

THE
House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1954—55

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25th October, 1955.

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

Present :

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

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 11th October, 1955 have been printed and circulated and, unless there be any objection, these Minutes will be taken as read and confirmed.

There being no objection the Minutes were taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure from the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Philip on Tenantry Roads for the half year ended 30th September, 1955;

Also, a Statement of Revenue and Expenditure from the Commissioners of Highways of the parish of St. Philip for the half year ended 30th September, 1955;

Also, the Financial Report of the Accountant General of Barbados for the month ended 30th September, 1955.

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 the following:—

Message No. 27/1955 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly transmitting copies of Resolutions of sympathy on account of the recent hurricane, passed by the Legislative Councils of British Guiana, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

The Message reads as follows:—

Message No. 27/1955

*His Excellency The Governor
To*

The Honourable The House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to attach, for the information of the Honourable the House of Assembly, copies of Resolutions of sympathy on account of the recent Hurricane, which have been passed by the Legislative Councils of British Guiana, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.

22nd October, 1955.
(M.P.—1726/S. 9/T. 1)

Message No. 28/1955

Also, Message No. 28/1955 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly regarding the money grants made by other Governments in connection with hurricane relief.

The Message reads as follows:—

*His Excellency the Governor
To*

The Honourable the House of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that, on the receipt of reports of the widespread damage caused by the Hurricane, Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom made a grant of \$240,000 to assist the Government of Barbados in its task of relieving immediate distress. The Government of Mauritius granted \$3,600 for the same purpose.

2. The following grants were made by other Governments to be shared between Barbados and other territories afflicted by the Hurricane:—

Bahamas	....	....	\$ 24,000
Guadeloupe	....	....	\$ 10,000
India	....	....	\$ 4,800
Jamaica	....	....	\$ 96,000
Trinidad	....	....	\$150,000

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.
24th October, 1955.
(M.P. — 1726/S. 11)

Message No. 29/1955

Also, Message No. 29/1955 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly regarding the issue of a Proclamation continuing the state of emergency.

The Message reads as follows:—

*His Excellency The Governor
To
The Honourable The House of Assembly*

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that the Proclamation issued on the 22nd September, 1955, declaring a state of emergency to exist as a result of the hurricane which struck the Island on the same day, ceased to be in force after the 21st October, 1955.

2. As it appeared to the Governor-in-Executive Committee that the state of emergency should continue His Excellency issued another Proclamation on the 20th October, under the provisions of section 2 (1) of the Emergency Powers Act, 1939. A copy of this Proclamation of Emergency is attached for the information of the Honourable the House of Assembly.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.
25th October, 1955.
(M.P. — 1726/S.7/T.3)

Also, Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for six months ended 30th September, 1955.

Also, The Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) (Amendment) No. 2 Order, 1955.

Also, The Emergency Powers (Hurricane) Orders No. 2, 1955.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:—

The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1955.

REPLIES

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:—

Reply to Question No. 55 asked by the honourable junior member for St. Lucy regarding employment in the United Kingdom for Barbadian workers.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS for the Hon. Premier:—

Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) (Amendment) No. 2 Order, 1955".

Resolution to approve the continuance in force of the Emergency Powers (Hurricane) Orders, No. 2, 1955.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Resolution to place the sum of \$80,000 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. 40 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS for the Hon. Premier: Resolution to place the sum of \$120 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. 41 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Resolution to place the sum of \$250,000 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. 42 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. M. E. COX: Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled "The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1955.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS for the Hon. Premier: Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at the next meeting to deal with the Money Resolutions of which Notice has just been given.
3.25 p.m.

PETITIONS

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a Petition from the Vestry of the parish of St. John praying the House to pass a Bill to amend the St. John's Parish Loan Act, 1952-53. The Petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

Mr. HOLDER: I beg to present a Petition from the Vestry of St. James praying the House to pass a Bill authorising them to pay a gratuity to Eletia Ann Denny, the widow of one of their late employees. The Petition is respectfully worded, it has been duly advertised and I ask that it be taken as read.

