to replace these houses which have been entirely destroyed by the use of wood. We are up against the problem that the age for building with wood is gone. The bulk of the people's houses that have been destroyed is of lumber, and it is a fact that some of the very material to be used in building them is already laden with termites. You are only subsidising the very worm and ant that destroys lumber when you build entirely of wood. It means

that in the next fifteen or twenty years you will have to rebuild again. I think the age has gone when we should think of building houses of wood for the people.

I am imploring the Hon. Minister of Housing to see that although he is anxious to have Schools built, we are up against a crisis, and it is not nearly passed; as a matter of fact, the very first phase of it is not nearly at an end. When you are up against the horror of seeing families of large numbers occupying school buildings, you are heading into social dangers; you are heading into a form of social disaster that takes almost a century to root out.

If the Hon. Minister of Housing can give us the assurance that no material which will be of use in the reconstruction of the houses of the people will be used in this School, I will vote for this money. Although carpenters are much in demand owing to this crisis, a lot of masons can do with a crumb; and there is no point robbing a hungry dog out of a crumb. So long as you have the money to do this construction work, I will say go ahead.

Another thing which I must point your attention to is this: what are you going to say to people in the area, to say nothing of those important countries who day after day are answering appeals to subscribe to the Hurricane Fund when you are taking up money to build schools. There are such funds open all over the West Indies, in England, in foreign countries, in Brooklyn and all the areas where coloured folk live in the United States or America. What are we making them to understand when we leave off re-building the people's houses to build schools? I think we are likely to endanger our chances of getting help. Did you see the picture in the *Advocate* Newspaper with the old lady in Antigua putting in her mite?

I appeal to the Hon. Minister again not to carry out the construction of that School if it is likely to have any effect on the rehabilitation of the people. I say, do not let one bit of lumber go into the construction of this School until you have satisfied the needs of the masses who have made it possible to build these schools.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I think I made myself quite clear when I replied to the speeches made by hon. members of the Opposition. Sometime before, when I happened to put through a measure relating to the Housing Board and even when I spoke on the Aided Self Help Housing Scheme, I made it crystal clear that it was Government's intention to encourage people to build houses of a permanent structure, as the Hon. Minister of Agriculture pointed out instead of the termite structures which only have a life of say fifteen to twenty years.

Now, let me take the argument of the hon. senior member for St. Philip. What does he say? He says: "Get on with those houses, get lumber and put back the people's houses as they were." That is exactly what we are against. That shows that he has absolutely no foresight. Let us say, that with all these shacks that are totally destroyed and cannot be replaced that we go ahead and build timber houses in place of them, next month, or next year, there comes another storm and these houses will be flat again and we would be back to the same position where we were, and we would be faced with the same problem.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. Is the Hon. Minister quoting me when he says, build timber houses?

Hon. M. E. COX: You said to rebuild them as they were. Your point was to put back the houses for the people.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Do not say that I said to build timber houses. I was the first person in this Chamber to bring in a long Resolution pointing out the disadvantages of large-scale buildings in wood; so I would not to-day sit and say that every house should be put back in wood.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, it is Government's plan and intention that in cases of those wooden houses (except in extraordinary circumstances) which are totally destroyed to build permanent structures. Do not tell me that Government has land here and there and to get a lot of lumber and set up four by four wooden houses; when the next hurricane comes the whole of them will be flat again and then you are saddled with the cost of putting them back up again. The position will be worse than it was before. We are planning a long term plan and that is why I told hon. members that the Government's plan is to build flats and terraces and I pointed out then — and I am pointing out again — that next week I will be coming down with a Resolution for money to erect flats in at least six parishes where the Government has land. This would have absolutely nothing to do with the continuation of the Government Headquarters or the building of this School which is to replace the Bay Street Boys' School. Listen to the argument of some hon. members. Two hon. members actually said that Government is going to withdraw all its activities in so far as the Public Works Department is concerned from rehousing the people and is going back to building schools.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of correction. The hon. member himself actually said that.

