

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954-55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 18th October, 1955.

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

Present:

His Honour K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*), Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, C.B.E., M.D., C.M., (*Minister of Social Services*), His Honour A. E. S. LEWIS (*Deputy Speaker*), Hon. M. E. COX (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*), Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., (*Chairman of Committees*), Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*), Mr. F. C. GODDARD (*Leader of the Opposition*), Mr. F. E. MILLER, Mr. J. A. HAYNES B.A., Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. E. St. A. HOLDER, Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, Hon. C. E. TALMA (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*), 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 held on the 27th September, and the 4th October, respectively, have been printed and circulated amongst hon. members. Unless there is any objection these Minutes will be taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor to lay statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados and the amounts received from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for the period ended on 31st March, 1955, in respect of the several schemes sanctioned by the Legislature.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 7 Order, 1955.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 8 Order, 1955.

REPLIES

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Reply to Question No. 18 by Mr. J. E. T. Brancker regarding recruitment of Barbadians for the Metropolitan Police Force and the Royal Navy.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier I beg to give notice of the following:

Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 7 Order, 1955."

Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 8 Order, 1955."

Also the following Resolutions:—

Resolution to place the sum of \$200,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955-56, Part I, Current, as shown in Supplementary Estimate 1955-56 No. 37 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to place the sum of \$19,734 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955-56, Part I, Current, as shown in Supplementary Estimates 1955-56, No. 38 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to place the sum of \$3,683 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955-56, Part I, Current, as shown in Supplementary Estimates 1955-56, No. 39 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

In connection with that Resolution for \$200,000 hon. members will remember that it has been circulated, Government proposes to deal with it in all its stages to-day. I shall also be asking leave to suspend Rules 88 and 89 in order to deal with the Resolutions of which notice has been given.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$606,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955-56, Part II, Capital, as shown in Supplementary Estimate 1955-56, No. 36 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

I should also like to state at this stage that this Resolution was circulated to hon. members with Your Honour's permission. It is my intention to ask leave to deal with this Resolution in all its stages to-day.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice, on behalf of the Hon. Premier of a Bill to amend the Petty Debt Act, 1899.

Also a Bill to amend the Haynes Pension Act, 1950.

It is my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply to deal with the two Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

Mr. SPEAKER: Including the Resolution for \$19,734?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: No sir. We are only asking to deal with the one for \$200,000 as well as the one for \$606,000.

Mr. SPEAKER: I see. That includes the one of which the Hon. Minister of Communications gave notice.

QUESTIONS

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker: To enquire of the appropriate Minister at the next meeting of the House:

How soon does Government propose to implement the expected legislation for authorising the deduction of medical expenses from taxable income, in this House?

3.25 p.m.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the Bill to amend the Petty Debt Act, 1899, was read a first time.

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the Bill to amend the Haynes Pension Act, 1950 was read a first time.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to know whether these Rules are suspended for the purpose of dealing with the two Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is for that purpose.

Mr. LEWIS: The motion does not state that. I merely draw that to Your Honour's attention.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I said earlier it was my intention to move the suspension of the Rules 88 and 89 to deal with the two Resolutions of which notice was given.

Mr. SPEAKER: You had better incorporate that in your motion.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Rules 88 and 89 be now suspended in order to deal with the two Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

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

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, and that it be an instruction of the House when it is in Committee to deal with the Resolutions of which mention has just been made.

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

The question 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1955—56, No. 33 MINISTERIAL BUILDINGS

Ministerial Buildings

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, the House will remember when I gave notice of this Resolution that it was for the sum of \$29,000. There seems to be some mistake made by the printers. In this printed copy there appears the figures \$39,000 instead of \$29,000 I am asking that the figures be corrected to read \$29,000.

This Resolution, Mr. Chairman, explains itself. Honourable members will see that it makes provision for sufficient funds to complete the Government headquarters in Bay Street. It is agreed that the sum of \$12,000 should be spent on providing 18 car parks and walling on the 1st Avenue, on Beckles Road. It has also been agreed to construct and surface a road of 4,000 square yards at the cost of \$12,000; and in addition to that there will be drainage construction at the cost of \$2,000. The layout for gardens will cost \$2,000. \$1,000 is earmarked for contingencies.

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is necessary to complete the access roads to the car parks and walling on the first Avenue east of the Government Headquarters. As I have said, Sir, the building is near completion, and you can see that this Resolution is for the purpose of making the necessary decorations and improvements around the buildings. I think there is hardly anything more for me to say at this stage. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

3.35 p.m.

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

Mr. LEWIS: On the last occasion when we met, I said that I would agree with the Government in finishing this particular building because I can see the wisdom of it. It will release a lot of room in the Public Buildings; but I hope that it does not detract very much from the immediate task which is in hand; that is, clearing up some of the damage done by the hurricane and rehousing the people. It is in that respect that I would have welcomed the figures given out by the Hon. Minister being set out in the Addendum instead of the Minister having to read them out.

What I would really like to know is the length of time it will take to finish these buildings; that is a factor which should be taken into account. If it is going to take a very long time, obviously it would affect the programme of rehabilitation and rehousing.

I remember sometime ago we were told that in about six weeks' time this building would be ready; I still see that work is going ahead. I wonder whether I can hear what is the time in which they will be able to finish this building.

I got into a little difficulty in taking down the figures that I heard. Is it \$12,000 for 18 car parks, and walling in Beckles Road? And where will the entrance to this building be? [Hon. M. E. COX: On Bay Street.] I am very glad to know that. They will have to have some gardens around there.

Mr. Chairman, I hope you will not rule this out of order, but perhaps the Government will see the wisdom in what I have to say. If the Natural Gas Corporation is taking over the distribution of Gas in this colony, then let the Government get rid of that building there. With Government buildings and a Civic Theatre in Bay Street, Government should get rid of that building; I am referring to the Gas Company. Certainly the Government could

find somewhere at the Pine or the Bay for the headquarters of the Gas Company.

It has been said that Government is buying that house at the corner of Beckles Road. [Hon. M. E. COX: We have not decided on it yet.] It was not said in here but it was mentioned by Government's spokesman in the Other Place. I think it would be a good thing to buy this place, get rid of the blind corner, and get a really good promenade there. I would not like the Government to set themselves permanently in that building with the Gas Company still there if they can possibly help.

Mr. GODDARD: Sir, I think it is the obvious thing to do; I refer to the finishing of this building. I do not think it should take more than five or six weeks to finish. The material which would be required for this building should not in any way impede the Housing programme throughout the island. It would relieve the pressure on departmental buildings in these precincts.

It would be unwise to spend such a large sum of money as \$340,000 on a building such as that, and not improve the surroundings. You want to add to the appearance of the building; I hope the Government has in mind purchasing and pulling down that building at the corner of Beckles Road. It is a blind corner and it juts right out in the road. I hope that with any landscaping which is coming along, the removal of that building would be included; I imagine that they will have to come for some money for the purpose of acquiring that building and incorporating it into the landscape.

What the honourable junior member for the City has said about the removal of the Gas Company has quite a lot in it. There is a residence at the south of the Gas Company's property which has about 150 feet of roadway, and there is no need whatever to have the Gas Company there; especially with the new system of distribution of gas from the wells. All you want is an office. You would enhance the buildings around there by the removal of that property. We could do with a lot of promenading there.

There is a small building with four walls above Mrs. Inniss; there is no roof on it, and that should be acquired. If you do not buy it at the time when there is no roof there, you would have to pay a lot for it when you do want it.

Bay Street is on a lovely harbour with a lovely view, and it would be a good site for the Ministerial Buildings; let us get on with the job and remove the pressure on Government Buildings.

Mr. MILLER: I am a bit surprised at the remarks of the Minister in connection with the building at the corner of Beckles Road. I think I should say that I thought all along, as a result of a report in the Press, that the Government had entered negotiations upon the matter. That building should have been removed long ago. I think the removal of the building would provide for greater scope for ornamentation for the Government's headquarters.

I hear a *sotto voce* remark from the Minister to the honourable junior member for the City, but it was not made clear as to whether the Government was committed to the idea of purchasing that building. Apart from that, there has been some talk of removing the Gas Company; it does not necessarily follow that you should go to the heart of the City for the distribution of Gas; and it would involve some cost in the removal.

As regards the equipment the gasometers now used by the Company are required for low pressure distribution to domestic consumers. Gas coming direct from the wells is at a pressure higher than

what is required for domestic appliances and as such, reduction in pressure would need to be handled through such equipment.

But before the debate is closed I should be very happy to have a word from the Hon. Minister on the building at the corner of Beckles Road, as to whether or not Government has decided to purchase that.

3.45 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am willing to conceive that there may be something wrong in my approach to this matter; but even making allowances for that, I prefer to continue to vary from certain points of view than to be correct with people who think that we should be discussing this matter to-day.

I cannot conceive why people in authority should be convinced that at a time like this it is so urgent to expend this money on that construction in Bay Street, even taking for granted that the building is nearly finished and that the longer that it remains unfinished the longer it would be unused; and that it might appear, on the face of it, fool-hardy to have a building like that and not making the maximum use of it within the minimum of time.

This country has just had the biggest disaster it has had for years, and this disaster involves a certain amount of rebuilding. I do not care if I stand alone or not; I propose to emphasise that all the construction so far as the houses are concerned should be devoted to the rebuilding of the hurricane houses and repairing them. If you were to go through these houses as I have gone through them, you would see people picking sides of a house and parts of a roof and fooling themselves that they have a house.

Some honourable members of this Chamber do not seem to appreciate the full importance of the conditions under which people are living; otherwise I cannot see them thinking in terms of spending more money on the Government Building in Bay Street.

I am not concerned with the cost of this huge monstrosity in Bay Street. By the time we are finished with it, we shall have spent \$600,000 on the new Bay Street building, including furniture and what not; and whether \$600,000 can be justified in the light of the claim that a few new Government Offices are needed, is a question which I do not intend to go into today. I will certainly repeat, whether or not I stand alone, that it bespeaks the utmost indifference to the conditions of people in terms of what this Resolution calls for.

In other words, even although we may deal with hurricane matters, my deep conviction is that these matters should be postponed and shelved until such time, in the opinion of the general public, that the housing needs of the people have been better and more amply met.

I am aghast, (that is the only way to express it) at the amount of damaged houses still lying around in certain parts of this island, in spite of the fact that rehabilitation has been going on for the past three weeks. To me what we need is a super-human effort, a concentrated effort.

This Government block in Bay Street cannot fall down if it is not finished; the construction is not opened to the elements; the roof is on the building. There can be no deterioration in the building if work is postponed, because it is rain proof and sun proof in the position in which it is; and not one single dollar in harm to the building could be done if it remained so for the next six months. But in the mean time. I cannot picture one single member in his House who would like to be living in the conditions in which people are living through no fault of their own.

There is a case in this island at the moment, for not touching these places until such time as we have dealt with general rehousing of the people; but I am not referring to it to-day because it is not necessary. A most convincing case can be made out to the effect that we should spend even one fourth of this amount until some attention has been paid to the general housing of the people.

There has been a storm and there has been wide spread damage. Some people through this storm, are living worse than animals. Where I have seen people living is inferior to where numbers of animals live. There is not a cowshed on a plantation which is not better. You have only to go and see for yourself. The men, the material, the money and everything which is being used to complete these buildings in Bay Street should be diverted and spent in one single direction, viz: to the relieving of the people whose houses have been damaged by the hurricane.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, there is really and truly nothing wrong with the view as expressed by the honourable senior member for St. Philip who has just sat. The only thing I see, is that if the Government is still to be seen diverting energy in doing something like the starting of the building of a school, well it was for that reason that at that time I said that if the Government has that energy and loose extra workmen, let us finish the building in Bay Street because such a lot depends upon it.

I should like him to know that it is not from any other angle at all, that I am agreeing to any diversion of labour and material except that the Government is bent on going on with their building programme. Therefore, I say, if there is anything that is essential, let us finish that building. That is my view of it. I entirely agree with the views of the honourable senior member for St. Philip. We fought a great battle in here last Tuesday and we could not get the Government to see the wisdom of not starting a new building.
3.55 p.m.

I hope the debate last week has had some effect, and although the vote was taken and Government won, they will not persist with that idea. I see no reason why that building in Bay Street cannot be finished and the school used as a school as well. It might interfere greatly with their plans for the frontage of Government Headquarters.

I counselled them not to start a new school at this time, but it seems as if that is definitely part of the plan to get into this building; and it was for that reason that I support this Resolution. I hope that the Government has plans to put before us to convince us that this work will not interfere in anyway with the programme of building and repairing these people houses.

I say again that even if you restrict the children's use of the playing field at the Bay Street Boys' School, at least you should let them use the school; that is, if you are determined to go on with this building.

The honourable member must realise that we are in the Opposition and the only thing that we can do is to oppose. Even if our opposition is ineffective and cannot convince the Government that the construction of no other building should take place until the people are rehoused, and they are going to do anything as I have said, I would agree that they should complete this building. If I were a member of the Government, I would not have brought down this Resolution; but since they have brought it down, so long as it will not hinder the work which we regard as essential, well, all I would say to them is to do it.

However, will the Hon. Minister let me hear definitely how long they expect they would take to complete this building? Sir, you know very well the inhuman conditions under which the homeless people are now living. There are conditions under which people have no privacy and which are very foreign to Barbados. Barbadians are accustomed to living in their own houses and enjoying their own family privacies as one family in a house. There are other people who live in ranges, but you must agree that even those who used to live in slave huts are not accustomed to living in houses of more than one family.

It is a great privation for Barbadians to be herded together, and I took that into consideration as any member of the community would take it when I was making my remarks; but it is no use carrying on a debate for days and days and still the Government is going to do what it wants to do.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I too agree most wholeheartedly with the remarks of the last honourable member, the honourable junior member for the City, when he said that this is certainly a very unfortunate time to deal with this Resolution, but at the same time, on mature reflection, I realise that the majority of work to be carried out on these buildings and roads can be done by masons. The small houses that are to be replaced for the people have very little masonry in them to do.

Mr. CRAWFORD: That is not true. Government is not putting back wooden houses.

Mr. HAYNES: That is my view and from my little experience of building, I know that when you are building and you do not finish in the first instance, your losses are colossal. I well remember when we were building the Science Laboratory at Harrison College; work on the building ceased for some time and when work was resumed, they had to come back to this House for money to weed out the trees that had grown inside the building since the work had stopped.

Still for all that, Mr. Chairman, I only hope that the Hon. Minister in charge will specify that all possible labour for the other purpose of putting back the houses of the people who are homeless will be considered as of first importance, and the remainder then considered for the purpose of finishing the Ministerial Building.

I was also impressed with the suggestion of the hon. junior member for the City about the decoration of the front of this building. After all, this building for Government Headquarters is going to be a centre of the Government of Barbados and it should have proper surroundings.

I do hope the Minister will consider the suggestion of moving the Gas Company to a more secluded place. After all, gas companies are not placed in the beautiful positions such as the one in which ours is placed; and its removal according to the hon. member, would make the Esplanade an ornament of Barbados. We want tourists and their money; and everything we can do to improve the island means improving the Treasury. That should be the star-point in front of all hon. members when it comes to buildings that are to be improved.

I also agree that this is the appropriate time, as the hon. junior member for Christ Church has suggested, for Government to think of buying the building which is valueless in Bay Street adjoining the vacant spot, so as to convert that spot into another window on Bay Street. That building is only comprised of four walls and I think the owner would gladly accept the cash for it after getting the Hurricane Insurance for the damage and go somewhere else to build.

I only hope that these suggestions will not fall on thorny ground and be forgotten. I think there

are very constructive; they contain the most constructive ideas I have heard in this House for many years.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I did not see the upper parts of Christ Church after the hurricane until yesterday afternoon; what I saw gave me the feeling that even if every elementary school was destroyed, it would be in spite of that still unnecessary to take off the Public Works Departments' men already assisting in constructing the houses which have been blown down. I did not imagine that the situation was as acute as that which I saw in the St. Christopher area yesterday afternoon; and I cannot agree with the expressions of some hon. members that continuation of the Ministerial Buildings should be carried on.

4.05 p.m.

Even if the Government had to rent additional offices (which they do not have to do at present), I still would not do any further work on Ministerial Buildings. Contrary to the expression of the honourable junior member for the City who argued this same point on the last occasion, it is true that we are in the Opposition and we cannot do anything other than put a different point of view than that which the Government puts, when it is necessary to do so.

We will persist in speaking loudly against wrongs when in our opinion there are wrongs; and no kind of argument could move or justify us otherwise. The only people who would be justified by that kind of argument for the continuation of other buildings at the sacrifice of the happiness of human beings who are always accustomed to have their shelters, however humble they are, are the Government's Bench and a few persons who have not had to suffer.

People like the honourable junior member for St. Andrew cannot appreciate the suffering of the people; the worse room in which the honourable member may have had to rest his head might still be better than some of the rooms which these people have to occupy.

It is said that long after the war, Londoners were so accustomed to the bombing of the German Air Force that although the War had been finished, whenever a plane was heard overhead many of them still had the flight psychology and started to run for shelter.

I brought that point forward in order to emphasise what I have noticed in several areas: everytime the clouds look dark, these people become more unhappy wondering if there will be another "Janet", or whether they would have a shelter in which they will not get wet.

The people are living in a state of uncertainty and fear; and as some other honourable member has said, if some officials in this colony had got their houses destroyed, especially those for whom the Government supplies accommodation, the world would have come to a standstill until such houses were restored.

This is a sad reflection on the attitude of the Government comprised as it is today, because no honourable member in this Chamber, unless he is without human sympathy, would tolerate or even like to hear that his most distant relative was forced to endure the privations which many of these people are enduring. I admit that because of the disparity in numbers we are just beating the air, but if that is all we have to do we will have to do it. The Hon. Minister may sneer; actually he is in a position to sneer, but what I would like to ask him is: would he be satisfied to know that he was forced to endure some of the difficulties which these people are enduring now?

I ask the honourable member to drive around with his eyes wide open and go in daylight; the scene in daylight is even more relieving than the scene in the evening where these suffering people are concerned. I hate to say that the honourable senior member for Christ Church who is a member of the Executive Committee and who sits in on all of these decisions affecting the parish which he professes or boasts to represent better than anybody else, has agreed to the partial suspension of the reconstruction of those homes up there.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On a point of order. I have not agreed to the policy of suspension of anything. For that reason, I am taking an active part in expediting the plans far from the suspension of any reconstruction measures.

Mr. ALLDER: If three fingers are doing anything [Hon. R. G. MAPP: There are five] and one is withdrawn, there is a partial suspension of what you are doing. The Public Works Department which did a better job in rehabilitating the people than the other Departments has now been withdrawn; therefore, the reconstruction must take a longer period than it would have taken had all the Departments continued the rebuilding of the houses. The honourable member sat in Executive Committee and agreed to that; it only means that he was more interested in seeing that he agrees with his Party and the Government at the expense of the thousands of people on whom he always depends for support.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: If the honourable member appreciates what he saw in Christ Church yesterday, he would realise that depots are being established there.

Mr. ALLDER: The honourable member has not risen on a point of order; he can make a speech when I am finished. I am saying that what I saw was definitely appalling; and that, Mr. Chairman, was 20 days after work has been started on the rehabilitation of the people. It forces me, Sir, to wonder what was the scene on the day after the calamity. There is no excuse at all; I agree that you have started your Ministerial Buildings which might be of importance from the point of view of exclusiveness or for historical reasons; but from the point of view of actually assisting in the removal of suffering, I cannot see how important the Ministerial Buildings could be. There were times when the Government suffered more from a shortage of offices that they do today; and there are not as many offices rented from private concerns as used to be rented before. It is illogical therefore to say that the Ministerial buildings are extremely important.