The Petitions in each case were taken as read.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICE

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the St. John's Parish Loan Act 1952-53.

Mr. HOLDER: I beg to give notice of a Bill to authorise the Vestry of St. James to pass a Bill to grant a gratuity to Eletia Ann Denny the widow of one of their late employees.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. ALLDER seconded by Mr. VAUGHAN, the Bill to amend the St. John's Parish Loan Act, 1952-53 was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. HOLDER seconded by Mrs. BOURNE, the Bill to authorise the Vestry to

grant a gratuity to Eletia Ann Denny the widow of one of their employees was read a first time.

Mr. TUDOR entered the House and took his seat.

STATEMENT Re HOUSING LOAN APPLICATIONS

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, not long ago I sought Your Honour's permission to make a statement in connection with the statement made by the honourable senior member for St. Philip relative to the number of applications made by persons working in the sugar industry for loans from the Labour Welfare Fund. The honourable member said that there were 12,000 outstanding applications for loans; I would like to inform the House at this stage that the number of applications made for loans from the time the Bill was passed and the Scheme put into operation was 12,849. The number of loans granted to date is 7,765; the amount requested by the applicants is \$5,355,720 and the amount granted to those applicants is \$3,163,860.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Social Services: to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the colony.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair, and the House go into Committee of Supply. I am also asking leave to take charge of the Resolution standing in the name of the Hon. Premier when the House is in Committee of Supply.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is a Resolution for \$19,734. It is an omnibus Resolution and I propose to deal with it in the usual way: that is to take the Items one by one.

Head X—Fire Brigade

Head X—Fire Brigade—was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This Head deals with Clothing and Equipment for the Fire Brigade. As honourable members will see, the Clothing came through the Crown Agents and the claims came in after the close of the Financial Year. They amount to \$743, of this amount the sum of \$43 can be met from the provision in the Current Estimates, so that this amount of \$700, being part of the unexpended balance at the 31st March, 1955, is practically a revote.

In the case of the Equipment, honourable members will see that the delay in the delivery was due to dock and railway strikes in the United Kingdom and this Equipment did not reach here in the required time, and the claims from the Crown Agents were also a bit late. Of these claims which will amount to approximately \$1,450 the amount of \$450 can be met from the provision in the Current Estimates.

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

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

Mr. LEWIS: This is yet another instance of something being left out at the time when our

Estimates were made; and once again I must say that I do not approve of this method. We cannot get a true picture of the financial position of the colony when items which you know you have to order are left out of your calculation at the beginning of the financial year.

3.35 p.m.

Some effort should be made to bring them in, at least, during the consideration of the Estimates and let us know that orders that have not been included in the Estimates amount to so much and so much. This is a small sum; but there are very large sums that are occasionally left out; large sums like those affecting the Highways and Transport or the Waterworks Department. However, there is something which I should like the honourable member to explain at this junction. It occurs in Note 2, line four, of the Notes to Supplementary Estimate No. 30. It reads as follows:—

"Of this sum, an amount of \$450 can be met from the provision in the Current Estimates."