Hon. M. E. COX: I did not say so. I said, that in so far as the rehabilitation of these houses, the Public Works Department is passing over its activities to the Housing Board and that the Public Works Department is going to concentrate on building those flats.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: No, sir, you never said such a thing.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: He said that.

11.40 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The only thing the Minister of Trade can be is a witness.

I was surprised when the Minister said that they would be withdrawing men from the Public Works Department and they would be going on with the offices with a view to employing these masons.

Hon. M. E. COX: I made it clear that the Housing Board was prepared to concentrate on building these flats and terraces in addition to building these schools. It was not a question of not rehousing the suffering people; I said that we are continuing to build this school and finish the buildings at Bay Street and I mentioned the Holy Innocents School which is lying flat on the ground. Where are all the schools of which hon. members speak? We are constructing two schools; we are suspending our activities for the time being on the Foundation Schools and we are concentrating our efforts as seriously as we can on the rehousing of the people. I appealed to hon. members on the last occasion to try and convince the people to live in flats as is done in big countries. It is true that we have to put back wooden houses but for those which are permanently destroyed we are erecting flats which will stand any kind of storm. That is what the Public Works Department has to concentrate on and is concentrating on. I told hon. members that we will be coming down for a large sum of

money to begin the construction of these flats. Now hon. members will have the public to believe that the Government is withdrawing the Public Works Department completely from rehousing the people and concentrating it on the building of offices.

As far as the point made by the hon. junior member for St. George is concerned, I would like to assure the hon. member that very little of the material which is usually used in wooden houses will be used in the construction of these flats. Anyone who takes a look at the construction of the building at the Highways and Transport will see that very little wood is used in it. You have Everite sheets on the roof and very little wood is used; but again the hon. member will appreciate that in so far as those houses which have been totally destroyed are concerned they will be rebuilt out of permanent material. The housing programme will not suffer one way as a result of the construction of this Bay School and the finishing of the Government Headquarters at the Bay. I repeat that there are two schools which are being dealt with, one at Holy Innocents, which is lying flat on the ground and the one at the Bay Estate.

It must also be remembered that the Social Welfare Office now occupies a part of Combermere School and we must find quarters for that Department. The Director of Public Works says that it is not likely to get the Combermere school constructed within a year; he has to get down the steel so that the building can stand any kind of hurricane. I must repeat that on the 2nd October, I visited the parish of St. Philip. I had a discussion with the Governor at which the Minister of Social Services was present on the 3rd and on the morning of the 4th October I told the Director of Public Works to despatch some squads at Penny Hole in that parish.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I merely want to explode one or two fallacies to which we have just listened. In the first instance we have been asked to ask people to live in flats; the Government proposes to rehouse people by giving them flats. In a district in which there are one hundred houses down some of them were privately owned by individuals, some of them were on a small piece of land and the others on rented land. I want to know if the Government feels that we should ask people to leave their houses and land and go and live in these flats.

11.50 p.m.

Now, there has been a lot of camouflage about this School business and the emphasis on this debate has been \$143,000 for a School. Now the point is that the Government is not thinking of this new Bay Street School in terms of education, or schooling; they are thinking of the new Bay Street School because they want to release the old Bay Street School for Government offices. If they were thinking in terms of education and schools, they would have come in here with a Resolution to rebuild those that have been destroyed by the Hurricane. Take Belmont, for instance. They are not concerned with any education. They are concerned with their glorified mansion in Bay Street. But rehousing or rebuilding schools in which to educate people can come after. That is the feeling. You can come for money for the Bay Street School today and sometime later you will come for Holy Innocents and those other schools that have been destroyed by the Hurricane. If they were thinking in terms of schools, would they stop building operations on Foundation School to start building operations on the new Bay Street school? The Hon. Minister thinks he is talking to idiots.

Now, the Foundation Old school was completely destroyed by the Hurricane. It was not habitable. I should be very surprised if they can keep school in it. In spite of that school having the roof off and what-not, they have stopped building on the new Foundation School in order to start on the new Bay Street school; not for schooling, but in order to release Bay Street for Government Buildings.