4.15 p.m.

As I have said before in the founding of a community, housing and health matters take precedence; and in a crisis of this sort even if every elementary school was destroyed housing must still take pre-eminence. I have heard that the Head of the Public Works Department wants to continue with his Scheme and therefore, the Government is bringing down these Resolutions to give effect to his wishes. But from the point of view of the position of the people in the colony minor considerations like that should be left out. There is another point which I hope the Hon. Minister will explain; because the introduction of the Resolution was fairly briefly done. Passing somewhere last night I noticed that some of the sufferers are still occupying these buildings; and I should like to have heard the Hon. Minister explaining what the Government proposes to do with the people if work has already been started anew on the Ministerial Buildings. I repeat that it is

unnecessary to divert your attention from the effort which has been started in connection with the rehousing of those people. I am wondering too, if it is necessary for the Government to have some of those houses still leaned up on the roadside in the various districts of St. Michael and in the country areas. The least I feel that Government should do is, according to its promise to assist the people in getting back their houses, to send out their squads and salvage whatever material is knocking around an area which once had a good home in it. A lot of stuff is still knocking around leaned up alongside the highways which, if salvaged by the authority, would lessen, considerably, the cost of rehabilitation. I agree that when we discussed the Five Year Plan it was stated that the Ministerial buildings would cost say around \$300,000 to \$350,000. It seems as if it is going to cost us over a half million; and those things detract considerably from the Government's means of assisting the thousands of house holders in the Colony. All those things have to be taken into consideration. When we have passed this Resolution we will find that it will have cost us \$385,000.

There was a suggestion by some honourable member regarding the acquisition of the site near Beckles Road; and in that case, the question of the cost of material would have to be reconsidered. That means more money, I foresee, although I agree with the suggestion. Beckles Road, being a blind corner, is so dangerous that, notwithstanding the idea of having the Ministerial building sited in that area, it would be right to purchase that building for the purpose of removing the blind corner and widening the area. I agree that it should be acquired; but it is not only that building at the corner which would improve the situation; there are other small properties between the Ministerial Buildings and those business houses in the area which the Government would have to consider taking over too. That only shows that, as long as you have started the ball rolling, it continues rolling.

We were told that the Ministerial Buildings would cost so much and so much. But we have had to commit ourselves to certain expenditure and now, having spent so much, we have found that we have to spend so much more. That is why, in such matters, we have to be careful. It appears simple and not very costly, at first; but after you have started, you find that you have got to do a lot more.

There are other remarks which I prefer to keep until the other Resolution is being handled; it concerns the equipping of the Ministerial Buildings. I know that the Hon. Minister already has some of the best pieces of office furniture that could be had and I was hoping that when the hon. gentlemen were ready to move up to the new quarters they would carry their old equipment along with them, thus avoiding the necessity of having to purchase more. Even if they acquired a few of the lighter pieces of furniture, they should not consider purchasing the heavier pieces which would cost very much more. The heavier pieces of furniture which the Hon. Ministers already have should be used instead.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I should like to reply to one or two points made by certain hon. members. The hon. junior member for the City, the hon. junior member for Christ Church and, I think, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew also made reference to the cleaning up of certain areas. I should like to assure those hon. members that I share their views.

I think I am correct in saying that when the Resolution for \$20,000 was before the House some

time last year, I said then that the Government anticipated cleaning up the whole area and also purchasing a house in order to beautify, so to speak, the Government Headquarters, because we did agree in the Five Year Plan of 1952 to the construction of a parliamentary building when it becomes necessary.

A suggestion was also made relative to the Gas Works. I think it is an admirable suggestion. I think that the whole of that seaside could be cleaned up so as to lend additional beauty to the Esplanade area. I do not know whether hon. members were listening as carefully as they should when I was speaking on this Resolution. I think that if they were listening they would not have made the ugly mistake in saying that what is proposed here would be at the expense of the reconstruction of the houses belonging to the unfortunate sufferers of the Hurricane.

4.25 p.m.

In addition sir, none of this money is required for finishing any Ministerial Building or Government Headquarters; that money has already been voted and there are sufficient funds to finish the building.

Incidentally, the honourable senior member for St. Philip told the Committee not long ago that the entire roof was on and that there was no question of any part of the building being exposed to the elements, such as sun or rain. I do not know where he got that information from; I am sure that anyone who pays a visit to that building will see that part of the roof has not been put on.

The roof to the northern side of the building has not yet been put on; therefore, that part of the building is exposed to the elements; I think any intelligent individual will agree that if you erect a building and you fail to put the roof on, you must get deterioration and the walls will be affected considerably.

There is nothing in this Resolution before this Committee which deals with the Government Headquarters proper. I think I made it quite clear when I was introducing this Resolution that this Resolution includes the sum of \$12,000 for providing 18 car parks and for walling to the First Avenue, Beckles Road. Any honourable member who was listening to what I was saying at that time would say that this is not a question of finishing the Government Headquarters.

I also mentioned that we had to lay down 4,000 square yards of surfacing for a road which would be built by the Director of Highways and Transport. All that has nothing to do with the repairing and construction of any house. I also said that the 920 feet of surfacing for road drainage was estimated to cost \$2,000. All that has nothing to do with the construction and repairing of houses.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of explanation. From what the Hon. Minister is saying, one is led to believe that such things are set out in the Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want to hear what is the point of explanation on which you rose to speak.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I was one of the members who spoke against the continuation of the work on the Government Headquarters, and the explanation which the Hon. Minister is giving now would give one the impression that those of us who spoke against this Resolution knew that the purpose of this Resolution was for voting money to provide an entrance to the Parliament Buildings. In other words, what the honourable member is explaining now is not set out in the Resolution.

Hon. M. E. COX: The only person who would not understand it is the honourable member who has just sat. The honourable junior member for the City heard what I said when I was introducing the Resolution, and he went as far as to write down every item. What I am saying now I said when I was introducing the Resolution. As I have said, the only person who does not know is the honourable senior member for St. John, and it is because he is dull in comprehension.

Sir, how are you going to read into this Resolution any question of repairing houses or building houses? All there is to it, is that it suits the honourable member to get up at this time and make the public believe we are doing nothing for them. He is saying: "All these poor people have nowhere to live, and here it is: the Government is putting up buildings etc. and taking labour away from the building of houses for them."

The honourable member suggested that we should stop erecting the Parliament Buildings. It would surprise some honourable members to know that no carpenters are working on this building. We are employing a few masons to work on it, because there is no construction going on, in which to employ them. As a matter of fact, a lot of masons are out of work since the hurricane. I am glad to hear honourable members say that we should finish the buildings and that the roof should be put on.

Sometimes, members talk glibly about poor people; instead of doing that and showing off by words, they should show by deeds. Why didn't they open their bungalows and let the people come into them?

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I have not heard the Hon. Minister say the time the work on this building would take to complete. That is a question which I ask of him.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I cannot tell the honourable member at this stage how long the work would take, because we do not want to do anything which will prejudice the repairs to those houses of those victims of the recent hurricane. It was expected that the Government Headquarters would have finished building at the end of this month or early in the following month, but as it is now, I do not think we can finish before the end of the year.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, from what we have just heard this money will be spent on car parks, surfacing roadways, and things like that, to the Government buildings in Bay Street. If there were no Government buildings in Bay Street, there would be no necessity to build car parks or to surface roadways for it. I presume that building car parks and surfacing roads, even if it does not take artisans, it takes labour; and it is also within the knowledge of members of this House that in the rehabilitation of hurricane-damaged houses, large numbers of unskilled labour were used.

It does not take a carpenter or mason for that matter to assist in propping up a house which has fallen down. In many of the re-constructions gangs you had more labourers than skilled artisans working per house. Does the Minister know that for the past week in districts where the labourers of the Public Works and carpenters were working, nothing at all has been done. They have been completely removed. [Hon. R. G. MAPP: Name the districts] It is your business to find out where they are; you get travelling allowance to go and see them. I am not paid any travelling allowance to run around and tell the Government where the employees of

the Public Works Department are not working; I am telling them that in districts where labourers were working, for over a week the squads have been completely withdrawn and still men are working on the Government Buildings in Bay Street they are employing labour which could be utilised elsewhere. If it is important to them to have this elaborate building, car parks, highways and what not, well, let them go on with all that. But I am telling them this: the people on whose houses and in whose districts the Public Works Department was doing work up to Monday or Tuesday last week and for whom not a stroke of work has been done since then, would like to see these workmen again. Let the Minister of Housing say that any Public Works lorry, labourer or artisan has worked in St. Philip since Tuesday last week or if one piece of lumber has been tacked on to any house since they were working last week. Let him say the district in which that has happened because I do not know it and nobody in St. Philip knows it either.

This talk about using masons on the Parliament buildings does not make sense to me, because the Minister said last week that in so far as the Public Works Department is concerned that Department will concentrate on public housing, and the Government is thinking in terms of wall houses for people. I presume that in his Ministry the Government will use masons to construct Ministerial buildings but they will use carpenters to construct the wall buildings for people who suffered in the hurricane. That is the only conclusion to which I can come; only on the houses which were damaged by the hurricane would you need masons to replace them in wall. If we were to start replacing some of these houses in wall there is full scope for every mason of the Public Works Department to work on them; and the material is here. If you have a programme for replacing hurricane-damaged houses in wall, then put masons on them; do not try to push down people's throats that because you are working on the Ministerial buildings you are employing labour for housing. Let them say that they are finishing the Ministerial buildings at whatever cost and everything else can wait. I repeat my conviction that any labour, whether skilled or unskilled, diverted today from hurricane rehousing means that hurricane rehousing must suffer. That is as plain as a pike-staff to anybody except those who do not want to see it.

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

Supplementary Estimate No. 34, Furniture for Government Headquarters

Hon. M. E. COX: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one for the sum of \$17,000. The Addendum explains the purpose of the Resolution quite clearly. This Resolution is also in connection with the Government Headquarters; the Addendum reads as follows:—

On completion of the new Government Headquarters in Bay Street, furniture will be needed for the Waiting Room, the Executive Committee Chamber, the Information Room, the Committee Rooms and the Canteen. In addition furniture, such as filing cabinets and desks, will be needed for the several ministers, each of which will be operating with a separate registry.

It has also been decided to purchase a light station wagon, mainly to transport files and personnel between the Government Buildings and the

Legislative Chambers. The estimated cost is \$2,800 and operating costs to the 31st March, 1956, is estimated at \$425.

The provision of a PBX telephone system is essential, and it is estimated that the cost of its installation and operating expenses to the 31st March, 1956, will be \$984.

The full details of this supplementary provision is as follows:—

(a) Furniture for public rooms and incinerator	....	....	\$ 3,870
(b) Furniture for Ministries, etc.	....	....	7,803
(c) Station Wagon and operating expenses	....	....	3,225
(d) PBX Telephone System and operating expenses	....	....	984
....	....	....	\$15,882
.... say	....	....	\$16,000

Hon. members will also see in connection with the Military buildings taken over by the Colonial Government the sum of \$1,000 is required for the purpose of the re-arrangement of the rooms in the Iron Barracks which would be vacated when the new Police post is occupied.

As I said before, the Addendum explains itself quite fully. When these rooms are rearranged the place will be rented to the Officer at five per cent. in accordance with the Government's policy relative to officers paying for residence.

4.45 p.m.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I notice in the Notes to the Supplementary Estimates (1955-56, No. 34) that we need furniture for the Waiting Room, the Executive Committee Room, [LEWIS: Do not forget the Canteen] the Information Room, the Committee Room and the Canteen. Well now, I imagine that in an elaborate building like that one expects to find elaborately furnished waiting rooms and torture Chambers, especially torture Chambers for the Opposition members; but I am especially concerned with the Canteen. Will they be entertaining the Ministers with alcoholic beverages during the day? Will everything be a freeness or not? Will the Canteen be opened every night? What is the Canteen for? [Hon. M. E. COX: The Staff.]

This light station wagon which they are going to buy at a cost of \$2,800 to transport files and personnel between the Government Buildings and the Legislative Chambers also appears to me to be extravagant in the highest degree; but it is characteristic of expenditure by a Government that has not got to feel for money because it is so easy to get. You are transporting files between the Government Buildings and the Legislative Chambers; that might be once a week, and the personnel is to be transferred from the Legislative Chambers to the Government Buildings. Well! Well! Normally, need these files be transported by a special wagon? Who comprises the personnel for whom we have to buy a station wagon to take them to Bay Street every week? Certainly not the Ministers; they have their own cars; and to say nothing of their own individual travelling allowances. Therefore, I say: let us get some information as to who will be transported on this station wagon, and who will be transferred from those Buildings in Bay Street to the Legislative Chambers.

I next come to the New Vote for furniture. One would assume that at present the Ministers are not sitting on the floor and that they have desks on which to write and other office furniture. But one must also assume that after having used this furniture

and equipment for a year and a half that it is no longer usable. [Mr. LEWIS: Perhaps they do not like the colour scheme.] As one honourable member says, this furniture may not be in keeping with the colour scheme of the decorations up there; therefore, you should give them a new colour furniture. I am at a loss to see if we made an appropriate provision for furniture by special Vote when we established a new Ministerial Building, why we should need an additional \$800,000 for this furniture to say nothing of an additional \$3,870 for furniture for public rooms and this incinerator. I wonder what they are going to do with the incinerator. [Mr. LEWIS: Cook the Ministers in it.] I was inclined to think that the incinerator would be confined to a certain personal use of the Ministers; but perhaps they have more lofty uses for the incinerator; they may be cooking the meat of the Canteen in it.

Fancy, \$7,800 for furniture for a Ministerial building! Well, the sooner we get this thing off, the better. The thing that baffles me is the way in which they are introducing these Resolutions for the Buildings in Bay Street; they are bringing them in in homeopathic doses. It may be that they fear the public have weak hearts, and that they may collapse if they give them in big doses; therefore, if they gave them in small doses that might be better. [A VOICE: No.] Let us hear from the Minister why we need so much furniture for this Building in Bay Street and why we have this Canteen when neither the Government nor the Ministerial offices ever had a canteen for the officials or the Ministers before.

Hon. M. E. COX: The honourable member knows that the Buildings will be at least, a mile approximately from Bridgetown. From there the access to cafes is not as easy as it is from the Public Buildings here. Therefore it was agreed to have a Canteen for the staff. I can assure him that the Ministers will not be using the Canteen. [Mr. LEWIS: I cannot guarantee that.]

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, it would appear from the list of items set down as necessary that there is no furniture existing at present. We have got a waiting room now, so we will have to have some furniture for that. As regards the Executive Committee Room, is the furniture now at Government House antique? You cannot very well say that it is antique yet. You want a table and some chairs. As regards the Information Room, I am really very glad to see that, and I hope that some of the information received by those who go to that room will be brought to the Legislature and particularly the House of Assembly. In addition to furniture such as filing cabinets and desks [A VOICE: There are none now; but those persons who will be going to the Ministerial Buildings may be using them there.] The Note goes on: "will be needed for the several Ministries, each of which will be operating with a separate registry."

Why are these several Minute Papers to be kept in separate places? Why should each Ministry have its place for its own references?

Now, so far as the Station Wagon is concerned, I hardly think it is for the limited use stated in the Note to the Supplementary Estimates. [A VOICE: For carrying the Government Ministers.] I do not think so; because if the Transport system broke down, I imagine that it would be run as a 'pirate' bus. [Laughter]. I think that it would be very useful in that direction.

4.55 p.m.

As regards this P.B.X. Telephone System, I hope that this is a method of saving on the telephone. I would like to know that this matter has been thoroughly gone into. It strikes me that if a system like this is adopted in the Public Buildings it might be a saving device and that you would be able to get a number of lines more for what you are paying now.

Is your exchange system going to be a saving? If it is, cannot you introduce it in the Public Buildings, and have somebody operating it to connect callers to all persons in the Public Buildings?

As far as the incinerator is concerned, I am wondering if there should not be some central incinerator for Government Offices, because I have heard that Government papers have to wait until the crop is started to be carried to one of the factories to be burnt. What exactly is this incinerator? Is it something like the one which I have seen in use in the Public Buildings? If it is an admirable thing to have, why not make it central or build one big enough for all Government Offices?

It is well known that some of these things which Government has to burn do not burn quite as readily as you might think, and it would probably be for the good if Government obtains its own incinerator, and one that is large enough to burn all papers.

Those are the suggestions as far as this Resolution is concerned. Now, I think the various opposition parties in this House should take all these Resolutions which they get to-day in the House and put them together and if it is wrong to complete the Parliament Building, it will be a good thing to take these Resolutions to the people and see that the Government is thrown out of office. For that purpose let us vote for good furniture, because the present Government would not enjoy sitting or working in them up there. I think that is the method for dealing with this matter.

I hope you are not having a P.B.X. system merely because somebody suggested it to you. Have you gone into it thoroughly? I know that if you have a number of lines, a person can get through a call to you and at least if he cannot, he will hear that you are busy and it may be suggested to him to ring soon again. Nowadays you ring somebody and there is nobody to answer the telephone. As I have said, I would like to see a system like this instituted in the Public Buildings itself, and I do know that the Telephone Company is a very up-to-date concern and I take it that they will accommodate you. That company is not so much in need of money that it will not put some good proposition to you, something which you can figure out yourself and with which your Electrical Inspectors and Electrical Engineers can help you.

Mr. Chairman, I share the view that the canteen should be on the premises, but I do not think it should be there because you are a mile from Bridgetown. I think the canteen was recommended for the poor clerks who are going to work up there and I hope that they will not be kept out by its being overcrowded with Ministers most of the time. Of course, I believe the Ministers will certainly go home if the meals are not free.

Now, as regards Item 2 with respect to the Military Buildings taken over by Colonial Government, the information given does not square with what I heard about it. If it is to be converted into a flat for a particular person it should be stated here. As the Addendum reads, you can rent it out to anybody. To-day we have heard that this flat is suitable for a particular person and that it is for that particular person that you are converting this building. That is not the sort of way you should treat this matter. If you are constructing it for a particular person, why did you not state the full facts so that all members of the House when they received their papers would have known and so that they may be able to make enquiries for the purpose of criticising the Government? Bear in mind all criticism is not destructive; there is such a thing as constructive criticism. I feel that if you are constructing this flat for a particular person; that information should be in the Note in the Resolution.

Hon. M. E. COX: This flat is for the Orderly Sergeants of the Regiment; therefore, it is essential.

Mr. LEWIS: If you are constructing it for a particular Officer, what is wrong with your saying in the Note: "This supplementary provision is required for the purpose of converting the rooms in the Iron Barracks, which provided additional accommodation for the Police before the completion of the new Hastings Post, into a flat for letting to—" the person you have in mind.

Are you putting up the sign: "Room to let?" I say again, that if you have a particular person in mind to whom to let this flat, you should say so, so that the members of the House can discuss the matter along the line you have in mind. Perhaps, it might be an admirable thing to let it to that particular person.

5.05 p.m.

Mr. BARROW: I would like the Minister of Works to explain one simple, elementary point when it comes to constitutional law and practice and it is this: when the House votes money for a particular purpose, the money should be spent in that way and in no other way. Somehow or other they have been told by somebody or other who ought to know better that since they are Ministers, all they have to do is to get the money and spend it in whatever way they feel like spending it. The point to which I should like to draw to your attention, Mr. Chairman, is this: they came to this House for something like \$345,000 for the purpose of building Ministerial Offices. Perhaps at this stage I should explain that after much criticism and prompting on the part of honourable members of the Chamber the Minister of Communications produced the plans out of his pocket or from some other source showing the way in which this money was going to be spent. And the House, having seen those plans, voted the money with much misgiving, I should say: but it is not within my province at this juncture to reflect on a vote of the House, but it was with much misgiving we voted a specific sum of money for the erection of these Ministerial Buildings. Most of us did not agree that the money should be spent at all, but the money was voted.