I should like to know what that means. I would take it that you have \$450 for something that you can do without. That is to say, some of the things you have ordered have been cancelled; and these things that have now come up will take their place. If you have ordered anything and at the end of the time when you make up your Estimates you find that this has not arrived, I suggest that you make a list of them and as they arrive, that they be struck off. At least the Estimates take a week or two to get through the House. Government should make a list and tell us that these are from the Crown Agent's Office; there are so many items that are on order (at least you have not cancelled the orders) and that these will, by Supplementary Estimates, amount to so much. I cannot understand how you can include something in the Estimates and because it has not arrived you take no notice of it. Suppose it was \$100,000, would you say that it was delayed by an earthquake, that it has now come and so we have to pay for it? This department must have order books and they must know what is being ordered. We get estimates after the middle of February, therefore, Government can say what things are outstanding then. Let the House have some idea of what our commitments are, especially when you cannot incorporate them into the Current Estimates. Only \$450 was available for these outstanding things I do not like that. If it was an absolutely impossible task (or if I were asking for something that could not be done as soon as possible) I would say perhaps, that I am unreasonable. Well, any way, this is a serious matter. This equipment might come out at a time when it might be very useful or it might come out at a time when it might be come dead stock in the particular department. This is not the way to conduct the financial business of the colony.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I quite agree with the last speaker. All that he has said is correct. Now that we are getting a very comprehensive budget system, there is one of these budgets that could be allocated to the unexpended sum on goods that have not yet arrived. This is the appropriate time to draw it to the proper authority because they will soon be preparing the next Estimates for the coming financial year. Let the Financial Secretary, whose job it is to prepare the Budget, realise that it is his job to be responsible for each Department, saying what equipment is outstanding, what should have been here before the 24th March and what has not arrived. I wonder whether they have left it out, or whether this is not an increased cost on goods

and they hold that that \$450 vote in hand would be able to take care of the increase on that outstanding equipment. It may be an increase in the cost of these things; because prices of goods in England have been increasing month by month. They have these strikes very often and the people down here have to pay for them. After every dock strike in England, the price of goods goes up. It means a lowering of the standard of living in Barbados because we have not been able to go hand in hand with them. We are stuck with this "one-industry" economy. The price of sugar has been increased for the last three years; but the goods in England are costing us more and more. We are in an invidious position and I suppose we will have to pay; nevertheless, I suppose we can voice our feelings. I wonder if it is this increased cost of equipment that we are having to pay for.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the accuracy of the information in the Addendum is not quite clear. For instance, this amount for the Coronation.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with Head X.

Mr. HAYNES: Oh! I am sorry. My mistake.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am not in a position to answer the points raised by the honourable junior member for Christ Church and the honourable junior member for the City. There is nothing I have here to indicate whether or not this amount was for increased cost. I see that the Note on the file which I have here reads much the same as the one which I see in the Note to the Supplementary Estimate. There is no further information than what is here.

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

Judiciary

Head XIV was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the next is Head XIV, Judiciary, Item 40, Medical Witnesses under Mental Health Act, 1951. The amount provided for this Item is \$1,780 which, according to the Note, was spent by the end of August, 178 persons having been examined as compared with 128 for the corresponding period in 1954. Expenditure under the item is difficult to estimate, but it is considered that a further sum of \$1,800 will be sufficient to meet expenses to the end of the year.

In short, it means that up to now, we have had more mad men than we have had last year. The number has increased to 50 over the corresponding period last year. Consequently, it calls for additional expenditure.

I beg to move that Head XIV stand part.

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

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, that is what I was referring to. I have attended many Boards of Lunacy and I have never seen witnesses paid. I have seen a voucher for a doctor, but nothing else. Is it doctors' fees?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Yes, fees for medical witnesses.

Mr. HAYNES: Anyhow, I have taken the honourable member's explanation.

3.45 p.m.
Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Years ago medical men used to certify a patient to be a lunatic. Today they do not certify; they only give evidence on the condition of a patient and may

recommend that the patient be taken for temporary treatment at the Mental Asylum.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I will have to get some more information on this matter before I address seriously my remarks to the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, the Minister of Social Services. I have heard that this is a very much easier system by which people can be sent to the Mental Asylum for medical treatment and it is likely that this system is being abused. I hope that is not true. I have heard rumours to the effect that nowadays it is much easier for a patient to be sent to the Mental Asylum. As the Hon. Minister has said, you do not have to be certified nowadays; a doctor just gives evidence on your condition and as a result they take people into that institution and give them treatment.