Now, I want to say this: with regard to this lorry business: the St. Philip area was included in the area under the control of the Public Works Department for rehabilitation. I discovered that little or nothing was being done by way of restoring the houses in the parish; and, as everybody knows, St. Philip was the second worst hit parish in the Island; worse even than the City. But from the second week after the Hurricane, efforts were concentrated on Christ Church, and I tried to get in touch with the Director of Public Works in order to show him the condition of St. Philip. He was very busy at the week-end, but later, I took him on a conducted tour of the parish. While there I said to him: "You are, in my opinion, responsible for starting work on this parish, Captain Tomlin." He spent three or four hours in the parish and went in to almost every district. He was amazed at what he saw. Around half-past one to two o'clock he then promised on the spot, that on the next day he would send some lorries up there to see what could be done. He made arrangements in order to expedite the work, and my colleague, the honourable junior member for St. Philip, had to assist in getting artisans in order to help the Public Works Department to do as much work as they could.

Now, when it comes to the Hon. Minister's talking about sending lorries, that is purely a result of his imagination; because the lorries never went there until 11 o'clock. They had to come to Town to get material; and whether or not he went there then, the fact remains that Captain Tomlin, had promised the afternoon before, as early as two o'clock, to send and assist the people in getting their houses back up. Therefore, it is most peculiar that the Hon. Minister of Communications should walk into the Public Works yard after they had agreed to send lorries from the Public Works yard. He can ask the Director of Public Works if he had not promised to send lorries from the day before.

Do not let us delude ourselves at all that if we start construction operations on Bay Street school we are doing it with education in view. We are not; and when it comes to the question of using material on Bay Street school, well, what the Hon. Minister has said cannot be true. He said that the constructing of Bay Street School will not necessitate the use of material that may be used for rehabilitation; and yet Government will be utilising the same material at Bay Street that will be used in the construction of the flats. I cannot conceive how he can come in here, without knowing what he is saying, and expect to look at people who can think, and push things down their throats. That requires far more capacity than he will ever possess. He does not take long to confuse himself; but he certainly will not confuse us. I should like the Government to explain why they did not do this first: that is, to come in here with a Resolution to put up the schools that have been down by the Hurricane. If we can proceed with a Public Works programme without prejudice to the rehabilitation of the hurricane-damaged houses, why should you stop working on the Foundation School when that School was so badly damaged?

Work has been stopped on the Foundation School, because with the building of the new Foundation School you will not be relieving an adjacent building to be used as a Government building.
12.01 a.m.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, my first duty is to offer congratulations to the honourable junior member for St. George for the excellent speech he has made in this Chamber on this matter tonight. I have never heard him to better advantage. I enjoyed what he had to say. It is true he was a little timid at the end of his speech, because he kept on saying, if he gets a guarantee, he would vote for this Resolution.

Now, it is obvious that the Government in this crisis has both a short term policy to suit an immediate and pressing problem — and a long-term policy — if the opportunity is taken to rehouse the people in better houses. I think the Minister of Housing should have seen by now that it is his attitude that is holding up a decision on this question and a very obvious decision indeed. The amendment that has been moved to the Head standing part, is that, it be postponed. It does not say for three months, six months or a year. I do hope that wisdom will prevail. Could anything be more convincing to show that this building is not a school at all than the fact that you have not attempted to rebuild schools which the hurricane has blown down? If this School was built for the Bay Street Boys, would the Hon. Minister tell the House about building a house to put the Education Department in, and all that sort of thing? That is what this Resolution is for. It is not for a School because a School is there already. You are building it so that you can use the old school for Government offices.

I am recommending to the Hon. Minister that if this Debate is properly reported Barbados will cease to get a cent of money from outside for help for these people, because you have more or less stopped rehousing the 25,000 and you have set out on a new phase of a new ten year plan. You are borrowing money to save rent. Take the Annual Estimates up and you will see the amount of interest you are putting in the people's pockets to get money to do these things. Do you mean to tell me that the Hon. Minister of Housing can come in here and say that he is so interested in the education of the people that he is asking for a School for them in this crisis when the Government of which he is a Minister took away loudspeakers which he said was of such educational value to them, and of so little cost to Government. These people could not hear any news of the hurricane unless they had a loudspeaker of their own. The public loudspeakers were costing the Government a mere pittance.