I should like the Minister to state whether a green-tiled bathroom in the Premier's office was in the plan. The reason why they are asking for this money here is because they have allowed money to be spent in a way in which the House had not anticipated when they asked for the money. That bath room is on the second storey on the right hand side with a mahogany-coloured top; but it was not in the Plan which the Minister brought before his House. Therefore if money has been misappropriated in that fashion, it is not difficult to see why we are now asked to supplement the vote by no less than \$16,000. If I am misleading the public or the House, it is easy for you, Mr. Chairman, to adjourn the House and let us all go up there and see. If the Minister was to bring the original plans which he brought before the house I would stand condemned as the most mischievous person in the island. I am not referring to the revised plan which went to us through his workings in the Department I mean the one which I examined. There is a bathroom there because I have seen it and I have scratched my name on the wall to show them that I went there. [laughter]. Let the Minister tell the Committee how the green-tiled bathroom got there and whether they intend to hibernate in there. The next thing they will want is a deepfreeze and things of that sort.

The canteen was always there; therefore the canteen was already covered by the vote. That is our

recollection. But the green-tiled bathroom was not there. Why don't they say that they were spending money on this green-tiled bathroom which was not there in the plans. I call that personal effrontery on the part of the Ministers; I consider it an insult to all the people who are living in the Bay Estate and the Pine Housing Scheme who have to be satisfied now with these houses which they are building which do not even have water toilets or electric lights in them. But the Ministers' offices, which they will occupy for a limited period of time, for five days a week, must be provided with a telephone exchange, bathroom, water toilet, electric light and all the other things which go to make life congenial for human beings!

I do not want to say anything more because it is a very simple issue; it is either that money has been spent on the bathroom or the money has not been spent on the bathroom, and if the bathroom is a gift from America I would like to know when it arrived here. I resent that especially when people who are living in the parish and constituency of St. Michael in this enlightened day cannot get a water toilet, are given electricity at a shilling a week and are just given water bathrooms inside the house and they still have to make the perilous journey across the backyard at night when they want to answer the call of nature. However, the Ministers can have a private bathroom, a private toilet; but everything is protein for the masses while they have been put in this position of privileges. I am prepared on the travelling allowance of the Minister of Communication but not in his car [laughter] to go up there now and let the House see what I am talking about. I am not saying anything more in this matter because I might lose my temper.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I think the Committee should be vouchsafed the information for the necessity of new furniture for the Bay Street Mansion when we gave them new furniture for the present Ministries. We voted \$7,000 for new furniture when we established the Ministries here in the left wing of the Public Buildings; it is not two years now [Mr. HAYNES: That is shabby now] and they want an additional \$7,800 plus \$3,870 for new furniture up there. In other words, these Ministries will cost nearly \$4,000 each for furniture. I am wondering whether they will have expensive rugs, luxurious furniture and so on; to my mind that is really getting beyond reason. I am quite satisfied to hear information on the question because, apparently, the Minister himself does not know why this new furniture is necessary. It is not right to squander public funds in this fashion. Opposition was made against reconstruction of these new buildings which we are told would cost only \$345,000. Today the expenditure is in the vicinity of \$543,000 for the Ministerial building and conversion of the old Bay Street School because they want the old one to use for offices. Only Heaven knows whether or not they have finished yet.

5.15 p.m.

Is there any further from the point of view of luxuries to which they can go. I presume they already have hot and cold running water and numerous electric fans and what-not in every room. The Canteen is there with its refrigeration (Deep Freezers and what-not); so that all things being considered, I am not at all surprised that the honourable senior member for St. George has discovered that they have installed a bath. After all Mr. Chairman, I can imagine that you yourself, after getting in there,

would not want to leave. Therefore, a bath is necessary. The furniture does seem to involve more than the ordinary desks and office chairs, and I should not be surprised to find that it involves expensive beds and mattresses.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong the debate; but in view of the fact that some honourable members feel that the furniture (including the desks and chairs) to be used by the Ministers are being replaced because the present ones are too old, in order that the public might have a clear picture, I shall furnish the Committee with details of this furniture and the purposes for which it is required.

The Waiting Room will have six Easy Chairs which will cost \$300, Tables and Counter \$300, Information Room: [Mr. LEWIS: Ah!] Furniture \$100, Executive Chamber: [Mr. LEWIS: Executive Committee Chamber] I am reading what I have here, Executive Chamber Table \$320, 12 Chairs \$350, six Easy Chairs \$300.

Committee Rooms: At present there is no room in which any meeting can be held; and I think honourable members will agree that there should be some room to accommodate delegations which might call on the several Ministers, or rather do call on the several Ministers from time to time.

Committee Rooms. At present there is no room \$300. Canteen: Eight small tables \$235, 32 Chairs \$335, Counter \$50, Incinerator \$1,000, Door Mats \$100. That makes a total of \$2,470.

Now, there is an additional amount of \$7,800 to purchase filing cabinets for the several Ministers; and I think honourable members will appreciate the fact that at present there is a common Registry; but provision in the new Ministerial Buildings will be made for independent registries.

The Station Wagon as I have said before will cost \$2,800. In addition to that there is \$225 for drivers' wages, cost of gasoline etc., estimated at \$200 and P.B.X. telephone system and operational expenses is estimated at \$984. Honourable members will see from that that there is absolutely no extra expenditure in providing additional desks and chairs for the Ministers. According to the honourable senior member for St. Philip, those offices have already been provided with the minimum amount of furniture shortly before the Ministerial Government was set up.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question I should like to put one question to Your Honour since the Hon. Minister of Communications does not care to answer my questions. Have you got a green-tiled bathroom in your home?

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, things have come to such a pretty past in this Chamber that it gets you no where. It is really no fun when we point out to the Ministers that there are certain considerations which should appeal to them when the expenditure of public money is being discussed in this House. But in vain you point out to them that a saving should be made where possible. You cannot convince them that anything you suggest is necessary or even helpful. Now if you take, for instance, what they propose to spend in decorating what is now called the Executive Committee Chamber in the Ministerial Buildings, I do not think that in their sober moments they would contend that the furniture which now adorns the Executive Committee Room at Government House is the Governor's private property. Nor do I think they would contend that it is so necessary to Government House that it has to remain there and not be shifted. I cannot therefore see, Mr. Chairman, what reason could be adduced for not moving that furniture from Government House to the Executive Committee Chamber in the Ministerial Buildings. In another sense I will use the appeal of tradition. The

Executive Committee Room has in it a very good large table which, I am sure, must be several decades old and a dozen or so chairs which are very serviceable and which show no signs whatever of falling into disuse or disrepair. That table and those chairs are the furniture which helped, so to speak, to make the laws of this Island; and they are used there in a manner which is associated with the highest authority that obtains in this Island. It is strange to me, therefore, that persons who imitate almost all that comes from abroad and who cling to old and outmoded ideas find that they no longer serve their purpose. It is amazing to me to discover that a section of furniture like that which is used in the Executive Committee Room at Government House is now to be left there while the taxpayers of this Island are going to be put to further expense to provide similar furniture for similar purposes. According to the Hon. Minister, in the new Executive Committee Chamber at Bay Street there will be a Council Table costing \$350, 12 chairs costing \$350 and I think he said, six Easy Chairs costing \$300.

5.25 p.m.

That is \$1,000 to equip one room with furniture which might be used once or possibly twice per week. But the number of times which it is used does not affect the issue. The argument which I use is not an appeal to commonsense, because I do not expect them to have any of that; but the argument comes from tradition, with the same chairs and table around which successive Executive Committees have sat for 80 years, and that is precisely the one which they should continue to use. They should curb their desire to decorate the building which they built at great expense and to make the people spend needless money to provide that room with new furniture when the old one is serviceable now. I just mentioned that, not because there is anything we can do to prevent them from spending money unwisely, but to draw their attention to certain economies which should be made and ought to be made in the interest of the people in this colony; and to point out that in future whenever they have to buy furniture, they should be as economical as possible. Without giving offence they should also see to it that what money they spend should be spent as wisely as possible.

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

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: seconded by Hon. M. E. COX the CHAIRMAN reported progress and asked for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who assumed the Chair, and reported accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The question was put and was decided in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. TUDOR, Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. VAUGHAN, Mr. HAYNES, Mr. GODDARD, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY.—13.

Mr. MILLER answered the Clerk "Aye."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Clerk, the honourable member must vote "No" according to parliamentary procedure, he having declared "No" when the question was being put.

Noes: Mr. MILLER.—1.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the affirmative, thirteen honourable

members voting "Aye" and one honourable member voting "No", I now declare the "Ayes" have it. This House now stands adjourned.
5.35 p.m.

On re-assembling.

PETITION

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to present a Petition from the Vestry of St. Michael relative to the payment of a Pension to Mr. H. C. Griffith.

There being no objection leave was granted the honourable member.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I beg to present a Petition from the Vestry of St. Michael praying the House to pass a Bill authorising them to pay a pension out of Parochial Funds to Mr. H. C. Griffith who was formerly employed by the Vestry as a Sanitary inspector for a period of seven and three quarter years. The Petition was respectfully worded, it has been duly advertised and I ask that it be taken as read.

The Petition was taken as read.

NOTICE

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill intituled an Act to authorise the Vestry of St. Michael, to pay a pension to Herman Clarence Griffith, formerly Sanitary Inspector of the parish, out of Parochial Funds.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I beg to move that this Bill be now read a first time.

Mr. Alder: I beg to second that.

The question was put and agreed to.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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.

B.C.G. Control Programme

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS. The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman is for the sum of \$4,500. This money is requested to make provision for chest X-rays when this B.C.G. campaign begins. I think I mentioned a week or two ago that Dr. Lampart who is here in the interest of this campaign proposed to begin operations during this month; but because of the hurricane and the fact that conditions are a bit unsettled, it is proposed to begin the campaign in November. It is expected that when this campaign begins, it will reveal things which we do not know in connection with people who have incipient tuberculosis. It is felt that these positive chest signs should be X-rayed as soon as possible. It is estimated that for the proposed campaign we will need about \$6,750 to buy these films but inasmuch as we cannot spend the whole amount before the end of March, the Government is asking for \$4,500 which will be spent in the interim. As I have said, the campaign will begin in November and we want to have the films ready for getting these X-rays of positive chest signs.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. LEWIS: The first thing that strikes one about this campaign is why provision was not made

for these things. I am trying to refer to the Estimates to see if this amount of \$14,000 was strictly earmarked for particular things that could not be used until the end of the current year. It appears as if we had only made provision for staff, office furniture, stationery, water and incidentals. I am really very pleased to see that the Government on this occasion has stuck to the notes in the Estimates and have come for this amount of money although it is unnecessary so far as this B.C.G. control campaign is concerned.

I should just like to know why this provision was left out of the Estimates. Did we expect to get these things free? I know that we are getting some sort of assistance in this campaign and I am wondering whether we are getting it free. These Estimates were made some months ago providing for these things and the one thing which will show whether somebody has tuberculosis or not seems to have been forgotten. That seems strange to me.

6.15 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I should just like to know what is the position as regards the establishment of the T.B. Sanatorium. Some time ago I queried the Government about getting this B.C.G. campaign started here. My recollection is that the reply was given that the beginning of the campaign was contingent either on the actual establishment or whether we intended to establish a T.B. Sanatorium in the near future.

Well now, the whole question of a T.B. Sanatorium in Barbados seems to be still in the melting pot. Just the other day there was a big furore that the Leper Hospital be converted into a Sanatorium and public opinion *pro* and *con* was sought; and just when the Government appeared bent on pursuing the project, it vanished into thin air and we have heard nothing about it since then.

Now, has the Government still in mind the proposal to convert the Leper Asylum into a Sanatorium or is it now proposed to build one here; or is it not proposed to build one at all? Also in the absence of this Sanatorium now, is there any realisation that we can get the World Health Organisation to agree to start the campaign? In any case, I think the public is entitled to some authoritative pronouncement by the Government with regard to the final decision in reference to the T.B. Sanatorium.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The Government has the proposal for placing the T.B. Sanatorium in the Lazaretto; but that depends on finding a site to which to remove the people of the Lazaretto. We are still looking about. I hope that in the not far distant future we will be able to put it before the House and get the necessary authority by way of voting a certain sum of money to remove the Lazaretto from where it is now and establish the T.B. Hospital there.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, it is very heartening to hear what the honourable member has had to say on the question of a T.B. Sanatorium. When I first heard about it I was a bit skeptical. But we now have with us the very famous Dr. Humby, a very great man, a specialist in every sense of the word, only just a little critical for the feelings of the West Indians. No doubt, in course of time he will grow accustomed to West Indians. Obviously, he was filled with the subject and I believe, more than anxious to do something for the good of the health of the country. I was hoping that the Hon. Leader of the House who is the Medical member of our Parliament had something specific to say; but as he said the concrete proposals are that they are now looking for some institution that could be

used as a Leper Asylum. I am very glad of that because although things have been so vague, it is still heartening to hear something from the Hon. Leader of the House.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1955—56 NO. 37

Hurricane Relief

Hon Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution which has already been circulated, is for the sum of \$200,000 to be used in connection with Hurricane Relief. Honourable members will remember that there was a former Resolution for \$200,000 one for \$280,000 and we have now come with this Resolution for \$200,000. Honourable members will see from the Addendum that Amounts of \$200,000 and \$280,000 have been advanced from funds provided under the Special Reserve Fund Act 1924-6 to meet the expenditure in connection with hurricane relief. It is estimated that additional funds will be required to meet expenditure under Emergency relief funds in respect of the following:—

Food Distribution	..	..	\$120,000
Barbados Regiment	..	..	120,000
Police	..	..	20,000
Civil Aviation	..	..	18,000
Highways and Transport	..	..	24,000
			\$197,000
Contingencies	..	..	3,000
Total	..	..	\$200,000

Mr. Chairman, I will read some figures in connection with the details of the expenditure, Expenditure up to the 17th (which was yesterday) as follows.—

Education	\$1,823.26
[Mr. LEWIS: Do not worry with the cents].	
Transport	6,244.71
Housing Board	95,618
Medical Services	2,717
Regiment	4,564
Science and Agriculture	2,325
Harbour Master	224
Food distribution	38,838
Public Works	12,237
Sundries	229
Total Expenditure	
to date	287,723

Now, we have an amount released for the Public Works and Housing Board for repairing of houses which will be spent: \$295,000 [Mr. LEWIS: Have you no allocation for the Housing Board?] We have come down now to the first two instalments from that fund that is \$280,000 under the 1924 Act and now today we are asking for \$200,000 more to carry on. I think I will now await any questions from hon. members.

I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$200,000 do now pass.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, so far as I can remember we had some allocations some time ago (I think it was on the 4th of the month) which amounted to \$590,000. That meant that we had voted \$480,000 and there was a \$110,000 that had

been acquired and not voted; so I take it that this Resolution will include that \$110,000, so that there is only really \$90,000 of this Resolution to be allocated. I say that because I have the figures here and they did amount to \$590,000, the Hon. Minister himself having checked that addition and said that it was correct. It therefore strikes me as a bit irregular to find that you can allocate the \$200,000 which they are asking for now. How can you do that? Well, these allocations in this Addendum such as Food Distribution, Police, Civil Aviation etc., need to be explained. Highways and Transport also needs explaining.

On the last occasion food rationing was \$100,000. That would account for \$20,000 out of the \$90,000. I have not got anything here now for the Regiment. The Police was \$14,000; now the Police has gone to \$20,000. Highways and Transport \$4,000; now it has reached \$24,000; so I suppose you could figure that out and see.

6.25 p.m.

What I am concerned about now, is how is this distribution going to take place. Will this Resolution take into account money spent, say, in the parish of St. Michael by the Churchwarden or is that a matter solely for the St. Michael's Vestry? I think that while it is of interest to hear that the Churchwarden of St. Michael and the Government rivalled each other for the better method of distribution and shelter, I would not like to feel that the parish of St. Michael is going to be treated differently from the other parishes so far as Government expense is concerned. I do not think that to threaten the Churchwarden of St. Michael that he might not get the money is the correct procedure. As a matter of fact, I am not concerned with the feelings of expression of the Churchwarden. I do not think it is in the interest of the community and of justice that the money spent by other parishes would be refunded them, but when it comes to St. Michael that would not be so; and because of that I think in the interest of the Government some statement should be made on it. As I have said, I am not interested in apportioning any blame for non-co-operation or anything of the sort on the part of the Churchwarden of St. Michael. I think the parish of St. Michael supplies the Government with most of the money it gets as it is the metropolitan parish; therefore, it should not be treated in any dissimilar way when it comes to what it should get from relief. As I have said, I am going to check these figures with the allocations made in order to see if I can trace that \$19,000.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Social Services something that is happening in order that he may send out some directive to prevent that sort of thing from taking place. It has been brought to my notice that some shop-keepers have actually kept the coupon cards which were given to homeless people in payment of a previous debt that was contracted by them before. I think, that is entirely wrong; in fact, I think it is unjust, and criminal. I think, some directive either by a statement in this House or a notice in the Newspaper should be sent out to say that it is a criminal act to take the present Government's coupon card which is given to a homeless person in order to feed him and for the shopkeeper to keep it for debt contracted by that person before the hurricane.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I am very glad that the hon. member has mentioned that. I have not heard of it, but if the hon. member will ask the person or persons so affected to see me, steps will

be taken in the matter. To my mind, the issuing of those coupon cards was for relief, they were never intended to be used as payment of debts. The issuing of them was intended as a means of assisting people. I am not a lawyer, but it seems to me to have a criminal flavour. I say again, that if the hon. member or any other member who knows of such cases will ask the persons so affected to come and see me, I will be only too glad to deal with these matters.

I will now reply to part of the question asked by the hon. junior member for the City relevant to St. Michael being refunded for the relief work carried out by them. I make the statement that any money spent by any organisation of Government by any Relief Committee, Hurricane or otherwise, will certainly be honoured by the Government. If St. Michael come into that category, all well and good. As far as food ration cards are concerned, they were given to people in all the parishes that were victims of the hurricane and St. Michael was not excluded.

I may say, that the amount spent during the past week on food identification cards has been considerably reduced. The amount for the week ended 6th October, was \$55,000.

6.35 p.m.

Mr. BARROW: To deal with the last point made by the hon. member first, there is absolutely nothing criminal, and I do not have to stake any reputation on it, in spending this money in the way anyone wants to spend it. When the Government issued this piece of blue paper, the Government was printing money because that piece of paper has no more intrinsic value than a five dollar note. It is only value in exchange and the five-dollar ticket which the hon. member issued to householders is as much money as a B.W.I. green bank note; that is money given to people in the same way as you give money to people at the end of the week for wages. It was paper money; that is all. You have elected to give people five dollars a week; and to suggest that a shopkeeper to whom a legal debt is owed is not entitled to take it and is criminal, is a mere absurdity on the part of the member making the suggestion. As far as I can see, there is not even moral criminality attached to it. No food has been washed away; you have been giving out five dollar bills and you find it difficult to stop doing that now. As a potential tax payer I want to find out when they are going to stop dishing out these Bills. They are five-dollar notes on the Government of Barbados given by the Commissar of food. You have been issuing five-dollar notes to people; up to now my constituents are confused over the basis of these disbursements having been made. It is not the YangtseKiang overflowing its banks and washing away the stocks of people who are living at subsistence level who are self-contained from the point of view of their daily expenses, who bake their own bread, plough their own fields and grow their own corn. When you get a flood in China, there is famine; but in Barbados when you have a hurricane, it is a problem of housing due to the deplorable neglect of Barbados in the matter of housing by this Government and previous Governments.