I know that the Act was amended to bring it more up to date and I hope it is more in the interest of the patient. I do know that it is more in the interest of the doctors because they are getting a fee for examination. I will just warn the Hon. Minister over the matter that there is an aspect of it which I have heard. I will try and make further investigations on the matter. Until then I will have to leave the matter.

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

Head XX — Education

Head XX—Education was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, Head XX deals with the Evening Institute and it is for the purpose of providing classes of instruction in seamanship. The sum of \$1,080 has been provided in the Current Estimates to cover instructors' fees. The question of commencing these classes has now become a matter of urgency and it is now estimated that an additional sum of \$780 will be needed to cover the cost of providing instructional equipment and the rent of a lecturer and workroom for these classes. In short, it is proposed that this money be spent on classes for seamanship whereby Barbadians will be in a better position to get boats. At this stage, I cannot say anything more for obvious reasons. I may say that the Harbour Master who seems to be very interested in this course of training for youngsters, is running it; and he has selected some instructors who will give lectures to these youngsters in all departments of seamanship. I think it is a very worthy cause and I am sure it will meet with the approval of members of this Committee.

I therefore beg to move that Head XX—stand part.

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

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, teaching youngsters seamanship is a very good idea, but I cannot see how this Item can come under the Evening Institute. I do not know if the Hon. Minister of Social Services can explain more fully how this course will be carried on. If not, all I can hope is that the selectees for this course of training will be given the opportunity of going out in the Government water crafts to get an idea of practical seamanship. To tell me that the Evening Institute is handling it is to suggest that these youngsters are being trained for landships. I do hope that the Hon. Minister of Social Services will be able to give me some further explanation on this matter.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, the explanation given is hardly likely to satisfy hon. members of this House, because hon. members know that there

is a long Waiting List of Seamen who have been to sea and who hold papers that cannot find work on ships that come to Barbados. Here it is: there are hundreds and hundreds of unemployed seamen holding papers, and we are aware that it is very difficult for such persons to get a ship. Is this course of training for those seamen? I think the Hon. Minister should have given us more information on this matter. Is this a method of training for youngsters, or is it a refresher to meet a refresher course for those seamen who have been ashore for so long that they have become rusty?

I would commend any scheme that would help to relieve unemployment, or which would assist any seaman or any body of workers, which we have in Barbados. Sir, that is the consensus of opinion of this entire Committee and I do feel that the Minister in charge should be able to give us more information than he has given us.

How do they propose to train these youngsters? I see where part of this money is needed for renting a room. Probably, it would have electricity and the necessary space for the several kinds of training that these youngsters would have to undergo. Will this course of training satisfy mariners when they come here to fill vacancies on board their ships? Or does the Hon. Minister propose to advertise abroad that in Barbados there exists approved training system for people in seamanship of which competent people and Steamship Companies can make use. All those are questions of which I would like to get an answer from the Hon. Minister in charge.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I said in my earlier remarks that for obvious reasons I could not say anything more. I do think that hon. members should trust the Minister. As a matter of fact, I cannot call names, but it is expected that certain lines of Steamships will require seamen; and Barbados is making an effort to meet their demands. The Harbour and Shipping Master has definite information along that line. I will just say that the Harbour and Shipping Master has received the approval of the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation to issue certificates of competency to those who have received instructions in this course of seamanship which will conform to the course of training which exists in England.

The lectures will be given at the Y.M.C.A. and experienced seamen in Barbados will train these youngsters.

I do hope that hon. members will not press for further information, because, as I have said before, hon. members should trust the Government.

Mr. TUDOR: It is surprising, Mr. Chairman, that the Hon. Minister who only after being pressed for information told us what he has just told us, wants us to trust him. Like other hon. members, after I read the Note in the Addendum I was no wiser than he appeared to be because he did read it too. I could not imagine that such an important matter was being treated in such a manner, because it did seem to me as it must have appeared to all hon. members, that this is a matter of training seamen; and there is only one way to do it and that is the right way.