Mr. Chairman, I feel we should concentrate all our efforts on this emergency. We all regard Captain Tomlin as a genius, but even if he is a genius he is a human being, and a human being must wear out at some time. If he is personally supervising all this work, the time must come when he must call a halt. Do you mean to tell me that an appeal cannot be sent out to one of those United Nations Organisations to get them to send us an architect and town planning officer to help us now that we have this disaster upon us? That is the type of thing we should do at this time. But what are we doing? We are training our midwives and they are leaving us and going abroad to serve other people. We should get the Organisation to tell us even about midwives and things of that sort. Let us take the opportunity of preserving the health of the man we

have who is serving us so well and get a man from abroad to concentrate on this emergency. There is no getting away from it, when the people hear that you have neglected to build the Foundation School although the top of the old Foundation School has been blown off in the hurricane, they will not believe you when you say that you are interested in educating the people; because they will see again, that you are trying to get your Ministerial buildings quicker. We had the Director of Medical Services telling the people some time ago about using the Lazaretto for Tuberculosis patients. Do you think that anything you are doing now is more essential than getting somewhere for the Tuberculosis patients who are living in congregation with other people? I think that the Minister should have got up earlier and said that he accepts the motion for postponement.

From the very day that the hurricane hit Barbados this Government has been confused. First of all, it came with a Resolution for \$100,000 but when everybody put them to shame, they amended it and changed it to \$200,000. When everybody from outside asked them "what are you doing," they were so ashamed to come in here to put it up for public debate that they increased the amount by 100%, before the matter was debated.

12.10 a.m.

Can't you say to yourself that if I am going to rehouse the people I must build the schools which have fallen down? Don't build a school where you have a call for a Government office. Let us appeal to the agencies which can assist. Captain Tomlin must have a holiday at some time; if he leaves he will either show up to you that he is doing nothing or that you will be in a mess. I wanted to be original but honourable members have gone ahead of me and made points which I thought they would not have seen. Let this Resolution remain in Committee of Supply; postpone it for a few weeks. The same honourable member who is now talking has been a member of the Housing Board and only now **he is building stone houses when he has already used** some of the best land for housing. It has taken a hurricane to wake him up to the fact that he should have built that type of house. The Bay Estate was not used at all and they had a gentleman whom they will come to praise; that gentleman was Mr. Crowe who, because they flouted him, did not wait but went ahead and they had houses in which to put people after the flood. Do you mean to say that we have not had any information about these schemes until somebody has moved the postponement of this Resolution? The Minister has said that there was an allocation of \$590,000. He has only got a vote for \$480,000 and by next week he would spend \$590,000. We expected to hear something more about that. The total he gave was \$590,000 and we do not know where he got the \$110,000 from. The people want to be rehoused and the thing to do is to rehouse them. You have to build these flats all over this island and they cannot go up at a flash; if you build some of the flats in St. George there will be other parishes which will want some too. Therefore you have to get this scheme started in every parish together; that is the only way in which you will satisfy the people. However it is time that the Ministers see that they are wasting the time of the House; there has been a waste of time in the House because of the obstinacy of the Ministers. [Cheers]. Things which have taken hours and hours of debate in here, the Other Place has had to correct; if the Government had

been given its chance to go ahead, we would not know what they would have done.

Today we have heard the rumour of a brand new Hospital scheme and if they delay it long enough they will find another scheme. We, on this side, are saying that this Resolution should be left on the Order Paper.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to say this: if there is any money for finishing the Ministerial Buildings and they can be done in such a manner that you will not materially retard the rehousing of the people, then I think one building should be finished because it would release a great amount of space in this building without calling in various Departments; you would solve a lot of problems in these offices. That is the only building which you should go ahead and finish. If the honourable member wants one more convincing point, I will tell him that when he has finished that building at the Bay Estate the island will not have one more school in it, because you are using the other Schools for Government Offices; you are really building Government Offices. I would like the Hon. Minister to sit down quietly for a minute and do not be so anxious to prove his omnipotence, omniscience, and everything else. He is the only Minister who causes a lot of time to be wasted. [Hon. M. E. COX: I have no feeling.] I know you have not got it; you are persisting in an attitude which is undignified for your office and it is detrimental to the legislative work of the people.