You decide to issue five dollar notes on a scale of preference and it is very difficult for any honest thinking man to decide what is the principle underlying it. You have not intimated to the public or to this House when you will stop doing that or whether you have to scrap all the political, oral, pseudo-philosophical efforts of the Government in order to qualify people for this dispensation. You

have not intimated to the taxpayers of this island the rationale of the plans superimposed by the Commissioner who has been elected by the Ministers of the Government, somebody who has got the social and political affinities of the members of this House. Moreover, you have done it at the instigation of a person who is a member of the Commission Merchants' Association which is a closed shop as far as Trade Unions are concerned. The Commission Merchants is a narrow group which supplements its annual average income by inveigling the Government into dishing out five dollar bills; but I notice that in the subscription list for Hurricane Relief, and ours is about one-third of our sister colony of Trinidad, not one member of the Commission Merchants' Association has decided to give up the enormous mark up which is vouchsafed to them by the Control Office on the very food-stuffs that the average consumer consumed. The beneficiary is bound to purchase goods on the restriction imposed by the Government that you could only spend it with the Commission Merchants' Association, because in the final analysis all the food in Barbados is channeled through that restricted group. And the person who has initiated that system is a member of the Commission Merchants' Association; and he has decided that you can only spend money with that Association! How long is this going to continue? And if there is any justification for its existence, is the Government aware that it is causing a lot of ill feeling in this country? It is causing a lot of discontent and it is engendering into the hearts and minds of the people of this colony the conviction that the Government is using the taxpayers' money to make disbursements to a privileged few persons.

I referred just now to a significant fact. The Commission Merchants' Association and the Provision Merchants' Association—God help them—are both allowed enormous draw backs by the Control Office which has been dead a long time and ought to be buried [laughter] as it has outworn its economic usefulness. Hon. Mr. Hunte is one of those persons. He is not a socialist; he is not a member of this Chamber; and, before the advent of the present Government, has shown no great genius for the social, political or economic plans either in Barbados, the British West Indies or in the world. He has marched into fame and his fame in the Government has been commensurate with the prosperity of those who belong to the Commission Merchants' Association and the Provision Merchants' Association. When a hurricane comes along, we have the people in Barbados having something done for them; but you have not said up to now the basis on which you are giving out these five dollar bills. The people who are making enormous profits have not called a meeting to decide to give back any contribution to Hurricane Relief or the food which they have sold over and above their average sales as a result of this decision taken by the Government.

6.45 p.m.

I want to know how long it is going to go on. If we knew clearly the scale of priority, if we knew the rationality for the dole which is now given out, if it were a question of evaluation and depreciation, it could have been more easily understood. But in my own opinion it is being used partly on the one side for purposes of aggrandizement of people who are already too avaricious, and on the other side by the Ministers for political preference. In other words, it is in the hands of the wrong person. If you had now discovered that the people of Barbados were under-nourished, we would like you to come to the House and tell us that you are going to increase the rations for the school children and that you are

going to allow the Vestry a special provision for poor relief. We would vote the amount of money you are asking for if you would have the people of Barbados nourished. But in the case of a national disaster, to increase the profits (because that is all it is doing) of a selected few, and to victimize the great bulk of people in Barbados who have suffered by the Hurricane in order to show preference and favour to the persons to whom you have sworn, is a gross misuse of public funds. I should like to ask the Minister to give this House a complete breakdown of the way in which these coupons have been allocated, I should like also to ask the Hon. Minister to tell us how the money was spent, how much each parish got, and how many persons were able to benefit from these disbursements. It is important that he should do so not only to satisfy my personal curiosity but—something which is far more important—to satisfy those generous persons outside of Barbados. There seem to be few generous wealthy persons in Barbados, because the many thousands which have been heaped upon us have been out of all proportion to the paltry sums which have been so reluctantly given by those people inside of this Island and who are in a position to do better. I am therefore asking the Hon. Minister of Social Services, for the benefit of those persons outside of Barbados who have made the sacrifices for which all the victims of the hurricane were so grateful, to give us a complete breakdown to the last half penny of the way in which this money has been spent and also tell us the reason why the Government is continuing to spend money only with the Commission Merchants' Association. If anything was lost in the Hurricane it would not have been food: it would have been furniture and had you given them vouchers to buy necessities instead of coupons it would have been preferred. When Mr. Hunte was put to carry out this scheme, I should like to know why Government should restrict the people in any of the things which they really need: to furniture in the first analysis, and probably in the last analysis only to things which come through the Commission Merchants' Association. I should like to know the answer to that. I think we have all been taken for a ride.

I should also like the Hon. Minister to tell us now why the scheme in its present form is necessary, and why they did not start an official scheme in St. Michael instead of having everybody burning down the buildings with a coal-pot. I and other members on this side of the table have had complaints or rebuffs from the very persons who are in charge of this Scheme; and the persons who complain of these rebuffs are persons who, in many cases, are more needy than the ones who actually benefit. For those reasons and for other reasons I am asking the Government to issue a clear statement on this matter.

Now, I do not select the Minister who is to answer these questions. First of all, what is the money for Civil Aviation for? I hope we are not giving British West Indian Airways any money; because Pan-American Airways have offered to bring down relief supplies from America; and it would be a disgrace that a Company, which has had a monopoly in Barbados for 14 years should be asking for money for flying in relief supplies. Is the money which is being asked for Civil Aviation to be used for paying the people at the Airport? I hope not; because that has already been taken care of. Or is it for repairing the roof at the Terminal Building? We should like to know the truth of those things. If you wish money for such things, say so; but do not call it Civil Aviation; call it Government Buildings.

Most of the Ministers who have been to the United Kingdom have been in the House of Commons and seen how things are done. In the House of Commons you do not get up and read out things

like a third grade clerk; you give members of the House a more intelligent appreciation than the reading out of a few lines of an Addendum which has been drafted by a third grade clerk. If we have often to ask questions in this House, it is because of the sins of omission on the part of the Ministers. Those are the questions which the Hon. Minister will have to answer. Summarised, they are as follows:—

Food Distribution: a complete breakdown of that \$120,000. I will leave out the Barbados Regiment I will also leave out the Barbados Police; because they did a lot of work which one would not normally expect them to do and which would be really beyond the call of duty; but I should like to find out about the \$28,000 for Civil Aviation, the \$24,000 for Highways and Transport and the \$3,000 for Contingencies. 6.55 p.m.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I certainly would like some information too, as regards the coupons; what they mean and how long they are going to be carried on. I quite agree with the honourable senior member for St. George. We know that the Barbadian is very house-proud, and I am wondering how it is helping him by giving him food and not giving him a house. Their worry of not having a house is, to me, far greater than not having food. I should like also to know what the Government intends to do.

Another point I would like to raise is this, Mr. Chairman. The last time we discussed the Resolution for \$280,000, I asked a question relative to what they had done with the rations in the parish of St. Lucy. As I see it, that part of the island was absolutely forgotten by "Janet". I have heard even since then that the people who were working left their work to get the rations, and I am sure that those rations would have been far more useful in other parishes like Christ Church and St. Michael where the devastation was very bad. I would like some information and would like to know if an enquiry was made about that distribution, which was done by an individual without even any sanction by members of the Committee.

Mr. BRANCKER: It is a great pity that the honourable junior member for St. Andrew with his fleet of cars and general unlimited transport did not take the trouble of travelling in the parish which he has spoken of and getting some first hand information. I can tell him the source from which he got his information and he could not have been more misinformed than he has been. He used the phrase that the parish was absolutely forgotten by "Janet". If he had taken the trouble to be properly informed or had taken a detour around the parish he would have seen that no less than 80 houses were damaged. It is perfectly true judging from the comparative standard of Christ Church and St. Michael, that the damage in St. Lucy was small, but to suggest that it was absolutely forgotten by "Janet" is a phrase which is absolutely inappropriate to the conditions of that parish after the visit of this hurricane. Most of the damage appeared to have been done in the earlier stage before the winds shifted and the full force turned on Christ Church. The honourable junior member for St. Andrew speaks of the Hurricane Relief Committee of that parish. Unfortunately, as such, it cannot be said to have been functioning, and I am sure my colleague will bear me out. Some of the members of that Committee which were duly appointed were never notified of any meeting and some others were notified that there was to be a meeting on the morning of the same day when in the afternoon the meeting was to take place.

Now, sir, as to the rations. I do not know what the honourable junior member for St. Andrew would

like to have done with them. I do not know whether he would have liked them to be diverted to the parish of St. Andrew or some other source, but I am saying that if that Committee had been functioning as certain other Committees I presume there would be numbers of deserving cases to give on the day following the visit of this hurricane. One would have thought that the honourable junior member for St. Andrew was still as he was a few months ago in some of the millionaire resorts or the luxury hotels of North America, and it does appear as if he has not yet come back to earth, even although he has returned to Barbados. I can vouch for the fact that on the afternoon of the hurricane the St. Lucy's Boys' School was filled with unfortunate refugees who had to evacuate their homes or what was left of them, or who were afraid to stay in their homes as no official announcement was made that the hurricane had passed. Of the rations which were housed in the cell of the Crab Hill Police Station, only a very insignificant amount was diverted to that School instead of the adequate amount which the number of persons housed in that School would have justified. What worries me is not the fact that the rations were not distributed, but that they were not distributed at the actual time during of the state of the emergency. It does not matter to me who grudges the undernourished and underfed people of the northern parish, the use of the emergency rations like Jacques's justice:

"In fair round belly with good carpon line
With eyes severe . . .

Full of wise saws and modern instances;
And so he plays his part."

I do not know why certain people who have everything in this world look with a grudgeful eye on those who have nothing at all and those who belong to the less fortunate. You will find that the source of this information which the honourable junior member for St. Andrew on this occasion released is far different from the one he normally quotes. Normally, he quotes the *Financial Times* when dealing with investments, but on this occasion it is not that noteworthy source of information but it is a source which I can assure you is not of that financial category, because I happen to know the origin of that talk which has gone around the parish. I know from whom it comes; it does not come from any of the suffering people in the parish.

I see no advantage of having a lot of rations locked in a prison cell in a Police Station where moths and worms do corrupt and where rats alone seem to have access. When the rations had been housed at the Police Station, my colleague and I rushed to the scene and we were very graciously shown around so that we could see that all the rations were there with the very small exception of that inadequate quantity of stuff which was sent to the School where the refugees were housed. So, Sir, I would counsel the honourable junior member for St. Andrew who in big financial matters is so level headed and whose counsel we respect in this Chamber on such subjects to beware when he speaks on these matters especially when he is relying on his present source of information.

7.05 p.m.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I know there have been many groups in this colony criticising the present ration system. As a matter of fact, in several Editorials of the daily Newspaper, there has been an implied condemnation of the ration card, many are saying: "Why should the Government supply these stricken families with five dollars a week? With a family of nine

or ten, five dollars cannot serve them for a week." Mr. Chairman, my view is this: I entirely endorse the action of the Government without any fear of criticism. The storm has come and brought calamity upon several hundreds of families, may be thousands of families; when a poor person loses his house, he becomes poorer by that fact. You have housed people in public institutions, in schools; and the privations which a family would stoically and heroically accept in the privacy of their homes you cannot ask them to face in public. In other words, you cannot expose people's wants and the social appearance to public gaze; that is psychological cruelty (apart from the moral side of it). Politicians are apt to forget these things about people's feelings; the mental, spiritual and psychological feelings where people are concerned are totally and completely forgotten; you only think of the \$5 as a waste. How does it become a waste? You have people in schools, many hundreds and thousands of people may not know the privations of a family; they put up with privations in their own homes without complaints and calamity makes them go and make their homes in places like schools and churches. If they are not in a position to support themselves weekly, at least not in food (and of course it could be so in many cases), it is entirely right for the Government who after all, is ultimately responsible in any calamity for the people's plight and welfare, not to expose them to public humiliation and suffering. [Mr. BARROW: That is exactly what they are exposing them to.] [laughter].

Mr. Chairman, you can cause psychological reaction for people who live in these public places and cannot buy food. It is a fact that some houses were blown down and the families living in them lost everything and even if some of them are working and the Government offers them \$5 a week, that is a contribution, if nothing more, to the expenditure of the food and what they will save by that expenditure will help them to buy back what they have lost through the destruction of their homes.

We in this community are not accustomed to any generous social services. In England or Wales, I think it is, when there was a great flood some years ago, I think the British Government did something quite similar to what the Government has done here. So much was that so, that things came down for the people; and they were treated so well that some of them did not want to go out of the shelters. In the circumstances, I am entirely oblivious as to who makes the profit out of it; I am entirely satisfied that an attempt has been made to alleviate the suffering caused by an unusual calamity by supplying some food, or the means of supplying food for those who have suffered. As soon as their houses are put back up, the issue of the ration card will cease; therefore there is no unusual or unnecessary or useless generosity. By an act of God these people have had their lives dreadfully disrupted; I have witnessed that in going around. I have been completely dissatisfied with the first form of rationing by the St. John Hurricane Relief Committee. I may tell the Government now that if in future—God forbid that we have such a thing, but it is a possibility—let them disqualify, disband, eliminate, (that is the word) any dependence at all on any local Hurricane Relief Committee. In Grenada, a country which faced a calamity even more severe caused by the same "Janet", in the Hurricane Relief Organisation legislators took a major part. There is a profound and growing disregard here in this colony for what is known as the politician and everybody who is interested in the welfare of the community looks in scornful terms at the politicians.

7.15 p.m.

But I will again remind them that this is the age of the politician. At the great United Nations they are no others there but politicians. However, this is the point everybody is missing: a representative is an elected politician. He has a mandate from the people and therefore, the status of a representative is greater than that of any politician. He is a politician confirmed by the people's will to aid in the administration of the Government of the country.

With regard to these officials and the members of the Hurricane Relief Committees whose actions we have experienced, I could not help witnessing the indifference which they paid to the representatives of the respective parishes. I have experienced it and I know that my colleague has experienced it also; and I am telling the Government that it is unfair both to the people, and to us that we should not be *ex officio* members of any form of organisation for hurricane relief. In future any organisation which they have in mind the representatives of the parishes should be *ex officio* members of it. [A VOICE: Sit down now, you have said enough]. I will sit down after I endorse the action which was taken by the Government; and I will repeat that what they are doing is entirely right. They have lost some money in the first attempt at material rationing. They had to. That was inevitable; even if you have to throw away as much as \$25, per hundred. But you should prefer to spend that instead of having people suffer who were dreadfully in need as a result of the effects of the Storm. Wastage was inevitable, I repeat. But do not let the Government repine at that.

There is something further which I should like to say. There are lots of supplies coming into this Colony now. The generosity of the outside people has been more than praiseworthy. I have been told by a Trinidadian that garages in Port-of-Spain put at the disposal of volunteer workers new cars which they had in their garages, even filling them with gasoline so as to facilitate the collection of supplies for us as long as ten days after the Hurricane. No doubt, supplies have been pouring in; and I want to know from the Government the plan of distribution of those supplies. [A VOICE: That is something we want to know]. The Trinidad people want to know if their generosity has been used appropriately and in the right quarters, and that the people who really suffered are being relieved in the best ways by such generosity. Let the Government see after that now. Let them forget and not fear any criticism about a five dollar ration. Continue it until the families are rehoused, and have no fear about continuing it. It is the mean outlook of the average Barbadian to ask: what is this five dollars given for? If nothing more, it is a psychological compensation for the dreadful suffering they have endured from the visitation of Hurricane 'Janet'; and a psychological compensation is a justifiable compensation.

Mr. BARROW: The honourable junior member for St. John always reminds me of the lamented but impregnable bastion in Singapore; he always has his guns pointing, but in the wrong direction, viz: out to sea. I do not think anyone in Barbados would criticise this Government or any Government for feeding people who have lost their houses [A VOICE: What did you just say]. Everybody in Barbados would like to know the answer to the questions I have just asked. The honourable member is pretending that only people who have lost their houses should get coupons. But what we are saying is that there is a lot of political engineering in this matter. I shall give the honourable member an illustration. I should like to ask the Hon. Minister this: how is it that the

honourable junior member for St. John has his room in the Trafalgar Hotel full of stuff?

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, the question which the honourable member has asked I have already explained. I said that politicians were not taken into account by the Hurricane Relief Committees. People who were not included in the distribution told me: I have not got any and I am not going to vote for you next year. I took it upon myself to ask the ladies at Pax Hill to ask for some clothing and I was given two sets; the first set was packed and labelled for four different centres. Through some accidental discovery the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee went to Queen's College; he knew nothing of what I had done; so he said. He went up there and to his great surprise he found some bags of clothing packed and labelled for these centres in St. John. Of course, when he went there the ladies gave him. I carried in the orders personally, but they gave him. [Laughter] [Mr. BARROW: All right, you have said enough; sit down now.]

I went to the Centre and they told me that at present they had only women's dresses and clothing for children, and asked whether I would take some. They gave me two bags of women's dresses, a hundred altogether. What I did was this: facing the districts in St. John on my own responsibility and having the names of every refugee in the several schools, I made parcels of these dresses so that I could call out the names of the persons for whom they were intended, thereby avoiding any rush or disturbance. They were all good dresses.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, that is exactly what I was putting to the Hon. Minister of Social Services. I am surprised to know that a politician could go and make personal distribution of clothing sent here by people from outside through what must be considered a Government association. I should like to ask why was the senior member for St. John not vouchsafed the same privileges and facilities.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, nobody prevented the senior member for St. John from taking the same personal initiative. I took the personal initiative; the Government did not ask me to do anything. I was affected by the condition of the people, and I felt it my duty to move in their interest. I went to St. John and commanded the Police to give me food. I took all such responsibilities upon myself. Nobody prevented the senior member for St. John from doing the same thing. Whatever clothes I got I took a personal interest to get and the ladies at Pax Hill would have given him the same.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, if what the honourable member says is true, that the Government had nothing to do with it, why was the Acting Solicitor General sent to drive him around, unknown to the honourable senior member for St. John, to make these distributions? He wants to tell me now that the Acting Solicitor General did not drive him around. [A VOICE: What Solicitor General?] De Freitas; who else do you think I mean, imagine Government servants being used as political foot-balls! What is happening is that there are some strictures in the allocation of these five-dollar bills to which I have already referred.

7.25 p.m.

Of course, nobody would quarrel if the Government said clearly if your house did not actually blow down you will get a coupon. To revert to the honourable junior member for St. John he had a privilege denied to other members of this House. None of us was told that we could go to Pax Hill and get clothing, and I consider it an undesirable thing to be giving these dispensations to one member to the detriment of his colleague or to the people of St. John who do not support the policy on that side of the House. This

savours of dishonesty and that is what happened to the coupon cards. We have asked the Government to say if people are entitled to the \$5 per week coupons for houses which are badly damaged. I know of places where people who work on estates got coupons when there was nothing wrong with their houses. I have also heard of about 35 people who were actually in the Relief Centres who did not get coupons and up to today no less than seven persons have complained to me about that state of affairs.

I cannot think of a polite name to call that person who resembles something which crawls from under a rock. Any person whose mentality is so warped as to say we are against giving people or directly replacing what they have lost, is beyond redemption and without any hope of salvation at all. If you want to replace something or to give the people something directly, do not give them through the Commission Merchants when they will get a draw back; and do not get the public so confused that they do not know who is unsuitable or suitable. If Government had stated its policy then we could have examined it in its true perspective. It is the duty of members of this House to expose acts such as happened in St. John, done by the honourable junior member for St. John. How would you feel if it came to light that you had your commodities and your shelves stacked up to the ceiling with clothes and you made personal dispensations to a favoured few and to the detriment of other persons in the colony, one of them a person no less than your colleague.