3.55 p.m.

We should expect therefore to be told what the Scheme is. He did mention, it is true, in reading from his file that there is some arrangement whereby persons can be trained in seamanship here, but to what standards we do not know; and when they have reached a certain standard they will receive the certificate of competency from the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation. The Hon. Minister will forgive me if I do not take seriously the little

bait which he held dangling before us about the Steamship Company which is coming here to employ Barbadian Seamen which necessitates this training. He must be aware of the fact that hundreds of persons, who are accustomed to earning their living by going to sea, are walking the streets of Barbados, entering the Shipping Office of the Harbour Master — to say nothing of members of the House asking them to get work for them on ships which come and go. Therefore we cannot take seriously that as the result of this training this ship will take all the unemployed seamen. We should not be asked to swallow that. I have no doubt that this Government is in correspondence with the Minister of Civil Aviation and Transport; I have no doubt that the Ministry has written saying that it is willing to do this, that and the other, but the Ministry knows that, by no stretch of the imagination, can anybody in the West Indies with the training which we now have or can get, ever reach the standard required for certificates issued by the Board of Trade and the Ministry of Transport. That cannot be possible because we have not yet embarked on this training of seamen.

A more important matter is this; when the Estimates were introduced in March this year I do not propose that any honourable member question the amount apportioned to this Item. I see that there is an amount of \$29,840 in the Estimates and we are asked to look at the Appendix No. 2 in order to get the breakdown of the expenditure. Nowhere do I see any proposed measure of training in seamanship although it could perhaps be disguised under Commercial or Technical Courses. It occurs to me — and I am sure — that the Government quite possibly did not contemplate this method when the Estimates were introduced, at least not in any detail. If you ask the Evening Institute to undertake courses in seamanship obviously you cannot be very serious about what you are doing; because so far as most honourable members know, the equipment or text books for training people in seamanship are not present in any large quantities in this island. It is possible that courses in theoretical navigation can be held; but after a certain stage has been reached, you will have to transfer your trainees to training establishments or ships and instruct them in the higher branches of the particular study itself.

There is much more to this matter than mere navigation; therefore I do not know if the Government really understands what it is all about; and the very fact that they are so eager to rent a room and workshop shows that they cannot be as serious as they ought to be. I do not know much about what is involved in being taught seamanship but I do not think that I am at any disadvantage with the members of the Government. Their ignorance and mine is about the same but with this difference; if you tell me that you are holding classes in seamanship and I believe you, I know from what you say what you ought to be doing. From what the Minister has read out from what we have before us, I cannot treat it with the seriousness with which they want us to treat it.

This sum of money is a very small one; and if they buy instructional equipment and rent a room for the classes, I cannot see that much more will be left for the appointment of the instructors. If you cannot pay the instructors properly, you are not likely to get the best. On the other hand, if you are not going to pay them, you should at least have told us that they are going to do this work voluntarily. If you want \$780 to rent a room and buy equipment and pay instructors to carry out this course in

seamanship to meet the exacting requirements of a Ministry of Civil Aviation and Transport — and there is the same requirement of the Steamship Companies to absorb all the surplus labour — I think that they will have to aim much higher and do much more than that. But on general grounds, I would dispute whether the Evening Institute is a fit and proper medium for instruction to be given in this matter; and whether it should not be organised separately and on its own; and whether if you are going to do it properly, information should not be obtained from the Board of Trade and preparations made not only to train Barbadian seamen, but to do it on a reasonable basis. I do not know, but I am sure they will need very expensive equipment from skilled teachers; and they will also need training ships and other things. I am asking the Government to think over this matter and not be fooled or led away by anything which the Ministry of Transport has said; whether or not the object of providing these classes in seamanship is taken to be the training of people to work on ships which are coming here, it is a well known fact, — it is almost a scandal — that you have hundreds of seamen here who would be glad to go and cannot find work; unless it is that the Government has in mind the employment of those seamen to carry out the training of persons who would in the course of time become unemployed seamen. If it is found that they are not doing it in the right way, then, this is a waste of time. I do not think it would be fair for this Committee to allow the Minister to feel that all he has said, is the last word which could be said in this matter.