Be a man. Show yourself to be the man that you claim to be, and do not let everybody feel that it is impossible for you to be a big man.

12.20 a.m.

Mr. BARROW: There is just one point which I should like to make in conclusion. There is not a single thing that has been said by the senior member for St. Michael who is supposed to be the Minister for Housing, which has made a firm impression on the members on this side of the House. I do not think I need add anything further to what has been said by the honourable junior member for the City in the brilliant speech which he has just delivered. Time after time he scored and underscored the arguments which have been raised on this side of the House. It is clear that in the house of my colleague there are many mansions; and it is also clear, as the honourable senior member for the City is so often apt to quote like St. John's Gospel, that in the house of the Minister of Communications there are many flats; but the biggest flat of all is the Minister of Communications himself.

No one could be more bitterly disappointed in the recalcitrance displayed by the Minister of Communications than the members on this side of the House, and myself in particular. We have been disappointed, not because we expect any better, but because there is so much suffering at present in the island and they have not developed a true sense of proportion in respect of the calamities which now beset us. To argue that at this stage the building of flats or mansions, (depending upon your own point of view) is not going to detract, in any way, from the rehousing of the persons who, tonight, are sleeping on the floors of public institutions and for whom tents have been ordered, show no appreciation at all for the sufferings of the people. If there was any argument against supporting this Resolution, it would be due to the three separate and distinct, exclusive explanations given by the Minister of Housing on this particular Resolution. A lot of the things which I wanted to say have been said by the honourable junior member for the City; and I would only like

to add, in conclusion, that the Hon. Minister of Housing need not think that we pay any credence at all to any explanation which he gives in each instance in which he has an important issue before the House. As far as we are concerned, we are prepared to have the courage of our convictions. We are not supporting this Resolution; and we cannot support it because we do not think it is in the interest of the people of this island.

There is only one point I should like to make in regard to the remarks of the honourable junior member for the City in relation to the United Nations. In the island at present, there are two experts who have been here for some considerable time from the United Nations, of very high status in the State Department. It took these officers about three months for any one of the Ministers of the Government to *keep* an appointment, not to make an appointment, with either of them. I happen to know that, at least, one Minister (I choose not to call his name or his designation) at least one Minister who, when certain proposals were put to him said: "Why did you not tell me this before; you know how many votes that would get me at election time." To know that, is to understand their deficiencies. I would almost venture, Mr. Chairman, to say *depravities*; but it might only start another argument. When you get to such a stage of complete lack of morality that the sufferings of the people are only equated to the polls at election times you cannot expect anything else in this benighted country; benighted because of those who are responsible for the administration of such affairs.

Our attitude towards this Resolution is firm and our confidence is unshaken; but the confidence of the people of Barbados has been sadly shaken by honourable members on the other side of this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head (4) be postponed. Honourable members in favour of that please say "aye" any against please say "No."

I think the "Noes" have it.

A division was taken as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. BARROW, Mr. TUDOR, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ALLDER, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. GODDARD, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY — 7.

Noes: Mr. SPEAKER, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. MILLER, Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, — 9.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question has resolved itself in the negative, 9 honourable members voting "no" and 7 honourable members voting "aye."

The question that Head (4) stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
12.30 a.m.

Head VI—Communication Airport

HEAD VI — Communication, Airport—was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: The explanatory note points out that an amount of \$6,248 was revoted for completing the electrical installations at the Seawell Airport, in 1954-55. There was a delay in the arrival of some of that equipment, hence we are asking for a Supplementary Estimate of \$2,922 which is the unexpended balance, required to complete the work. I beg to move that Head VI stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: This vote is for more electrical installations at Seawell. You say now that this material was delayed, yet you said nothing at all about it when you made up your Estimates.