To think that there are people so brazen in this community today that they can get up and try to defend a situation like that! The day I try to defend the indefensible, I hope my head would be put to the axe; I would not like to be in this place at all; I would like to be in another place which taxpayers have rightly put there for the benefit of those who have reached that sorry state. The member said, that other people could have done it; I say, other people do not want to do a thing like that. It looks as if you are gloating over the misfortunes of the people of Barbados and trying to make political affiliation by playing good.

Mr. VAUGHAN: It is a hard thing when I am making a public speech to be calm. Somehow, it seems that whenever I get on my feet to talk politics that I get into a passion. The hon. senior member for St. George said that he would mash me up. He may know me well enough by now to know that that remark does not affect me in the least. What has happened to him is that after my talk he realised that he had made a blunder by the type of speech he made previously, and which could be construed in no other way than to be a condemnation of the Government for giving away \$5 bills. Nobody could construe what he said at first to have any other meaning; it is a grave political blunder by the honourable member. Sir, my talk made him realise it and he has abused me for it; but it does not matter to me.

I have prevented nobody from taking an interest in his parish. I will not apologise for taking clothes from the sources where they were given, wrapping them up in parcels and then carrying them to my parish and distributing them to the deserving people, rather than to do it in a way where they could be riotous. I will go further by saying that as soon as I hear of any institution that has any clothes to give away to these people, I am going for some. I have not prevented the honourable member from going.

The hon. senior member for St. George accuses me of being directed by the Government. That is pure fiction; I have not asked or told them anything. On the next morning after the storm, I visited St. John around 7 o'clock and I got back to town around 9.30 to 10 o'clock. I came in the Public Buildings to see if I could contact the Hon. Minister of Social Services to make a personal complaint to him about what I had discovered in St. John on that morning. I had discovered that Mr. Newsam, Headmaster of the Lodge School, had told the people who were sheltering in the Lodge School on the night of the hurricane that they must get out by next morning. That seemed to me to be very cruel, so I went directly to the Headmaster and told him my mind about what he said. I told him that I was going back to Massiah Street and tell the people that whoever want to go back to that School for shelter to go back. I asked him if the school building had been blown down, who would have to rebuild it. I pointed out to him that it would be people like those whom he chased out that would have to rebuild it. I talked to the Headmaster in such a way that he was convinced that he had acted wrongly because after I left him, he went into Massiah Street and told the people to come back into the School. I came to the Public Buildings to report the matter to the Minister of Social Services and on seeing him I told him and he replied to me saying that the Schools were being commandeered by the Central Relief Organisation and were put in charge of the Director of Education. You can therefore see that I was perfectly right by my action.

Meanwhile, I saw the Minister of Agriculture and I asked him what was being done about the storm. He said that they would like to get some information and asked me whether I could help Mr. De Freitas, the Assistant to the Attorney General, who did not know the parish of St. John very well by going around with him in order that he could get the information they wanted. I said that I would certainly go with him and show him around so that he could see the condition of the parish as a result of the storm. I am not apologising for going around with him.

7.35 p.m.

I went with him and I was glad to be of any use I could as far as giving information was concerned. He asked me to go with him and show him the parish since I knew it better than he. There was no design or plan or deliberate act; it was purely accidental. When it comes to salvation, I think that mine has been long procured as compared with that of any honourable member; I thank God that my salvation has not got to depend on his word. My driving around with Mr. De Freitas was purely accidental. The moment you are seen with an official in circumstances like those they want to identify you with some underhand dealing. I am above that and therefore I can afford to go without fear on an occasion like that with any official, if I can be of any use to the Government. I am not apologising for that either, when it comes to a calamity; I consider the storm as a calamity entirely above politics.

A woman came and said to me "Mr. Vaughan I want this, I want that." I said to her: "You are a rich woman, this is not for you." She said "I will not vote for you" and things like that. I was rude to the people; my concern was sincere and if I lose my seat in this House I am satisfied. The calamity was one which touched me. I did not prevent the honourable senior member for St. John from taking the same

decision as I took. Nobody told me to go to St. John and try to distribute supplies; I discovered that this so called Hurricane Relief Committee was giving the people a few biscuits and corned beef for a day's ration. I heard one of them say that this coffee was of too good a quality for the people and that they will not drink any other coffee after that. The innuendo was that they would demand more wages to buy this coffee. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Did you hear that in truth?] I heard that. I have no fear of any body like the honourable senior member for St. George, he can know it and the public of Barbados can know it. I have been in politics long enough and faced tighter problems than he; he has wonderful ability for the wrong type of abuse. He may be compared with the cane borer; he does not impress me and the sooner he knows it, the better it is for him. Whenever I get a supply of rations in an emergency I will do what I have done and get it out as fast as I can.

Mr. LEWIS: On the last occasion we had the following amounts: Food Distribution, \$100,000; Barbados Regiment, \$50,000, but that might have been a misprint on my part, Police, \$14,000; Civil Aviation \$5,500; Highways and Transport \$4,000; Electrical Engineer \$5,500; Colonial Secretary \$1,000; Public Works Department \$100,000; Housing Board \$150,000; and Science and Agriculture \$200,000. I am \$40,000 out on those figures, but I may have made a mistake.

7.45 p.m.

What I mean is the allocation at present gives a plus \$20,000 for the Food Distribution, a plus \$5,000 for the Regiment a plus \$6,000 for the Police a plus \$5,700 for Civil Aviation and a plus \$20,000 for Highways and Transport. Are these allocations brought forward? You will remember that there was \$120,000 to be carried forward; so I feel that this Resolution has to account for \$90,000. When I deduct the previous allocations I see that you will have a matter of \$26,500 to be allocated. I want to get this matter straight, because in money matters we have to be very careful and we may think we are voting \$200,000 today whereas in truth we are not.

As regards this Civil Aviation vote I should like an explanation. In this Resolution Civil Aviation is set out at \$18,000. Previously it was set at \$5,000. Is it for the repairs of a building at Seawell, or is it for paying planes to bring things here? I do not understand this at all.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry I have not got the last figures here. What the hon. member is worrying about as regards this \$18,000 for Civil Aviation is really for repairs done at Seawell to buildings and other electrical equipment. It has nothing at all to do with money paid to British West Indian Airways or any other Company.

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

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

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

The question that Mr. CHAIRMAN do now report progress with leave to sit again was put and resolved in the affirmative without division Mr. CHAIRMAN reported progress and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair, and reported accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX the House was adjourned for three-quarters of an hour. 7:55 p.m.

On re-assembling,

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY RESUMED

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

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

HURRICANE RELIEF (HOUSING)

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of \$606,000 to meet expenditure on the construction of houses for the victims of the recent hurricane. I intimated to this Committee on Tuesday last that the Government was sending down a Resolution to provide a substantial sum of money for the purpose of building terraced houses and flats. Before going further, I would like to state again what I said then in this House. On the morning of the 23rd September, that is the day after the hurricane (and I am saying this now in view of the fact that there have been so many misleading statements relative to the Government's policy on re-housing the victims of the hurricane more particularly the Ministry of Works) the Manager-Secretary of the Housing Board was instructed to carry out immediate repairs to the houses which were damaged. This operation was started at the Pine Housing Estate where almost every chattel house was blown flat as a result of the storm. On the following day, a meeting was held and it was then decided that the island should be divided for the purpose of carrying out the repairs to these houses into two parts; one under the supervision or control of the Director of Public Works and the other under the Manager-Secretary of the Housing Board. Those two Departments were empowered to hire motor lorries for the purpose of transporting materials and workmen to the various areas to effect repairs. By the 26th September this operation was in full swing. As honourable members know, it was called the "Flying Squad".

On the 24th September, we held a meeting with lumber merchants and discussed the question of giving priority to Government in so far as building materials were concerned, in order that these repairs should be carried out as expeditiously as possible. In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, the Hurricane Relief Organisations of the several parishes assisted by the planters, were actively engaged in similar work [A VOICE: Not that of St. John.]

I should say at this stage that on the 23rd September the Government cabled Trinidad and British Guiana asking them to help us with as much material as possible for the repair of those houses. We got some from Trinidad and that was handed over to the Public Works Department for the purpose of carrying out these repairs.

Soon after the hurricane, Mr. Chairman, (I think this was on the 25th September) it was represented to us by some of the Hurricane Relief Committees that, if the Government gave them the authority to purchase building materials and to hire workmen, work on the repair of these houses would be speeded up more rapidly. That proposition ap-

peared quite reasonable and encouraging and accordingly that authority as given. I should like to say that that system worked very well indeed as a result, many families were able to return to their homes much sooner than they would have if they had to wait on the Central Authority to carry out all the repairs because, I think, hon. members would agree that no one organisation could have been geared at the time to handle a calamity so great as the one with which we were faced on the 22nd September.

Mr. Chairman, I must apologise for not having the figures of damaged houses for all the parishes. Although I have tried up to a very late hour to get them all, the figures have not yet been received. Those parishes, with the exception of St. Philip, so far as I can see, suffered less damage than the rest from the figures available.

The Committee will remember that last week I gave the figure of 7,742 as the number of houses damaged all told. Those that were permanently destroyed were 3,725 and those uninhabitable but which could be repaired were 4,017. Those figures are not up-to-date because, as I have said, I have not got the figures from some of the parishes, and since those figures were given, repairs have been going on. 8.55 p.m.

But from the figures available, approximately 5,000 houses have been repaired and the distribution is as follows:

St. George: 521, cost approximately, \$30,000; that is nothing to do with the 25 houses which have been repaired by the Housing Board. Approximately 2,184 people have been re-housed. St. Thomas: 214 houses repaired, cost: \$6,667; 856 persons re-housed. St. John: 136 houses repaired, cost: \$9,951; 584 persons re-housed. St. James, 154 houses repaired; cost: \$11,903; 616 persons re-housed. St. Joseph, 72 houses repaired; cost: \$3,483; 288 persons re-housed. In St. Michael and Christ Church, approximately 4,000 houses have been repaired; cost: approximately \$16,000. [A MEMBER: Why do you put them together?] I intend to keep the House informed of all the circumstances.

During that time the Government was actively engaged in considering the question of a comprehensive re-housing programme for the island and it has been decided to meet that problem with a four-pronged approach. I will state at this stage that it is the intention of the Government to continue the use of the "flying squad" arrangement. That arrangement has recently been placed under the entire control of the Manager-Secretary of the Housing Board. I shall give reasons for that at a later stage. The Housing Board will continue to carry out the repairs to these houses with the assistance of the relief organisations throughout the various parishes. In addition to that, as I stated last Tuesday and the previous Tuesday, it is intended to advance materials to persons who are desirous of effecting their own repairs. These materials will be given to those persons after a proper check is made by inspectors attached to the Housing Board; they will make this check and give the material accordingly and a receipt will be given for this material. The material thus given will not be used for any purpose other than housing; it is not intended to be used on palings, fencing or anything like that. That material will be used solely for the purpose of making houses habitable.

The next approach is that of the permanent structure. It is the intention of the Government to build five hundred strong prefab houses which will have the following characteristics: (a) size 24ft.

by 9ft or 16ft. x 9ft.; (b) constructed of a timber frame on concrete block foundation. In other words these houses will be built at workshops situated in the various parishes and will be moved on to concrete foundations. The groundsels will carry bolts and these houses will be bolted to the concrete foundations. The flooring will be pine; the wall will be of timber siding or asbestos, depending on the availability of supplies.

I should like to tell this Committee at this stage that it is the intention of the Government as far as possible to construct this siding from smooth asbestos. Supplies as they come in are totally inadequate to cope with the situation as it stands today. 9.05 p.m.

What we are doing is this: we are leaving as much board as possible for siding to the Housing Board which, as I said before, will be responsible for the repair of such houses while the asbestos will be used for the prefabs: The roofs will be of asbestos corrugated iron dependent on the availability of supplies. Each house will be movable and easily removed from the foundation blocks by means of bolts. The prefabs will be able to stand up to a hurricane such as "Janet." That is what has been said by the technical advisers.

Now, it is proposed that the following allocations be made:—

St. Michael	132
Christ Church	170
St. Philip	75
St. George	45
St. John	38
St. Thomas	25
St. Joseph	15

That gives a total of 500 houses.

The houses will have pitched roofs, wooden floors and windows depending, again, on the availability of supplies. The Public Works Department will construct these bodies within a few weeks. That, Mr. Chairman, is the third phase of the Housing Programme.

Now, the fourth involves accommodation of a more permanent nature, consisting of blocks of houses built in stone or concrete blocks. Each house will have a downstairs floor and an upstairs floor. In other words, the construction will appear similar to what we have at the Pine and Bay Estates. You will have your own block to yourself as there will be no other occupants allowed upstairs. Downstairs you will have a kitchen 9ft x 7ft. a living room 14ft. x 9ft., toilet and washroom. Upstairs there will be one bed-room 9ft. x 7ft. and two other bedrooms 7ft. x 9ft. (laughter). That is according to the drawings of the architect.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee will see the reason why the Public Works Department was withdrawn from the repair side of this programme. As I pointed out already, the Public Works was withdrawn in order to concentrate on the construction of permanent buildings: and the reason is that the availability of supplies of siding 2in. x 3in. and shingles would make it uneconomical to send men out.

The Public Works Department has the big task of repairing all schools, Government buildings etc. which have been damaged by the hurricane. I am sure hon. members know that many of the Government buildings were damaged and roofs of schools have been blown off. Belmont School, for instance,

and other buildings such as the Mental Hospital have been damaged. Therefore the Public Works Department has the responsibility of building these houses and affecting the necessary repairs to such buildings. [A VOICE: What about Jackman's School?] That is included. The Public Works Department has to consolidate its forces on this phase of housing.

I will pass around a sketch-plan for honourable members to see the type of prefab house which we propose building for these people. I should also like to say at this stage that hand in hand with the construction of these prefab houses there is an organisation for looking after the siting of these houses and the selection of families. In other words while the Public Works Department will be building these houses, another organisation will be selecting the families who will occupy them. This organisation will inform the Public Works Department as to the sites selected. The sites, which were formerly occupied by the houses destroyed will in all probability be chosen by this organisation as sites suitable for the erection of prefab houses. The condition of the people of this Island who have suffered from the visitation of this storm is engaging the attention of the Government.

I noticed a picture in Sunday's paper about which I am not prepared to comment, but which has been referred to by some people as "Four Blind Mice" [Mr. LEWIS: Oh do not mind the picture now; you have been going along alright].

9.15 p.m.

Whatever was said there, I fortunately or unfortunately, happened to be present. Much of what was said there was already in operation. As a matter of fact, the Resolution was circulated on the Friday before the delegation went up to Government House.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of Order. I merely want to correct the misinformation which has been given to the House. No Resolution was circulated to any member of this House on Friday.

Hon. M. E. COX: Sir, I excuse the honourable member. I repeat that this Resolution was circulated long before the delegation went to Government House.

I should like to say at this stage that in so far as the repayment for those houses is concerned, that has not yet been decided. The occupiers will have to repay part of the cost of those houses, but until the extent of the damage is known and until we are able to ascertain what are our available resources (and that includes contributions from both inside and outside of the colony) we cannot at this stage determine what amount should be repaid.

Mr. Chairman, this is a breakdown of the expenditure on housing, some of which is already spent.

Already authorised for the rehabilitation of houses from Special Reserve Fund				....	....	\$ 289,000
New Houses				....	....	200,000
Hurricane Prefabricated						
Houses — 500 @ \$800				\$400,000		
Latrine and Toilet—						
500 @ \$100				....	50,000	450,000

It is decided that 50% of this last amount will come from Labour Welfare Funds and I think that is in keeping with what is our new housing policy which was initiated when the Housing Bill was before the House.

Hurricane Terraced Houses—

120 Terraced Houses @			
2,500	....	....	\$300,000
Roads, etc.	....	....	60,000
Sanitary conveniences	....	....	2,000
			362,000

Half of this amount which will be \$181,000 will also be taken from Labour Welfare Funds. The expenditure on housing, Sir, which will have been approved on the passing of this Resolution will total \$1,301,000.

Provision is as follows:—

Special Reserve Fund	....	....	\$289,000
Labour Welfare Fund	....	....	406,000
This Resolution	....	....	606,000

I shall also mention at this stage that it is our intention to repair and finish those Aided Self-help Houses as quickly as possible by engaging workmen to assist the potential owners of them. Terraced houses will be built for the time being in six parishes. It is decided that one 20-unit block will be constructed in St. Michael, two in Christ Church, one in St. Philip, one in St. John, one in St. George and one in St. Thomas. The Government has laid in some of these parishes and we are negotiating with owners of land in other parishes in order to carry out this decision. In Christ Church we are going to erect these 20-unit blocks on land purchased at Sayes Court.

9.25 p.m.

And in St. Philip for the time being it is proposed to construct one 20-unit block at Six Roads where the Government already owns the land. We are trying to purchase some land somewhere in Penny Hole. Sometime last week I was up there and it does appear that there is good land for constructing the terraced houses, belonging to Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Ward. It is proposed to purchase a bit of land in order to construct more terraced houses in St. Philip after the first unit at Six Roads has been completed. There is also some land in St. George and St. John, and we have already served notice on the owners of Colleton for the compulsory purchase of land near Coach Hill. Although the honourable senior member for St. John feels that land at £500 an acre is all right, I have always felt that land is not worth these fantastic prices which are being charged by certain unscrupulous land-lords. After all, people cannot live in the sea; and it is, in my opinion, unchristian to force people to pay exorbitant prices for land when the owners of that land know well enough that after the land is purchased, the money with which to build the house or houses is, more often than not, not forthcoming.

The price of £500 per acre for land is not at all reasonable. I may say that the system of compulsory purchase is not satisfactory; and I think everybody will agree with that. The assessors for the most part come down on the side of the owners of the land. In any case we are attempting to get that land and other lands subsequently at a more reasonable figure. The Government's primary object is to get these unfortunate people who are living in shelters out of the shelters and back into their homes as quickly as possible. Approximately 3,600 people are still sheltering in schools, and 23,000 school children are now out of schools as a result of the occupation of these shelters by people who have suffered on account of the hurricane. The problem is being approached from all angles; the rehousing

programme remains flexible so that it can be easily adjusted in the most beneficial manner. The Government will keep the House informed as to the progress of the work, and will seek approval of such further expenditure as will be required from time to time.

In rehousing the people the Government will pay attention to the individual needs of the persons to be re-housed; some will wish to have their houses built on the sites previously occupied by them, and will only be able to meet a low rate of repayment. Others will wish to occupy terraced houses and will be prepared to wait longer for them and will be able to afford a higher rate of payment. It is not possible to say exactly how many houses of each kind will be required but we are carrying out a survey in order to ascertain as far as possible the number of persons for whom we have to provide housing accommodation. As soon as these figures are available, the House will be informed and the necessary sums of money will be asked for to continue the programme.

Mr. Chairman, I feel that I have given the House an overall picture of the present position and of the future policy of the Government. I want to emphasise that this is nothing which has been done overnight; it is something upon which all of us have had to put our heads together and work out for long hours into the night when many of our critics might be under blankets, asleep or otherwise [laughter]. I want to emphasise and reiterate that from the very beginning we were out and repaired as many houses as possible during which time we were considering what should be done in so far as the houses which could not be repaired were concerned.

9.35 p.m.