Before I sit, I must protest against the very frequent trick which the Government is now using on which the Minister of Social Services is particularly addicted. When the House asked for information and little information is given, the impression is always given that the House would desist from pressing Ministers; everything will be alright and more information will be given in the future. I do not subscribe to that. If the Ministers have anything to say to the House they should say it. To ask honourable members to trust the Executive is the last thing I would ask them to do; our experience of trusting the Executive is as bitter as the experience of the Executive is of mistrusting us.

4.05 p.m.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, my feelings on this matter are that it is a training scheme; and, naturally, members of the House will vote for it no matter what we say throughout. But I too would counsel the Ministers if they have anything to say on the matter just now, say it, but no member of the House should take a mean advantage of them. However, it is definitely a discourtesy to the members of the House not to give them the information which they ask for. No Minister who has been a member of this House before he was a Minister could say that he would take this and not be apprehensive about it. What is seamanship? Is seamanship teaching somebody to be a steward on a ship or teaching them to be an able-bodied seaman? Certainly, we have a lot of seamen unemployed and any ship that wants a dozen men or so can pick them from people with regular discharges, which of course are passports to the effect that these seamen have done work on board some ship or ships already. In other words, they have some experience of actual work on a ship. If this is some sort of teaching and is additional to aiding those very seamen in getting jobs, then it may be alright; but if this is a means of frustrating people, it is a serious matter. If this is a matter

of taking a man who has some sort of paper — probably called a certificate — and asking him to teach a dozen people so that in the end a dozen more people will be keeping him out of a job, that, to me, is taking advantage of his position. If you have something in mind you can take us into your confidence. When the Resolution is being introduced tell us that the seamen in Barbados who are seeking employment will get employment plus this training along the same lines. You have to do something to keep the people trained, I agree. They may not only get work in Barbados but they may go elsewhere and get their first job on a ship; therefore we have every reason to look carefully at this scheme. Otherwise they will certainly say to you well, you have trained as seamen and now there is nothing here for here for us to do.

Some Barbadian, a man long established on board a ship with a reputation for good work can easily take along a brother or cousin and the persons responsible for employing seamen will say to themselves: "Well, if he is so good I can give his brother or his cousin a chance. That has been a method of employing seamen in this island for years.

Do not ask men to train seamen for nothing; and by that I mean to train people and then give them a certificate and afterwards find no work for them. You have not got a teacher here, you are calling on the services of the very men in whose offices the men are picked. The Harbour Master is interested; and when he gets with the Captains he is going to say to him "there are about 500 seamen down there, but I have got 20 at the Y.M.C.A." Then the person responsible for picking these men will say: "I will give you a break; I will take those;" and of course he means those at the Y.M.C.A.

I certainly hope that it will turn out to be an excellent training scheme. Someone referred to the landship and I think it is the best thing to do. I hope that you are going to train them in keeping ships and not cooking; because nowadays you can learn that at the Housecraft Centre. When you talk about seamanship what do you mean? If you train them now to go out on a sailing vessel how will they shape on a steamer? It may be that later on you will have to buy a steamer. It may be a very nice scheme having someone at the head of it with the imposing title of Harbour and Shipping Master and so on; but be careful that you do not create a situation in Barbados in which you place many people in an unfortunate position.

4.15 p.m.

Hon M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I just rise to say that the honourable junior member for the City has misinterpreted the remarks made by the Hon. Minister of Social Services relative to the statement about revealing information. It is not a question of the Minister not revealing this information to honourable members, but more or less a question of not revealing the information to the public; because every honourable member of this Committee is entitled to know as much about the business of this country as the Ministers.