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

Head VII—Miscellaneous

Head VII—Miscellaneous — was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Hon members can see that it is proposed to accommodate the Education Department in the buildings of the Bay Street School when the pupils of that school are transferred to the new Bay School which is to be erected on lands of the Bay Estate. This request for supplementary provision is for the purpose of making certain alterations and paintings; this building estimated to cost \$5,000.

Now that the Public Works Department has been removed to the Pine, it is proposed to utilise the offices formerly housing this Department for the purpose of providing a sorely needed extension to the office of the Income Tax Commissioner. These offices will then be known as the Income Tax and Valuation Offices. The estimated cost of alteration is \$5,000 plus \$700 for furniture for which supplementary provision is required.

I beg to move that Head VII, stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, has the Government any plans for the use of the ground floor of the building occupied by the Public Works Department? Sometime ago, a suggestion was made that it could be used as an office for paying water rates. It is a very valuable piece of land and I am wondering whether it cannot be put to some better use than just storing plans and bits of board. As I have said, one hon. member made the suggestion that it was a good place for collecting water rates. Of course, they were other suggestions about the Waterworks Department going to the Pine, and so on. Can the Hon. Minister say, whether there are any plans for using that part of that building for a better purpose? It is something which was mentioned already and we would like to know whether cognisance was taken of what was said then. Here we have available space in the heart of the City which can be used for Government offices, but all that is done with it is to store plans and bits of board. Certainly, you can find some other place to store these things. Let that floor house some other activity of Government or rent it out. Is it unsuitable for an office or for anyone coming in to pay bills? That is what I would like to know.

Hon. M. E. COX: I cannot give the hon. member any proposals about it at this moment; however, I would like to assure him that we are considering what we should do with it.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$156,622 do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1955—56 No. 31

University College

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution for the sum of \$40,200 is for a grant to the University College of the West Indies. If you look at the Addendum, you will see that in 1952 Governments of the West Indies agreed to

adoption of a system of quinquennial grants to the University College on the understanding that:—

- “(a) no new commitments capable of involving the governments in further expenditure, e.g. no new departments or activities, should be undertaken during the quinquennium without the prior approval of the participating governments;
- (b) opportunity for review of quinquennial grants upwards at the instance of the University College be afforded, such review to be considered only when exceptional circumstances have been established, and when only after two years of the quinquennium have been completed.”

In Message No. 12/1953, the Legislature were informed that, in respect of the quinquennium 1953-58, this Island's contribution for the first year would be \$110,592 and, in each of the subsequent four years of the quinquennium, it would be \$111,168.

As a result of a visit paid to the University College by a Committee appointed by the Inter-University Council for Higher Education in the Colonies, the Council were satisfied that exceptional circumstances had arisen which would require a review of the grants to the University College during the present quinquennium and suggested that a committee be appointed for this purpose.

Following on this suggestion, a Committee was appointed to enquire into the financial needs of the University College during the present quinquennium in the light of all the information available, and to advise the Caribbean Governments concerned on the size of the block grant needed and its division between territories. The Committee, which met in Jamaica in June this year, has reported that it is satisfied that a case has been established for additional financial provision on a substantial scale to meet needs which have arisen and which either could not have been foreseen and over which the College had no control.

Additional funds are now required to provide mainly for:—

- (a) an increase of salaries of academic and non-academic staff in the light of the upward revision of academic salaries elsewhere and increases in salaries of clerical and technical staff in Jamaica;
- (b) current and deferred maintenance of buildings already in being and further provision for renewals and replacement of furniture;
- (c) an increase of staff due to the decision of London University to introduce a new B.Sc. (General) Honours course, which could not have been foreseen, and the introduction in 1953 of Honours teaching in Arts subjects.

Sir, I think they have made a good case and they have very good grounds for approaching the various Governments inasmuch as the salaries of the staff are to be increased and such things as can be seen from what I have read. The whole thing would come to \$1,800,000 for the remaining three years of the quinquennium of which this Island's share will be \$40,200 per annum, during the period.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, they say here that a case has been made out for this money, but that is really how the University started; it always say that you have to give it some length of time. It seems to me as if you are not likely to get a proper estimate at any time. Everytime you discover that a case has been made out again for something, and you have to give them something more again. I sup-

pose it will go on and on again. However, I am very grateful over the fact that we can afford this substantial contribution, and I do hope that in the future we will always be able to afford it, but I must say it is something which is not done on a business-like basis. I do not know if the very nature of the expenditure makes it impossible to do it in a businesslike manner.