We are also prepared, from the point of view of cheapening the cost of these houses, to build houses similar to those of the Aided Self Help type for landowners whose houses have been destroyed in the hurricane, upon the same sites on which the houses stood. Hon. members will therefore see that we are considering this Housing Programme from many angles and we intend, as long as the Legislature approve of funds to carry out this programme until every man and woman is back in some sort of house. It is intended Mr. Chairman that the families who occupy the prefab houses and the terraced houses will be required to enter an agreement covering a period of years to pay a portion of the cost of such houses. We cannot at this stage determine what the amount will be until we get a complete picture of what it will cost us and what the available resources will be.

I thank the Committee for listening so attentively to me and I want to assure the Committee that the Government has the interest of these people at heart and is prepared to do whatever is humanly possible to make these people as comfortable as possible and as soon as possible.

I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$606,000 do now pass.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: After listening to the monotonous elementary recital of the history of the hurricane, I find that what concerns us most tonight is not, what has happened in the past, so far as housing is concerned, but what the Government is prepared to do in the future. One could not help but listening with amazement to the statement that the Government, which has produced this programme for the future, claim that every aspect of the matter has been thought out. "We are anxious to get these unfortunate people in houses as fast as possible:" they

say. Now, after thinking up all the important aspects and after trying to get these people in houses as fast as possible, this is what the Government has produced: [A VOICE: This mouse.] The Ministry of Works, under the mastermind of the brilliant Minister of Works and Housing, has been in labour all night on this matter and all they have succeeded in producing is not even a mouse but a flea.

To begin with, the Minister told the House about a fortnight ago that over 3,575 houses had been destroyed. He says today, that they are going to put these people back in houses as fast as possible; but this big plan which he has produced tonight has merely brought us 620 houses. They have been preparing a programme and they have come tonight to ask to be allowed to spend a million dollars to build 620 houses [Hon. M. E. COX: There are 3,000 more to come; that is only the beginning of the programme].

Now, what the Minister says is this: he says that sorry that we did not begin to debate this matter earlier in the day; because then the Committee would have adjourned for half an hour or three quarters of an hour, and would have gone to see the prefabs exhibited at St. Christopher. Sir, I should like the members of the House to see it before they discuss this Resolution. It is the biggest scandal this country has ever seen. Mr. Chairman, I go so far as to say that you may have a cowshed or a goatshed better than this. What I am trying to say is that to call this house a prefab is a misnomer. When you say a prefab, you use a term to mean some sort of manufactured parts of a house which are then subsequently assembled.

Now, what the Minister says is this: he says that the houses will be built of timber siding with asbestos roof. Now Mr. Chairman, these houses cost \$900 each. Do not care who planned them, I do not care who pushed that plan down the Ministers throat it is an absolute waste of money; and to talk of them as being hurricane proof—they are not even rain proof. Only idiots would think that they should be built of asbestos when Government money has to pay for them. The one at St. Christopher has the siding of rough board. It has a flat asbestos roof on it at such an angle that the very first high wind would take it off.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, on a point of explanation. I have sent around a sketch plan of the type of prefab house which it is intended to construct and it has no resemblance whatsoever of the one to which the hon. senior member for St. Philip was referring. The one at St. Christopher is shed-like in form and this one outlined on the sketch plan has a gabled roof; a different type of house altogether.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, this is what the Hon. Minister says is a plan; something written on a piece of paper with countless erasers. He comes into this Assembly after having thought of this plan and this is all he has been able to produce. Well now, in this plan the roof has a different shape from the one at Silver Sands. Now I am going by what is in the Resolution before us. Let us even say that this roof is a gabled roof and not a flat roof. The siding he says, is of asbestos. The one I saw had what he calls asbestos; I call it hardboard. The sides are of 1/8 inch hardboard; the sort of thing you buy in Bridgetown for ceiling roofs at 10 cents per square ft. Mr. Chairman, if you put up some hardboard and you have a drop of water on your roof, it soaks through.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to defend the Government whenever any misleading statement is made in reference to the affairs of Government. I explained that we are not working on that. Our sidings will be of plain asbestos. We argued the point and I explained that on the houses no hardboard will be used as siding.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am going by what I saw. I, Mr. Chairman, am not in their minds to know what they have in them; and I am saying that the one at Silver Sands in which a family is now installed has hardboard which I know is not waterproof. Well, let us say that they changed it from 1/8 hardboard to asbestos. That is even worse because, as you know, the slightest crack that asbestos gets will cause it to leak. The only people who can afford the expense of asbestos are the very rich. They use it because it looks better than galvanised iron. I would never think of asbestos. Only the Ministers can afford to build with asbestos because they get their money easily.

I can only afford to use shingles or galvanise because they last longer.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this asbestos-sided house with asbestos roof is to cost \$900. It has no ventilation.

9.45 p.m. *

Hon. M. E. COX: I rise on a point of explanation. Mr. Chairman, it has windows, doors and louvres.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The one at Silver Sands has no windows at all to the east or west; that is a plain piece of cardboard; but to the north and south, there are two solid windows so that when you shut them at night, you cannot get any air at all. This plan is a little improvement on the one at Silver Sands because I see there is one of those cow-pen windows on one of the long sides. It is a fact that the one at Silver Sands is just one solid piece of board and when it is closed at night it is intolerable. As a matter of fact, it is so intolerable that the owners claim that about 10 o'clock in the morning they cannot put on a single piece of clothes that has been left hanging on the sides because the heat is so great.

Hon. M. E. COX: They told us something quite different. Mr. McClean said he was very pleased with the house.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I went there with the Headmaster of St. Christopher Boys' School and he can bear me witness. Now, what I want to know is this: What person in any part of the island is going to pay you \$900 for one of these prefabricated houses? I will say if the Ministry of Housing or the Government has been paying attention to this matter, they would be able to find out that in a country like this where we have all the soft stone imaginable and where it is cheaper to build with concrete blocks than wood or asbestos and where you can buy clay bricks and where you can take soft stones and cut it in six-inch blocks, it would work out far cheaper to build a small house of that material to replace these damaged houses than what you are doing now. I do not know who recommended to you to build a 24ft. x 9ft. rectangular shaped house looking like a pigeon coup. I am telling you that to build a 16ft. x 9ft. house out of concrete blocks or soft stone it cannot cost you anything more. When you do that, you will be building permanent houses for which the people would be glad to pay and which would be a credit to the community. These asbestos houses which are being built without proper lathes or proper protection cannot last in Barbados. There will be little children playing on the floor and all around and the slightest thing they throw would punch the asbestos sides. After giving this matter, according to the Minister, careful attention and thought and this is all that they can produce, the

Lord help them. In this island there are soft stone quarries with any amount of quarried stones—some for which the people who cut the cannot get paid. I know that in St. Philip there are some quarries in which people have quarried stones, and they have not been paid for it, because there is no sale. If the Government really intend to rehouse these people, they are large numbers of unskilled people who would be willing to work quarrying stones so as to make real strong durable houses for the very people to live in instead of these 500 asbestos houses which the Government can only think of building to squander half million dollars.

I am willing to take on any bet you like that Government does not recover one-tenth of the money spent on these asbestos-built houses, because long before the first instalment is paid they will be damaged and then the people will not pay for them. It is only from the master brain of the Minister of Housing that such a hair-brained scheme can emanate. The \$900 house has no toilet or bath.

9.55 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: I read out and the honourable member heard me read it out that the house will cost \$800 toilet and bath \$100 making a total of \$900. Every member of the House heard that except the honourable member.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The one at St. Christopher cost \$900 and it will have no bath, toilet or kitchen. I am not a superman to sit down and imagine what they have in their minds. What is even worse is this; the Government proposes in addition to these asbestos monstrosities to build six 20-unit blocks or terraced houses to provide accommodation for some of those persons who have been rendered homeless by the hurricane. From the figures which we have been given, it means that a single unit for a family will cost \$3,000. Let us admit that it has a bottom floor, kitchen and so on; and the top floor has bedrooms; which worker in this country who has had his house damaged by the storm could pay any part of \$3,000 for one of these units? That is the height of absurdity; the Minister says he has considered every aspect of the matter and they have spent nights on it. When he said that at least one would have thought that he would have given us something sensible. Do you expect workers to contribute towards the cost of these 20-unit houses for \$3,000 each? The most one of these houses should cost is \$1,000 and the money which we are spending here could provide nearly 800 houses to rehouse some of these people. It is living in a fool's paradise to think that the workers in any part of this island will move into these \$3,000 terraced houses except they say "if we pay, we pay; but we will live in them if the Government gives them to us."

I personally expected that if the Government had a housing programme to present to the House tonight it would have provided for at least one half of the houses which have been destroyed by the hurricane; but not one sixth. And Mr. Chairman, what is even more unsatisfactory to me is the method of financing. This is a Government which calls itself a Labour Government; this is a Government that, presumably, to judge from its appellation, is interested in the plight of the labouring people. You will notice from the Resolution that this programme for the 500 prefab houses and the six 20-unit houses will cost over a million dollars. I want this Committee to think carefully as to whether we are justified with all of these houses before us to spend \$362,000 in housing 120 families because only one family can occupy a unit.

If we pass on to this question of financing, this is what is stated in the Addendum to this Resolution:

"It is proposed that 50% of the cost of the prefabs and terraced houses shall come from the Labour Welfare Fund, and the purpose of this Resolution is to provide the other 50% of this cost, i.e. \$406,000 plus the additional \$200,000 needed for the repair programme."

What the Government is doing is this: we have an amount of money in the Labour Welfare Fund. Much of this Fund today is being used for housing the working classes; so the Government proposes to rebuild the hurricane-damaged houses by using money from the Sugar Fund which has been specially allocated for rehousing people, whether there is a hurricane or whether there is no hurricane. What we have to keep before our mind's eye is this: housing conditions in this country are bad; in fact there are 12,000 applications for loans from Labour Welfare involving some \$5 million. In other words, before the hurricane the housing situation in this country was bad, and people were so anxious to improve their housing that they sent in applications numbering 12,000 for loans.

10.05 p.m.

At the rate at which we are progressing it would take years for these 12,000 applications to be attended to. [A VOICE: That is not Government money so what is the use of talking about it?] What I would repeat for him is that there are now 12,000 applications.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I should like to correct that. I agree that the number of applications which come in is around that number; but almost 8,000 of that 12,000 were already given loans. Therefore, there could not be 12,000 outstanding.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, that is not my information and it is not true, [laughter] because the officials at the bank must know more about it than he does and the Minister of Agriculture would be in a position to correct me if I were wrong. [A VOICE: The houses must have been blown down.] I want the Committee to understand that there are 12,000 applications and that the amount for which these 12,000 applications call is \$5 million. The Labour Welfare Fund today is being called upon to produce \$5 million to satisfy the applications for loans. Well now, in spite of all that, the master mind of the Ministry of Housing proposes to pick up \$½ million of that Fund to spend on Hurricane Relief. That is not right. There are two other funds. To-day \$5,867,000 have accrued to the Labour Welfare Fund. The other two Sugar Funds, the Rehabilitation Fund, which is the Fund from which the Sugar Factory owners draw to improve their factories stands at \$6,064,233, and the Sugar Factories have drawn some \$5,875,963. In other words, the Sugar Factories have drawn more from the Rehabilitation Reserve Fund than has accrued to the Labour Welfare Fund. You have been rehabilitating them for years and you must, at some time or other, reach saturation point. You must say, at some time: "Well, you have been drawing every year appreciable amounts from this Fund and we are going to reduce the amount or we are going to stop paying it every year." When you have a crisis like this do you not think that you should say to the sugar factory owners: we have had a national disaster and we are going to take from you a half million dollars? Instead of that what the Labour Government has done is this: it leaves the rehabilitation Fund and goes and takes from the Labour Welfare Fund. Apart from that, the Price Stabilisation Fund, which is still in its virgin freshness, stands at \$6,765,000; so that there can be no legiti-

mate excuse for not approaching both of these funds. They could approach the sugar factory owners and say: well, in order to cope with the crisis we are prepared to take at least $\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars from the Price Stabilisation Fund. Personally, what I feel is this: between the Price Stabilisation Fund and the Rehabilitation Reserve Fund they could find a million and a half dollars which should give us anything like 1,000 to 1,200 houses of a size comparable with the size of those destroyed by the hurricane in order to rehouse the homeless. It is the height of absurdity to contemplate, as the Government proposes, spending over one million dollars to construct 120 terraced units and 500 houses which the Government dignifies by the name of prefabs.

10.15 p.m.

I am not warning them; it is immaterial to me whether they listen to me or not. If there is to be any improvement on the prefabricated house at St. Christopher, it will cost a lot more money than what they have stated now; and for us to approve the spending of more money than \$900 on a house with four asbestos sides and an asbestos roof, Mr. Chairman, we do not deserve our seats in this Chamber or to occupy the position which we have in this island. I strongly urge on every member of this Committee not to be led away by what the Minister of Works has told us. Go to St. Christopher and see what they have put up there for a prefabricated house. When you look at that, you will see that there is a modification in the plan before us, but you should also ask yourself the question whether or not you or anybody else will spend \$1,000 to get one of these houses. Whether or not the people will have to pay all or some of this money, the fact remains that when a man in this country decides to pay for a house of his own, he wants a house. The Hon. Minister of Housing said, that he does not want to build these houses out of timber as Government prefers some improvement on the existing timber houses; but he comes in here today to spend a half million dollars, on what? Not on a timber house. It is only he who can think that asbestos will last longer than timber. [Hon. R. G. MAPP: Order!] It is only you who can think as he thinks.

What this Committee must bear in mind is that these 24' x 9' and 16' x 9' asbestos boxes have no partition in them. I repeat, that the one at Silver Sands which the owners were told cost \$900, has no partition, and it could not have been put up rougher. The uprights are the same as when they came from the Lumber Yard. [A VOICE: They are of ready-dressed stuff]. The honourable member does not know what is ready-dressed building material. I am saying, that the uprights have not been planed. I repeat, that the uprights are not dressed, and the moment you have to dress your uprights, put up partitions and some sort of louvres in the windows to provide proper ventilation, you are going to spend another \$200. There is no point in fooling the public that this scheme has anything to commend it. I am going to bet that his Ministry will not build 50 of these houses, because nobody is going to pay for them. This is the height of absurdity.

A man with a conception of housing such as the Hon. Minister of Housing has, judging from what he said here tonight and what he said before, has no right to be Minister of Housing. It is a real tragedy; it is not only a calamity. This whole thing is a farce. I know that the honourable member feels as strong as I feel, and I know that in any other country like this where members of Parliament see with their two eyes what I have seen of this prefabricated house and heard what the Minister of Housing had to say on it he could not be Minister of Housing after another 24 hours. I am saying,

that the greater part of my prognostications have come to pass; and I prophesy that this presentation by the Minister of Communications is not worth the paper it is written on and neither he nor any of us would live long enough to see it ratified; therefore, my mind rests contentedly.

Mr. MILLER: Sir, on the first occasion when I spoke on this matter I said, this is still a free democracy, therefore, one can speak as he so wishes, and I will continue in that same strain to-night. One of the democratic processes is the freedom of the very right to express one's opinion. I think the Hon. Minister of Housing is aware of all that is said. What is unfortunate is that I sometimes wonder if the Government and members of this Parliament fully realise the importance of the family unit. When that is disturbed and destroyed and you cause people to live in a condition as we are seeing to-day, that is, an ugly aspect of life. I refer to what we see practised in some of the shelters where the people are now living.

The Honourable Minister of Trade is laughing at what I am saying, but I believe that with his regard for democracy and wisdom, it is strange on an occasion like this that he should want to laugh.

Let me say again, that democracy has only survived through the family unit.

What I see here, is more or less a given idea of how the Government proposes to rebuild houses for those people who are now stranded and dejected. With respect to the question of a prefabricated house, you can think of a 4' by 8' prefabricated house; whether it is built of hard board, asbestos, or timber. All you have to do is to cut your timber, your asbestos or hardboard to the size you want and then move to the area and put it up. And you call that a prefabricated house. But you should think of the question of permanence also. I can very well see Government going to the trouble of bringing tents here and putting them up to house the several homeless families until the creation of permanent homes come to pass. What is disturbing to me is the question of the type of house which the Minister of Housing referred to as a prefabricated house. I do not know how one can imagine using asbestos for sidings of a house when he knows that there will be children around toying with stones and it is likely that they would punch those houses with those stones.

What I do believe is that Government is thinking in terms of the cost of these houses. What I do believe is, that if a strong and energetic plea is made to quarry workers to quarry six-inch stone in large quantities, that would remove the hazard of building houses of asbestos. Again, Government may not have thought that when a house is built of asbestos, it is easily broken but cannot be easily patched. I am very unhappy about your thinking of building that type of house. Even the canvas tents would be a more consolation than those.

I am grateful to the Government for its proposal to build terraced houses in the various parishes for the people who now live in schools; and the one which Government proposes to erect in St. George, according to what the Hon. Minister of Housing just said, relates favourably with that of the other parishes. I think the six terraced houses which they proposed to build in the first instance are proportioned fairly in the parishes which have been selected and I think what has caused the Minister to proportion them in that manner is due to the number of people who have suffered in those parishes.

As regards the question of our people taking kindly to living in terraced houses, it is true that

this matters not to people who live in big countries. In big countries, all people more or less live in flats or apartment houses, particularly in the cities. In the rural areas, you get houses, where one family lives but as the cities attract large numbers of people, it is more economical in all ways for them to live in those type of houses referred to as flats, apartments or terraced buildings.

10.25 p.m.

What I would say is that in Barbados the first settlers on the island were concerned not so much with the housing of the slaves and even these little houses were not of the barrack type, although some of the plantations created the barrack houses. That type of house has outlived its usefulness. I am wondering if the Minister of Housing has given full considerations to the family life of the people and that people still believe in taking home their forks and their hoes and few of them want to be without a family. If you are thinking of two storied buildings it might be uncomfortable. I do not know if you can defeat the community in their way of thinking of houses of this type; this type of house is uncomfortable; in the first place, it is not in keeping with what people think of as being a home. I know the Minister is thinking in terms of \$1 million but even in respect of the houses in his new plan the indications are that we will hardly touch the needs of the country.

What is going to happen in this matter is a question of speculation and conjecture; but in the order of things Government will come up against criticism. When you come down to this House with the proposals for housing the people, perhaps the whole thing will be changed. These houses ought to be handled by the use of clay brick; the Company which is now manufacturing these bricks happen to be in the position where they cannot supply any large percentage of the quantity which would be required. Unfortunately the erection of such a factory by the Government was thrown to the winds, not by this Chamber, but by the other Chamber and some enterprising group embarked on the idea without even having the knowledge as to whence the money was likely to come. I am told that the Minister is considering the use of clay bricks in large numbers; I have a little knowledge of building and I believe I have some understanding of it [VOICES: Hear! Hear!] Perhaps the Government might find it possible to use bricks in large numbers and size in the construction of houses; it may be when the Minister retires. The only answer to this problem is the use of clay and natural gas.

The position at the present time is unfortunate and instead of this figure of \$1 million being spent, I can see the necessity for another \$6 million before we get down to the question of the housing of families. Where we will get the money from is nothing of real importance. You talk about the rehabilitation of factories and then you got more money than what the factory is worth. I say now that the Government will have to come back to this House and change and destroy completely the last bit of Legislation which was passed by this House as regards land tenure. That Legislation is unsuitable and until that Act is changed and is brought back to this Chamber for reform, there will be no satisfaction of the requirements.