As I have already said — and I agree with the Hon. Minister of Social Services, — we cannot at all times reveal certain information to the public because it might have an adverse effect on what might happen in the future. The training, Mr. Chairman, as the Hon. Minister pointed out, is to have certificated ratings. As far as I believe they are some Steamship Companies who have promised to lend some boats to carry out this training outside of the Harbour; and this course will be conducted

by some retired seamen who are in this island and who are knowledgeable so far as that type of instruction is concerned.

I would like to assure the Committee that it is not our intention to hide anything from the Committee; but we certainly do not want to make this business public because it might not turn out to the good of our seamen in the future.

Mr. LEWIS: Permit me to say, Mr. Chairman, that the Hon. Minister has not answered what I have heard and have told this House. He has told us something differently. I asked the Hon. Minister if in introducing this item he could not have told us afterwards. I refer to people helping us with ships, getting their co-operation and the good prospects for the future. I would like to know what honourable member would criticise the Hon. Minister for that. It is only after he said that we had misinterpreted what the Hon. Minister of Social Services said that he gave the information that we are going to get some training ships.

I only hope that they have got good advice on this matter and that it does not aggravate the unfortunate position which prevails. With that, I wish Government every success with this scheme.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, with all that has been said, it still seems to me very confused and foolish. If, as the Hon. Minister of Communications has said, certain steamship companies are going to lend us ships or boats to train these youngsters, why then are we going to pay rent for a workshop and extra room? Personally, I think if we are training youngsters in seamanship, the sooner we get them to the water, it will be better than taking them to the Y.M.C.A. to listen to a couple of lectures and possibly for them to play table tennis. I cannot see why Government should rent a workshop and lecture room from the Y.M.C.A. when it has a building which is called the Evening Institute; and along with that it has so many school buildings available around the City. The Y.M.C.A. is an institution which we subsidise annually. It cost us about \$1,800 annually. If it is felt that these youngsters should be trained in seamanship—although I do not hold that view, — I see no reason why they should be trained in seamanship on land. Is it necessary to rent a room from the Y.M.C.A. for the purpose when on the pierhead Government has watercraft with seamen employed on them? Certainly, if you want to train those youngsters, all that you will have to do is to select one or two seamen that are now employed by Government on those watercraft to put them through that course of training. It is more practicable and beneficial for those youngsters to be associated with the "Lord Combermere" and the "Lord Willoughby" in their course of training than to be trained at the Y.M.C.A. They might even be able to use equipment from the Harbour Police Department when they are trained on those watercraft. That would be a better means of practical training for such youngsters unless they are being trained to be Admirals and Commanders. I do not know if it is that such persons are wanted now we are about to have a Navy for the proposed Federated West Indies. That will be the only way you would need to have a Lecture Room. It is not going to work well; and I am wondering if we are not confused owing to the lack of proper information. It is well known that we always have to wait until Mr. Turner introduces something in the Other Place to get full details of the policy of Government. I do not know the reason why every little foolish scheme that some official puts up to Government upsets them.

Everybody knows that youngsters who want to become seamen can benefit much from going to the Y.M.C.A. and listening to a lecture on seamanship or for somebody to tell them how to splice a bit of rope. It is not practical at all. There are other means that can be adopted. With all that you may do in that direction, the youngster cannot have that qualification which would bring him a job when selections are being made at the Harbour and Shipping Master's Office. You are not selected nowadays as a seaman unless you have seamanship papers. I cannot see how the Government is going to get these youngsters employment on boats that come here unless some special provision will be given to Government whereby these youngsters would be given priority.

I do not know if there is means for further enlightenment on this whole scheme. The Hon. Minister of Social Services has said that for obvious reasons he cannot explain the position fully. It is not a movement of the British Navy which the Admiralty would have to keep secret; therefore I cannot see the reason why he cannot give further explanation. It is just only a question of training a couple of youngsters for seamanship and I see nothing secretive in that at all. If some other West Indian Colony other than Barbados is going to adopt a scheme such as this to train youngsters for seamanship, I do not think that what we say here would help that country much because that country must have got some avenue of hearing about this matter just as we have heard.