It is true to say that old Universities have wealthy people to endow them, and this might not be so with the University College of the West Indies, because people in the area might not be able to do so or might not be disposed to do it. It is quite a substantial sum that we have to subscribe to this University; but I think in the interest of education and the prestige of the University of the West Indies, we should do it.

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

Supplementary Estimates 1955-56, No. 32

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the final Resolution is for the sum of \$6,165, and the purpose for which it is wanted is set out in the Schedule to the Resolution. The first is for the sum of \$6,000 for reporting and printing debates of the Legislature; then there is the sum of \$75 for furniture, equipment, clothing and uniform for the General Hospital, and then \$90 for uniform for attendants of the Mental Hospital. The Notes to the Items set out clearly the reason for the expenditure, and I think they are quite clear to hon. member.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BRYAN: Mr. Chairman, at long last I see that the Government has agreed to implement an agreement of the Medical Services Departmental Whitley Council that uniforms should be provided for all cooks and maids at the Medical Institutions. During the consideration of the last Annual Estimates, I drew the Government's attention to an appeal which was made by the Orderlies of the Hospital as regards rations or allowances in lieu thereof.

12.40 a.m.

You will remember, Mr. Chairman, that in the Dos Santos Report these orderlies presented a memorandum and if I may quote from it, they asked for rations or allowances in lieu thereof and the reply was given in the affirmative. Sir Errol Dos Santos said “I support the request for these rations or allowances in lieu thereof.” I wonder if the Minister in charge can give me any idea as to how soon this request will be granted. I understand that these Orderlies have approached the Director of Medical Services and I would like to know whether any decision has been made as to whether the rations or allowances in lieu thereof will be allowed as has been requested by these people.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I am unable to give the information which the honourable member desires; I will make the necessary enquiries and let him know.

Mr. LEWIS: I hope the Hon. Minister will take to heart the explanation which is given in the Note (1) to Item 24, “Reporting and Printing Debates of Legislature.” I feel that while it is true that the debates are long and so on, you have a good example of the presentation of the business of the Government leaving much to be desired. Very often an unnecessarily lengthy meeting of this Branch of the Legislature is caused from an insufficiency

of information given to honourable members; and the method of presentation from the Government's point of view in bringing down measures to this House needs some serious thought.

As far as these allowances to employees at the Medical Institutions are concerned, I am asking the Minister of Social Services to give some thought to the persons who are transferred from the Hospital and sent to other Medical Departments and see that no injustice is being done. Allowances are given to the Nurses of the General Hospital and when you come to others like those at the Health Centre they bear no relation whatever to the allowances which are given to those Nurses at the General Hospital. It is all very well to give allowances to the Nurses at the General Hospital, which are not provided at the Health Centres, and still will give the same allowances when you send out these people. There is a crying need for investigation into that charge and I think that at a flash the Hon. Minister will see that a great injustice is done in the matter. I wanted to interview him personally about the matter; I got some information around the time of the hurricane and I am giving him some time; but I will lay all the facts fairly and squarely before him and he will see that there is need for an investigation of them.

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 CHAIRMAN reported the passing of eight Resolutions 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 Resolutions passed in Committee were read a first and second time and agreed to.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS BILL

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to take Order No. 11 as the next Order of the Day.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Social Services: to move the consideration of the amendments of the Honourable the Legislative Council to the Bill intituled an Act to consolidate and amend the Acts of the Island relating to the keeping and auditing of public accounts.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: These amendments are minor ones. For instance, in Clause 1 of the Bill the word "as" has been substituted for the word "at" and the other amendment deals with the laying of the Rules made under the Act. That was omitted when the Bill was sent up to the Other Place.