I heard the Hon. Minister say that he has been exerting a lot of energy and that he was working all night on these plans. I believe that the counsel of some people will not be accepted; however, we are interested in the people. All of us feel in the same way about the suffering masses and in spite of all that

may be said, it is not an easy job for the Government or for any Parliament; I mean the question of rehousing people after a hurricane. These people are likely to lose their patience and feel that with another "Janet", in 15 minutes all will be over again. If you do something for those who are now suffering, if you pass on something to them and they realise that it is a question of patience, there will be some answer to our problem; but you must provide the permanence of which these people are in search.

10.35 p.m.

I do not know that the Government, or for that matter anybody else, would be willing to reconsider the possibility of new erections in timber. It has outlived in usefulness. As we were saying Mr. Chairman, the attempt of the Government is to be sympathised with: you can always pick holes in it. But all Governments come up against similar problems. For instance, you change your technique but not necessarily your policy. We have seen cases where this House has criticised, but that is the nature of things.

Mr. Chairman, I am only asking that your consideration be for permanent structures. If Government build those 500 houses of asbestos and 2" x 3" timber I consider that there is nothing at all permanent in that. It appears to me that you do not mean to spend to any appreciable extent. Any idea can succeed if you have enough money to throw into it. It is not a question of whether over a period of years your idea will be successful. The question is: what are you going to do now. I should like to tell the Hon. Minister that the answer is not found in the prefab house. In a house costing as much as \$500 there is no permanence; and the maintenance of this house will outstrip any hope of repayment. At this stage I do not think that I should reflect unpleasantly on anything. I will only say that the attempt is a noble one. If you are thinking in terms of spending \$5 million or \$6 million perhaps you should go back to your old chattel buildings.

Mr. LEWIS: Sir, I appreciate the difficulty in which the honourable junior member for St. George finds himself. I think that his difficulty lies in salving his own conscience, and it is entirely due to his own fault.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of Order or any point for that matter. When the honourable member refers to me and talks about something that could be regarded as my livelihood I will get up every time.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, the more often he makes himself in a builder, the worse is the position in which he puts himself. Last week he heard that the Government were building in stone and he adopted a certain attitude: now he hears tonight that they are not building in stone but in asbestos and three-ply wood—

Mr. MILLER: Your development is continuing Mr. Chairman; how can you hope to build up your country if you do not—

Mr. LEWIS: The honourable member does not understand that when one speaks of "salving your conscience" it means that you have one; but he is searching for one now. He is trying to "salvage" his conscience.

Mr. MILLER: The honourable member is searching for a verbal battle, but I am not concerned with war.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What are you speaking or now?

Mr. MILLER: We are talking about salving or salvaging your conscience; but if the Harbour Scheme were to be started tomorrow I would agree with the Government to do so. It does not mean that

because you have had a hurricane that you must shut up shop. As long as you have material and the men going to build in stone, build what you can.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, he is now adjusting it to suit the circumstance. The hon. member is saying tonight that they were going to build in stone and now they are going to build in asbestos and three-ply wood. That is what he should be criticising.

I think that the Hon. Minister of Housing should tonight take to heart some of the things he has been told and understand that the Government has placed itself in an awkward position. How can the Government escape criticism when it has built a house, set it up as an example, asked His Excellency the Governor to visit it, put it in the papers and then say tonight: well, that is the one we are not going to build? [Laughter] Mr. Chairman, this is no time for being funny: this is the time for being serious, and I am going to make an appeal to the Hon. Minister. The number of nights which you spend in considering a scheme does not make it perfect. The time taken over things depends upon your knowledge of them. I am not impressed by the time. We all want to give of our best. I sympathise with the Government. Like the honourable junior member for St. George, the things which the Hon. Minister of Communications has just said may be due to emotion. Let us agree to the postponement of this Resolution for a few days.

10.45 p.m.

It must be possible to build one of these houses in a day if you concentrate all your efforts on it. As a matter of fact, this Resolution should not have come in here until they had an example we could see. It is not fair to criticise the proposition of the Government on the basis of a house that has been built by them, but one they are not now going to follow. Whatever modifications they are, I think honourable members should have the opportunity of seeing them. Is there nothing else we can do at the moment but this Resolution?

I would like to see that method adopted and I am making an appeal in that direction. Bear in mind, sir, I am not in opposition. I am told that we would be keeping back the building of the houses if we do not pass this Resolution, but it is no use setting about building these houses, and then having them refused by the people whom you want to live in them. It is no use building one of these houses and putting a Government servant in it and then asking him how he feels in it. It would be much better to take an independent-minded fisherman and put him in it so that he would tell you exactly what he thinks about it. There is no getting away from the fact that a postman may be getting up another petition to Government for an increase of salary and as a result he may feel disposed to put up with the inconvenience so as not to displease you. A man should be at liberty to be nice to his employers and should not be placed in a position where he may have to tell you a deliberate lie or to mislead you into believing that he is very happy when he is not. When I heard that a Civil Servant was occupying that prefabricated house I said to myself that there may be a great deal of truth in what the honourable senior member for St. Philip might be saying.

Mr. Chairman, the whole idea of this non-cooperative effort, as has been spread abroad, is, I think, due to the mistakes in the initial efforts of the Government. My humble belief is that it is a time of emergency and in a time of emergency you want something more of a national Government. There should be some form of coalition Government,

if not in an absolute form, in a form to deal with this particular emergency and the proposition should have been accepted by the Ministers themselves. There are persons in this House, among whom is the paid Leader of the Opposition, who should sit in with the Government on the matter of this Hurricane Relief, and everything else dealing with this emergency. This is not anything of which you should make political capital. The honourable junior member for St. George is an experienced builder. Can you imagine that he is a member of the Government's Party—a potential Minister himself—and the Government is dealing with putting up buildings and he apparently has heard Government's proposal to build these type of houses for the first time in this House tonight?

So far as this Resolution is concerned, the information given on it is scanty, although a great deal of detail has been given you by the Minister in his introductory speech, and that is why I am going to say that you cannot regard the information which you have been given as the whole truth of the matter. It is for those reasons that I am asking before I make the motion whether the Hon. Minister of Communications would accept the postponement of this Resolution until another meeting, possibly on Thursday, or whatever day you like to deal with this matter. Can you say that the people for whom this housing scheme is wanted would suffer so greatly if we considered this Resolution as the first Item next Tuesday? In the meantime, let honourable members of this House be invited to the Public Works Department yard, where they can actually see what is happening, and so that Government would be able to take the experience of its own members into its confidence. I think it would prevent all this talk about: "well, look at the type of thing Government is going to do."

We have had housing experts here and they have had to say that they learnt something about housing when they came here. They have brought ideas which probably suited other countries, and we are grateful for the assistance which they have given us, but they can be misguided over matters of housing when it comes to housing for the people of this colony; and for that reason when we make an attempt to do something to serve a multitude of the people we should see that they get something which suits them. It is obvious that there are, inside and outside of the ranks of the Government, people who can be of some assistance to the Government. The Government itself knows nothing of this matter; they are unable to say, except for this small piece of paper which has been passed around, anything about the type of house that is to be built for these people. It is impossible for a layman to come here and give a recommendation on it unless he is himself convinced. If I were in Government's position, I would ask those people to build one of those houses for me to see. I would say to them: "Build me one so that I can see for myself what it is, and so that I can go into the House and say that I have seen it and that I have taken some of the people who have lost their homes to see it; and that they have looked at it inside and outside of it." Take those people to see it and let them see all the faults in it.

This type of house has been described as non-permanent but so far as Government is concerned, I hope that this is not the type they really intend building. This house must have some degree of permanency. Sir, we must regard the effects of the hurricane both as a disaster and an opportunity for doing something for the people. The high winds

have shown us where the old houses were, and even some of the new houses have been decapitated and some of their walls have fallen in. We have had the opportunity of seeing some of the faults in our building by this hurricane and we should correct them.

Sir, I hope that it is not necessary for this Resolution to be passed tonight. We do have a great deal of work to do in the rehousing of the people and the work must go ahead. Surely they must be building some of this type of houses already I say again, take other members of the Legislature into your confidence. I am not saying that you are playing politics, but if you do things in this way, you cannot blame the people for saying that you are playing politics. Do you want all the praise for yourself? This is an emergency and when there is an emergency in a country, the Government tends to be national rather than party, and that is the spirit which should emanate from the Government's side. If something like that had happened, we would not have had the fiasco of a meeting which was never summoned. We would never have had a Resolution asking for \$100,000 and as soon as it was about to be discussed it was changed to \$200,000. I do not feel comfortable every Tuesday getting up criticising the Government over their decisions and their attitude towards other members of this House which leave much to be desired.

I am appealing to the Hon. Minister of Housing to postpone this Resolution for a few days. He can have a meeting on it whenever he likes. I would really like to hear what he has to say before I say anything more. If what he may say does not meet with my approval, I am going to move that this Resolution be postponed for further consideration.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not believe after the appeal by the honourable junior member for the City and the plea which he has made for postponement of this Resolution that the Hon. Minister for Housing would refuse to postpone this matter. Indeed the honourable junior member for the City has given such sound reasons why this Resolution should be postponed that one can hardly imagine that there would be anything else to do but to postpone it.

When the Hon. Minister for Housing said that they are interested in rehousing these people, I sincerely and honestly believe him. But that does not mean that we should not offer any criticism on their plans. Why I am going to offer any criticism this afternoon, is because of the little scrap of paper which has been given to me with a sketch plan of the type of house they propose to build. Now, Sir, I can quite appreciate that you have a very good officer as your Director of Public Works and I do feel that he must be somewhat tired and over-worked. I am not attributing any credit to any member of the Government for thinking out this scheme. I pay no regard to those remarks by the Hon. Minister that he has worked all day and all night on this scheme. What could he be doing? What we have before us is Capt. Tomlin's idea but it must be appreciated that he is a tired and over-worked man, therefore he is unable to think correctly at this time.

10.55 p.m.

I am dealing with these "prefab" houses. I have not seen the house in Christ Church but I have been told that the Governor and other persons visited this house and that is the type of house which we will have. This is what has been said: these houses will have pitched roofs, there will be wooden floors and windows and it is hoped that they will be constructed in three weeks. But it has been said that

the walls will be of boards or asbestos. What the hon. senior member for St. Philip has said is correct; nobody with any intelligence would think of building a house with asbestos siding. I should like to say this: Captain Tomlin must be very tired or overworked; there are a lot of people outside the Government who would willingly give them advice in matters of this sort. While you are in a hurry to rehouse the people I can quite appreciate that you will have to build some of these houses out of wood. I see that these 16ft x 9ft. houses without a shed cost \$900 each; it is my contention that one of these houses with a shed attached should cost \$900.00 to build: I want to say again that this type of house built with jalousie windows and a shed attached to it can be obtained for \$900.

I remember talking with an English architect and builder who told me that he was a graduated professor. I told him that he was going to the tropics and when he got there he could ask the reason why people built houses in a particular way. This particular house in this plan has what is called cowpen windows. This is a relic of slavery; the use of this asbestos siding is out of the question. You have to build houses in such a way that people will be able to keep stock outside.

I want to suggest that this is a wonderful opportunity of providing work for a lot of people who are going around asking for work. There are thousands of unemployed people who can cut soft stones and these houses should be built out of six inch blocks and we are blessed in this island with all the stones we need. It looks criminal to me that with all the stones we have in Barbados we should want to import any great amount of building material. We have able-bodied men all over this place who will take over the job of cutting stone. Your soft stone is the natural thing and houses built of this material will stand up against all hurricanes. I repeat that the idea of building any of these houses with asbestos siding is wrong. I cannot but repeat that the use of this asbestos siding is a relic of slavery. I believe that the person who made this suggestion to the Government means well, but it will not work.

11.05 p.m.

Now, with the greatest respect to Captain Tomlin, it is not fair to local labour to put concrete blocks in these houses. You have hundreds of people unemployed so why build with concrete stones? Why not soft stone blocks?

I have found this officer so big yet so humble that he would say: Well, let us come together and discuss this matter. Do you mean to tell me that you are going to put down these houses with concrete? Where are you going to get in from? When you use soft stone blocks, you are finding work for the people of the island. There are people who are building houses and selling them for \$800 [A VOICE: Not true]. I am telling you; the hon. junior member for St. Andrew will tell you that this is happening. They are building them and getting money from the Labour Welfare Funds too. I agree with my colleague and I am going to second the motion for the postponement. What we are asking for is this: there are a number of people including the hon. junior member for St. George who is a member of the Government Party who have made certain suggestions. These suggestions should be put up to Captain Tomlin. I am worried about the cost of these houses and the type of houses. I do believe that to build them out of block stone or, as the hon. junior member for St. George has said, clay bricks would be doing a better job. The order today is that you use some composi-

tion in which you just brush it on and it seals up the soft stone. You have quite good soft stone which is one of your natural resources, one which you have not tried to develop. There is one quarry owned by a firm situated in Bridgetown which is quarrying enough stone as would supply the Government's needs. I realise that to rehouse the general sufferers who lost their houses in this disaster is a big job. As my colleague has said none of us like to come in here every Tuesday to criticise. You offer suggestions to the Government but they just sit by and give a deaf ear. If my colleague has made the suggestion for postponement he has made it not merely because he wants to postpone it; he has made it so that the Government will be able to get in touch with their technical advisers and other people who can give them useful suggestions. I am sure that if it were suggested to Captain Tomlin that while it is desirable to get the children back to their respective schools, it is not advisable to put up asbestos houses. Secondly if it were shown to him or to the Government that it would be infinitely better to use in each parish some method at least for a month or two—

At this stage the Chairman of Committees left the Chair and Mr. LEWIS took the Chair.

Let us get down to building a more permanent structure by using our soft stone; it is so much easier. You are going to build these houses and you are going to ask the people to pay a portion of the cost. Most of them are going to be built on the lands acquired by the Government; therefore is it not better to start now? If you go through St. Lucy you will find that most of those houses (the smaller type) are built of stone. On the other hand when you go to the extent of building apartment houses, I should like to suggest this to the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing: right in the immediate City areas where you have had a tremendous lot of damage I think the trials should be made there first. You have got to look after the economy of any country. The question of peasants or working people labourers who keep their chickens, pigs and cows has to be considered. They have been the sort of backbone of the country ever since. If you start building flats in these agricultural areas you know what it is going to do to this country.

To think of going to the parish of St. John and start building a flat gives rise to certain questions. What accommodation are you going to provide for persons who want to keep a fowl or such like? I do not think you can actually change a custom overnight. Somebody says that we can have these apartment houses; I say that we can have them in other countries, but in the cities. That is what I think the Government would have to think of and I agree with my colleague that it would be well if the Government would postpone a matter like this. I am not merely thinking of Parties now. As you have rightly said, an emergency is a national matter. Just because some members of the Government do not want to see anything go to anybody else they are never willing to ask the opinion of other people.

11.15 p.m.

Do not ask information on this matter from members of this House; there are lots of carpenters, masons and builders of experience in the various parishes of this island. Call some of them in and let them give you their views on this matter. I am sure they would all express the view which we have expressed. I am sure no builder will tell you, say, to go to Colleton pasture and build houses of asbestos material. If you look at the Speightstown Housing Act, you will see that in the City of Speightstown

you must have a sort of wall finish to your premises.

Mr. SPEAKER: Those Regulations were never laid.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I will remind Your Honour that actual prosecutions were brought against house owners in Speightstown on that regulation.

MR. ACTING CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Yes sir. The Hon. Speaker agrees that there was a regulation under the Speightstown Housing Act making it compulsory that the face of the houses on that street should be of wall; but as he has rightly said, some steps were taken to see that they were never enforced.

I see in the note to the Resolution that you are going to build some prefabricated houses of the size 24ft. x 9 ft. That size seems to me to be out of proportion. I do not know why that size is suggested. I do not think that size would have been agreed on if Government's Ministers would have been a little less sure, ask for more advice and discuss these matters more freely with the people. Who would suggest that you should build a house 24ft x 9ft., I do not know.

I come now to the matter with respect to the terraced houses. The Hon. Minister spoke of doing all this thinking on this matter, but this proposal has been put up by Capt. Tomlin. There is a part of the Minister's statement which says that the kitchen will be 7ft. x 7ft. I find no fault with that. There will also be a living room of the size 14ft. x 9 ft. What I am wondering about is the size of your bedroom which you have set down as 7ft. x 9ft. Why put in three bedrooms of 7ft. x 9ft. instead of giving two properly sized bedrooms? Does the Hon. Minister realise what is the size of a double bedstead? I think it would be better to have two properly sized bedrooms in those houses. I do not think if this matter was discussed around a table that you would think of a bedroom 7ft. x 9ft. You may say that the people were living in smaller places than that which you are about to build for them, but do you realise the deplorable situation which the hurricane has uncovered by showing us the way in which these people were living? Do you know that over 150 people without any place to live, were sleeping in the Public Market because the Salvation Army had no room in its hostel to hold them? We are trying to get away from all that.

You cannot build a house for a working class family for \$3,000; the amount is out of proportion to what he can pay for a house. If you build with Barbadian soft stone, the money which would be paid for materials would go right back into the hands of the same people for whom you are building the houses. When you build a house for them out of soft stone, one fellow will be quarrying stone, the other burning lime and the other drawing sand from the beaches. You will use very little cement. I do not think there will be any necessity to plaster the house outside. You can get a little cement you may need for it from Trinidad.

I will also add this suggestion. You will have to educate the people in this country to the use of concrete floors. There is nothing wrong in having concrete floors. It is the duty of the Government to tell the people boldly that there is nothing wrong with having concrete floors in their houses, and that such floors cannot be destroyed by termites. When you build houses out of block stone and put floors of wood in them, owing to the fact that the cellars are dark, such wooden floors will be attacked by termites.

Are you going to build 500 prefabricated houses of asbestos when you have all this quantity of soft stone in the country? Let me say that in my house I have dragged up all the wooden floors and have rebuilt them of concrete. When cement floors are finished properly, all that you need to do is to put a little polish on them.

11.25 p.m.

At this stage the Acting Chairman left the Chair and the Chairman of Committees resumed the Chair.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Is there any serious attempt being made to cheapen the cost of these houses? Have you not got machines that can mass-produce these windows? Nobody wants this type of window as indicated there; we have passed that stage which reminds us of slavery.

I must think in terms of cost in relation to the building of these houses. The French window is building of these houses. The French window is the easiest type of window to build and the window with the glass is the cheapest. If the Government would think of this matter seriously they will realise that the only criticism they have offered in this country is the abuse of the capitalists. I have not heard one of them over there attack the British Government or the British manufacturer for the way in which they have treated us; they have abused every other person. This is a national crisis and it is for every member of this House to say: "Let us have goods from places where they are cheap;" that is the first approach which should be made in this matter.

To be quite serious in this matter, if you want 3,000 windows don't you think if you have these windows ready you may be able to save much? You have a wonderful opportunity of building a type of house for which you could use local material.

I am voting for the postponement of this Resolution but as regards any suggestions we make in here, and any criticisms we may offer, the Government will realise that this is a national disaster, something affecting the entire community, and there is no reason for us in the Opposition to feel that we want to see the Government fall down in this issue.

Personally speaking, what would I get by putting them in a corner? I suggest to them that it is best for the country to ask people to come in and give them advice; there are many people who have a knowledge of these conditions. Mr. Chairman, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the postponement of this Resolution.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to keep back this Committee because I am moved by the importance of the situation; but I really think that this Resolution is both illfated and unfounded. Here it is we have got all sorts of people in various islands and also individuals here subscribing funds for the rehabilitation of houses in this island, and yet when they come down with a Resolution for these sums you have in the Addendum to this Resolution the following words: "it is proposed that 50% of the cost of the prefabs and terraced houses shall come from the Labour Welfare Fund, and the purpose of this Resolution is to provide the other 50% of this cost i.e. \$406,000 plus the additional \$200,000 needed for the repair programme." I believe that in proper hands, we would get a lot of houses replaced for this money. When you think of all these things you are only going back to what is causing the trouble in British Guiana; that is you are really encouraging Communism in Barbados. You are beginning these buildings, and I have heard from the other side of this table that there are places where

stone is available, and there is no place in the back yard where people can keep stock.