I beg to move that these amendments be now read a first time.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to second that.
12.50 a.m.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that members of this House should just say that these amendments are just ordinary amendments etc., and leave it at that. This House has got to thank the Other Place for putting in something that, in this case, has not been previously seen in it. No. (3) of the Amendments reads as follows:

(3) All rules made under this Act shall be laid before both Houses of the Legislature as soon as may be after they are made and if within a period of forty days beginning with the day on which any such rules are so laid before it either House of the Legislature resolves that the rule be annulled, they shall thenceforth be void, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder or to the making of new rules.—

(4) In reckoning any such period of forty days no account shall be taken of any time during which the Houses of the Legislature are dissolved or prorogued or during which either House is adjourned for more than seven days.

That is an excellent thing; and I am going to ask the members of this House again: do you mean to say that it was not the function of the House to allow the Rules? Is there not someone among the law officers of this country who could look out for these things? I think that the privileges of the Legislature should be looked out for. You have to be looking out for them because you cannot trust these people with these things.

Are you making Rules for taking money out of the Treasury, a thing that the House used to retain for itself? Do you think that any law officer in this island should leave that out? That is one of the first things that should have been done. Should you draft an Act and say that you have got it in one already; that the Other Place can approve of money coming out of the Treasury before the House of Assembly say so?

It is wrong to say that the Legislative Council cannot agree to money taken out of the Treasury. But a power which was taken away from the House, and which in my opinion, is a violation, you have not taken the opportunity of putting that back in. The Ministers should say that any rules that are made the people's representatives should look at them.

I remember when during consideration of this Bill in the House we had the Parliamentary Delegation here that some honourable members had to leave with them and it was agreed not to concentrate on the matter and that is how it passed this House. As far as I am concerned, I think that the Legislative Council has certainly done us a favour on this occasion.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I should just like to say in the passing of this Bill that, though certain things do not escape the meticulous eye of the honourable member—

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I have just explained that I had left the House when this was being done.

The question that these amendments be now read a first time 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 in each case, the amendments were read a second time and agreed to.

LATE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking permission to deal with an Address to His Excellency the Governor with respect to a gratuity to be paid to the widow of our late Clerk. I am now asking leave to deal with it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is asking leave to proceed with an Address relative to a gratuity to the widow of our late Clerk.

There being no objection leave was granted the honourable member.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: We are all acquainted with the situation with respect to the

circumstances connected with this matter. We need not repeat them. The Address reads as follows:—

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
To
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

The House of Assembly beg to inform Your Excellency of the death of their Clerk, Mr. D. Lee Sarjeant, on the 23rd July, 1955, and respectfully request Your Excellency to make provision for the payment of one year's salary to his widow, Mrs Sarah Sarjeant.

I beg to move that the Address do now pass.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I understand that this is what would be done in the case of a Civil Servant, therefore the Civil Service cannot feel that we are treating our own employees any better than they are treated. There is only one thing I should like to say, and while I am not objecting to the wording of the Address altogether, I do not like the idea of the House telling anybody that you "beg" to do anything. It is a word that is used very often; but I do not like it. I prefer also that we do not inform his Excellency the Governor that our Clerk died on a certain day; he knows that already. In future I hope that no member of this House will hear that word "beg" when we are considering an Address.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that we should pass this Address without a word of comment; I do not think it is one of those things that we should pass over. I am sorry that the need has arisen that we should have to resort to

this Address; but I hope that the widow of our late Clerk will accept this as a gesture of sympathy of the whole House.

I, too, do not think that the working is in order, but we will accept it since the Address is brief. If we can do something better later on we should do it, because the late Mr. D. Lee Sarjeant was one of those men whose services we cannot forget. With these few remarks, I therefore wish to support the passing of this Address.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next the 18th October, 1955 at 3 o'clock p.m.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, with the respect to the Hon. Minister of Social Services moving the adjournment, I am very pleased to see him taking an interest in fixing the Order Paper. It is some thing that has fallen into disuse in this House, but it is very welcomed now. I hope that he has very carefully considered this Order Paper and that he will take the Orders in the way they will appear on the Order Paper.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, the 18th October, 1955, at 3 o'clock p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

1.05 a.m.