11.35 p.m.

I would not object to a flat built probably in a part of Bridgetown. In that case it may be successful; because there you have people who are not accustomed to engaging in animal husbandry and especially the keeping and breeding of pigs. To me it would do no harm to try one in the city; but to try one in St. Andrew or St. John is not the best thing to do. You may be forced to do so in the event of being unable to find anywhere else.

I was very impressed by the speech of the honourable junior member for St. George who elaborated on the idea of a brick factory at Apes Hill. There is a type of house that is very much used in the other West Indian Islands made of this kind of brick. If they could get three or four of those factories they could supply any amount of bricks that we want. The Government could advance a loan allowing them to develop that industry in local clay. In that way they would produce things which even a war could not prevent us from getting. When these houses are built of brick, I defy even a hurricane like "Janet" to do anything with them. They would withstand all normal conditions.

The Government should heed the remarks which have come even from some of the members of their own Party as to why they should not press the position, and why they should consider the advisability of postponing this illfated idea of building flats in the country. If our friends overseas should get to know that we are wasting the money like this, we are not likely to get any more assistance. Perhaps they will be justified in withholding it because they will consider that we should learn to be responsible. I think it is time that we learn to be responsible and spend our own money properly. I appeal to the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing to postpone this Resolution and reconsider some of these concrete suggestions that have been made this afternoon.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I would not attempt to reply in full at this stage because more may be said by —

Mr. LEWIS: If the Hon. Minister is going to make a general reply now it would be out of order.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am well aware of the Rules of the House. The honourable junior member for St. Andrew has made a motion for the postponement of the Resolution, but I want to say that I regret that I cannot accept his motion for the postponement. I do not want it to be felt as the honourable member would probably suppose, that it is unreasonable and uncompromising on my part to do so. I rise to speak fully conscious of the plight of our people.

As one honourable member has said sometime ago, people are living under all sorts of conditions as a result of this hurricane. People come to me early on mornings asking me to get them into some sort of shelter, and for this reason I am appealing to members to let us get on with the passing of this Resolution. The Other Place is expected to meet on Thursday to concur in this Resolution so that the Government can get ahead with their plans for rehabilitation.

Honourable members complain that they do not want Government to use asbestos in the building of these houses. I told them already that one of the reasons for that, was that the supplies of lumber coming into the island are so small that we would like to concentrate all that is available on the repairs of those houses which have been blown down. Speed is an essential factor now.

With regard to what has been said about erecting permanent buildings, I must remind honourable

members that that has always been the aim of Government; it is part of the Government's policy. As regards the building of wooden houses there are also snags which members must appreciate. There are, at present, a considerable number of people living on rented land consisting of tenancies and other spots rented from managers and other land owners, and this presents an added difficulty to the Government's plan of Rehabilitation.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave of the Committee to withdraw my motion.

[Asides.]

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is —

Mr. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. How many Chairmen are there of this Committee? I thought there was one and it was you. I believe that you are conscious of your duties and I do not think that it is right for the Minister of Communications to direct the Chair.

I am on my feet on a point of Order, and I am merely pointing out (subject to the honourable junior member for St. John having given me permission to speak) this: if the honourable member asked for leave to withdraw you should find out what is the feeling of the House in the matter; but the senior member for St. Michael cannot tell you what to do.

The proper way is to make a statement on a point of order; and Mr. Chairman, after you have put the motion in a proper way I intend to speak.

There being no objection leave was granted the honourable member.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the honourable senior member for St. Michael has shown great anxiety to get this Scheme through; I can only call it a Scheme because it has been developed by schemers, on the grounds that the people of this country are suffering. That is what we have been saying for the past three weeks; and I should like to know by what stretch of the imagination could a Scheme for 620 houses relieve a situation in which 3,500 houses are lying on the ground and another 4,000 houses uninhabitable; according to his own words, when over 20,000 people are still in need of a roof over their heads.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask the honourable senior member for St. Michael a very simple question. I am sure that honourable members have heard all over this island that the Government is taking over from Thursday morning and that nothing more is now being done. The Parochial Committees and other Committees who have been repairing buildings and houses have been telling people from last week: "We are doing nothing as the Government is taking over from Thursday morning."

11.45 p.m.

Between last Thursday morning and to-day, I have had something like four or five reports that the honourable junior member for St. George will be placed in charge of operations up there. If that is the way this scheme is going to be run, I am saying that a statement should be made about it here and now. I have received one report this morning from a constituent of mine (I am only repeating what was reported to me; I cannot vouch for its authenticity) stating that he called on the junior member for St. George and the junior member for St. George told him that he will be in charge of the situation from Thursday morning, and he can come back to him at a quarter past eight on Thursday morning. The honourable junior member can reply to that; I am going to supply him with the name of the person. I hope that is not the reason why the Hon. Minister of Housing cannot accept the motion for postpone-

ment made by the honourable junior member for the City tonight.

One significant fact about this whole matter, is that nobody is told whether the quasi-political scheme is the distribution of clothing by the honourable junior member for St. John, or whether it is going to be a real scheme of rehabilitating the people in properly construed houses with all that should be desirable in permanence and durability. If we have any objections to the scheme put before us, it is because it is ill-considered and not sound enough. It is not because we want to delay the rehousing of the people; it is because we want the people to have properly constructed houses.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the honourable senior member for St. Michael said that they had this plan which is on two dirty pieces of paper pinned together. These are the words at the bottom of it: "It is hoped that dependant on the availability of supplies that the P.W.D. will construct these Houses within three weeks." I do not know if those words at the bottom were put for our information, or if that is part of the Government's overall policy since Hurricane "Janet" struck Barbados. Sir, I have everything written down that has been written on those two dirty pieces of paper, even the words which are obliterated, and I will read them as well. I even have here drawn the plan of the house in the same bad way which it has been drawn on one of those bits of paper. We know by that, that the Minister of Housing did not put the facts before this Committee or the public. We know that this is an ill-considered scheme as my colleague was even himself constrained to point out.

Hon. members of this House who have a certain sense of responsibility have been agitating to get people back in their houses, because they consider that to be the number one priority facing Barbados today. Sir, what was written on those two bits of paper including the plan of the house took me seven and a half minutes to write, and draw. We have engineers who have been qualified and even some created by the Minister of Housing himself. As honourable members know, we have surveyors who have not passed a single examination but who have been made surveyors and draughtsmen by the Minister himself.

The honourable senior member for the City is always trying to save this Government at the expense of public officials. Let me remind him that this is Ministerial Government, and I consider it an insult that any such plan should be put before us. I have been asking for it again, and up to now he will not pass it back.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I have not refused to pass it back. The Marshal asked for it for the Minister of Housing.

Hon. M. E. COX: That is not correct. The Marshal asked for it for the Speaker to see it.

Mr. BARROW: Why is the honourable senior member for the City trying to save the Government and blaming public officials. I say this categorically: Captain Tomlin could never have drawn that plan, because of the simple and elementary fact that the Director of the Public Works Department is a member of the Royal Institute of Approved Architects, and every Barbadian has seen the buildings which he has put up; everybody has seen the way the buildings which he put up withstood the hurricane. They have stood up even better than those put up by my colleague.

This plan is now drawn to perspective and you are taught perspective even in the third standard of the Elementary Schools. How can a member of the Royal Institute of Architects draw that plan? He would have to draw it to perspective, and it is ob-

vicious (you do not have to be a Sherlock Holmes to recognise it) that the Director of the Public Works Department had nothing to do with that plan! Even if he were sketching something hastily, it would not produce that kind of confusion which has been presented to this House in the name of a plan.

Why is it that up to now the Marshal of the House will not give back to me those two dirty pieces of paper? Why have they got to hide it? Why do they not give them up and let the people of Barbados see how this is to be administered?

The Minister of Housing has already told us that out of 7,000 houses which were damaged, 3,725 were completely flat. They have written on that paper that Government plans to build 500 houses such as the one which they have drawn, and they have also stated that Government plans to build six twenty unit block terraced houses. As far as I know the word "terrace" has something to do with gardens; it has nothing to do with houses at all.

11.55 p.m.

They talked about prefabricated houses which are not prefabricated at all. It is significant that since the delegation comprised of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, the hon. senior member for St. John, the hon. senior member for St. Philip and myself made representations to His Excellency the Governor, the number of houses in each case for our constituencies have been increased. If we have accomplished anything at all, we have been able to get an increase in the number of houses.

Originally the number of houses allocated to St. Michael was 155 and that number has been reduced to 132. In Christ Church the number was 155, increased to 170; St. Philip 66, increased to 75; St. George 33, increased to 45; St. John 33, increased to 38. St. Thomas 33, reduced to 25 and St. Joseph 25, reduced to 15. You, Mr. Chairman, have suffered a reduction in the number of houses allocated to your parish, and St. Thomas has also suffered a reduction in the number of houses originally allocated to that parish.

These are the recent figures and they total to 500 in each case; every single word including wages I have written down. There have been 521 houses completely destroyed in the parish of St. George and only 25 have been already replaced. With the 25 and the 45 which they now contemplate building, there will leave 90 houses done plus one house which will be 91 houses replaced.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of explanation. The figures which I gave the House not long ago were 521 houses repaired in St. George.

Mr. BARROW: The figures which the Hon. Minister gave us as to the number of houses which have been blown down in the parish of St. George—

Hon. M. E. COX: I have the number repaired.

Mr. BARROW: I gave the Minister an opportunity to say what the number is. It is quite simple; the Addendum to the Resolution says that they have made a survey; if he is Minister let him say what the number is. I am going by what he said just now.

You can find 91 houses down in Ellerton alone; is the Hon. Minister really serious when he comes before this House with these matchboxes which he intends to put up without any ventilation at all, and says that he is really tackling the housing problem? This is the Plan from the Housing Board and I will say that there are some channels through which the plan for food came as well; it is contrary to what the Minister has said is the avowed policy of the Government from time to time.

We have both the Plan for permanent housing and the Plan for temporary housing; the biggest fabrication of all is that this is a Plan which will solve the housing problem caused by the hurricane. When we heard about these prefabricated houses, we envisaged large-scale houses the assembly of which could take place within the space of half an hour on a site. We thought that we were being given a gift of some of these houses from overseas, or that the Minister had some plan for large-scale production of housing units which could be assembled within a few minutes with a solid foundation of Barbados soft stone.

Anyone who has any slight acquaintance with architecture could not have anything to do with this plan. If you go to the Department of Agriculture you will see the type of house which would be admirably suited for the emergency which we have to-day. The uprights are put outside and I may say that a lot of houses collapsed because they were not bolted. These houses at the Department of Agriculture which are used for hatching the parasites have been there for over 30 years, and I defy any member of the Government to find one single woodant there other than the parasites.

That is the type of house we want. They are comprised of beautiful overhanging roofs; the hurricane came and not one of them came down. These houses are on solid foundations with water around them which will prevent centipedes and other insects from getting into the house and eating up people's clothing.

12.05 a.m.

Now, is the Hon. Minister of Communications really serious? I do not think he could be. Is he really suggesting that this long or short term programme is for housing ever people who have lost their homes through the hurricane? It falls short of the expectations both of the community and of the members of this House.

As regards the question of material, Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Philip and the honourable senior member for St. Michael have both spoken at length on this subject and it is not my intention to go any further on that. My colleague has also spoken of the unsuitability of the rural areas for putting up these houses. But just in case any one in his enthusiasm to support the present Government may be led into the belief that this Government is in any way matching up even to the experience or to the programme carried out in other West Indian Islands, I should like to draw certain facts to the attention of the Minister of Communications and the Minister of Agriculture. In a nearby colony in the Leeward Islands which is grant-aided and whose total annual revenue is less than the amount of money which we put into the general Revenue balance and the Revenue Equalisation Funds, less than \$2¾ million each year, that colony owns 35 acres of land. Their total production of sugar is less than 1/15 the total production of sugar in Barbados. In that particular colony they build concrete houses which are not rented to the people who occupy them, but are sold to them at \$5 a month; and as soon as they have paid \$540 they become owners in fee simple. The Government gives them half regardless of any considerations.

As long as you are in a position that you need rehousing, regardless of your occupation you are entitled to purchase a house under those terms which I have just outlined; and that money has to come out of the Labour Government, not from the friends

of a Minister. These houses are built out of concrete as I have said just now.

If there are any indications which are needed as to the attitude which this Government adopts to the people of this country, as to the scale of values and how they look upon the people, they are to be found in the words of the hon. senior member for the City. He said: "They have sort of taken on the mantle of slave ownership that had been discarded 150 years ago."

It is a fact that in this 20th century you can go through the Bay Estate and with this plan before the House you would not see one single mention of running water and water-borne sanitary conveniences and electric light.

Now if there was any serious indictment of the Government in this matter it is that. When you have a Minister of Works who on a Thursday somewhere in the year 1938 to the best of my recollection, could stand up in Queen's Park and tell Mr. Morgan Jones that he wants chauffeurs to live in Belleville (I remember well because I was in Queen's Park on that day and I was right under the Radio Disturbance) [laughter] and you find the same Minister today who 17 years ago wanted chauffeurs to live in Belleville confining people who, through no fault of their own have lost their houses, to dwell in unsuitable habitations, is something, Mr. Chairman, to reflect upon. You are not providing houses; you are not even providing shelters; you are providing boxes for people to live in. You have not even paid the slightest attention to providing the houses with conveniences.

Today they do not put electricity in Government's houses. They do not put in water and water-borne toilets. Only in the flats do you find that there is some mention of toilet and bath. Whether they are going to put in wash pans they do not say. Every other West Indian Island today is putting water inside the houses. As a matter of fact it is compulsory by law. Still you get the Government pretending to be doing so much for the people although we have been asking them to give some clear indication as to the system of priorities they hope to observe.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what always defeats me (and it is not a matter of rejoicing on this side of the House) is that the incompetence of the Ministerial Bench should be displayed in so blatant or perhaps, I should say, so flagrant a manner. It is not a matter of rejoicing to us that this particular plan has fallen far short of expectations; it is not a matter of rejoicing at all to us. Also do not let any one get away with the idea that they have brought to this House two dirty bits of paper that could not grace the dustbins of Barbados and expect the House to accept it as a plan. If we are to regard it as a plan, I must say that it was not even drawn in perspective.

I repeat that it is not a matter of general or individual rejoicing on the part of members of this House, because there is too much at stake. I would go as far as to say this: it is a matter of great concern and alarm that reports should be circulated in this country to the effect that certain members like the honourable junior member for St. John, should be able to take clothing away from a distributing centre; and that my colleague through probably, no fault of his own, should be mooted abroad as being in charge of rehabilitation from Thursday morning. Things like that do not do the country any good; and nothing that the Minister of Communications has said tonight is likely to influence honourable members in any way whatsoever.

Now as regards the financial aspect of this particular scheme, I noticed that it is stated that a certain amount of money is going to come from the Labour Welfare Fund. Mr. Chairman, I should like to read, for the benefit of members if I can find it, a reply made to the honourable junior member for St. Lucy. When he asked certain questions about the utilisation of the Labour Welfare Funds the Government, in reply, stated this: "The Labour Welfare Fund was set up and the other two funds, the Price Stabilisation Fund and the Rehabilitation Reserve Fund, were all set up by Act of Parliament and that the Government regarded itself as a trustee or as trustees for the management of those funds and could not interfere with them."

Now, I should like to know this, Mr. Chairman, and I am sure you would like to know it too: why the Minister of Communications could not interfere with a fund which belonged to the people when the Agricultural Bank has a fund which stands at a mere \$2 million, to the best of my recollection; although in the last financial report the Accountant General showed merely \$74,000 under that Fund. 12.15 a.m.

The assets of the Fund is two and three-quarter million dollars, but only \$74,000 was set down in the last Financial Statement of the colony. Now, there is another fund (the Price Stabilization Fund) which does not belong to the people and that stands at six and three-quarter million dollars. If the Labour Welfare Fund can be tapped, (in the Housing Bill it is interfered with and in the present measure before the House they want to take half of the money they want from that fund) why is it that a Socialist Government can always interfere with the funds of the down-trodden masses which by the wisdom of the Imperial Parliament was set up for the betterment of the said down-trodden masses, and yet at the same time the Fund set up by the same Imperial Parliament to be set aside for the merchants and sugar producers is there only for those people to get their profits out of that Fund, and that Fund must remain sacrosanct. If the Government does not answer that question on the floor of this House, they will have to answer it on the day of judgement, because none of us is immortal.

It does not look fair; and you cannot in one breath say, we are trustees of this Fund and in the other breath you go and make a raid on the Funds which properly belong to the agricultural workers of this colony. What have they done with this Fund? You cannot see any improvement.

It is true that a few people have borrowed money to get their houses put in a state of good repair or have extended their houses, but you see no improvement in the look of these houses of the people in Barbados. That is the sort of double talk we get and of which most of the people who follow the conduct of the Government are in doubt as to the sincerity of members of the Government.

There is one other matter which I would like to touch on, Mr. Chairman, while I am on this subject. We have a Fund of £100,000 set aside for an emergency such as this. The Financial Secretary has put in his report that this Fund stands at \$534,000 instead of \$430,000. According to him, it has lost in depreciation something like \$27,000 because it should be in the vicinity of \$570,000. Now, the Act under which this Fund is invested, states that all the interest thereon must be paid in to the Public Treasury of this island. Who is the acting Minister of Finance? I would like to know. Why cannot he carry out the terms of a simple Act which does not need any legal interpretation?

According to the Act, all the interest from the investments of £100,000 which we set aside should have been paid into the Public Treasury, but up to today not one cent has been paid in. I hope the Hon. Minister of Communications or any other Minister is not led away by the figure of \$534,000. The true figure is \$480,000, and I am warning them now about it.

They prefer to rely on people who have not got the interest of Barbados at heart; the people who come from overseas merely to live on the life blood of the community. The Ministers of this Government will accept any foolishness from them rather than to accept a democratic opinion expressed on the floor of this House.

Mr. Chairman, I say in conclusion that this Resolution before the House is the apotheosis of incompetence. I would like to recite the Swan Song for the Minister, but to call it a song would be ascribing to it a tribute which even the Minister in his half-hearted announcement today did not want to attribute to it. I will say that he can never sing enough to convince anybody over here that what is contained in this Resolution would be the solution to the ills which now confront this community.

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

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of five Resolutions in Committee

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the next Order as the last Order of the Day.

FORMATION OF THE WEST INDIA REGIMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day is to resume consideration of the Report of the

Select Committee appointed to consider and prepare a Draft Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 19/1955, relating to the formation of a West India Regiment.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that the Address recommended by the Select Committee appointed to consider and prepare a Draft Reply to His Excellency's Message No. 19/1955 relative to the formation of a West India Regiment was moved at a previous meeting of this Chamber.

An amendment was moved to it which was not accepted; then owing to the lack of a quorum the Address to His Excellency the Governor was not passed, and the House adjourned.
12.25 a.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Address with the amendment proposed by the honourable senior member for the City do now pass. Honourable members in favour of that will say "Aye" those against will please say "No". I think the "Noes" have it.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to present this Address to His Excellency the Governor.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: As Your Honour pleases

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 this day week, Tuesday 25th October, 1955 at 3 o'clock p.m.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn until this day week, Tuesday 25th October, 1955, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
12.35 a.m.