Whenever Government brings something like this, the Government tries to impress hon. members that they must not question it; that they should not say anything too much for fear of losing on it; but a week hence you will get full details about the scheme from the Other Place. It is time that we be taken more in the confidence of the Government and that members of the Government tell us clearly what the position is in matters such as this.

4.25 p.m.
Certainly, as this is presented, one cannot feel that there would be anything beneficial whatsoever unless the few lecturers supplement their income by giving an hour or two in the afternoon and talking to youngsters. I do not know how many evenings they will spend but when they leave the Y.M.C.A., their qualifications will not be sufficient to cause them to be selected when the selection of seamen is being done, and there is a waste of money. The Harbour Master might have his reasons for this suggestion, but we are here to decide how far it will benefit Barbados and if we will get benefits compatible with the number of dollars we are going to spend. I say I wish there were thousands more being trained; this method is not sufficiently impressive.

Mr. LEWIS: I was not in the House at the time, but a few meetings ago, some hon. member was pressing that West Indians should be included in the British Army and the Royal Navy. I do not know how old this scheme is, but I hope that it is not a sop that causes the hon. member to have the temerity to make that statement.

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

Head XXIX Miscellaneous

Head XXIX — was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This Item, Coronation Expenses, is what the hon. junior mem-

ber for St. Andrew wants to deal with. It will be seen that in connection with this Item the sum of \$75,000 is voted in the 1953-54 Estimates. At the end of the Financial Year the sum of \$4,453 remain unspent. Bills have recently come in; the Note to this Item says this: "The details of the cost of the movement of the Colonial Coronation Contingent by chartered aircraft have now been received from the War Office and the amount due from Barbados is \$3,713.52."

Of the original sum which was voted, the sum of \$4,453 remained unspent and this Bill has now come for \$3,713.52. A revote of \$3,714, being part of the unexpended balance already mentioned, is now required. I beg to move that Head XXIX stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. GODDARD: It is a long time ago since the Coronation took place. This is what we read in the note to this item:

"The details of the cost of the movement of the Colonial Coronation Contingent by chartered aircraft have now been received from the War Office". I do not remember that any chartered plane was used and certainly no such plane came here. If the Hon. Minister has the details, that is all the information we would press for.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The honourable junior member for St. Andrew can speak while I look up the file.

Mr. HAYNES: I am pretty well on the same line as the honourable junior member for Christ Church; I want to know where all these chartered planes were working. Did they take the delegates to the various capitals in Europe or what? Probably all the entertainment took place over there. It is strange to see that we have been sent a bill after it was said that they would entertain our delegates there. That is all the information I would like to have.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The figures I have here relate to all the West Indian islands. There is the cost of conveying Colonial Coronation Contingents between Jamaica and the United Kingdom by chartered aircraft; there are details as to the Bahamas, British Guiana and the Leeward Islands; and the number travelling from Barbados was four. The total expenditure was £773, 13s. That is all the information I have.

Mr. GODDARD: I thank the Hon. Minister for the reply. This Item relates to something which took place a long time ago, and I thought there might have been some tour to Europe.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, what I am interested in is this; how is it that a chartered aircraft managed to keep this Bill outstanding for such a long time. If you charter an aircraft you know for what you are chartering it for a long time. [Hon. R. G. MAPP: It is the War Office.] Well, tell them that they will have to pay the Bill in future, and let us refuse to pay it because this is all nonsense. This is no question of any revote; two sets of estimates have been passed. Today this is the only supplementary estimate in connection with the Coronation Expenses. It appears to me that this is again one of those cases in which they must have known that they had this Bill outstanding and they did not include anything for it. I hope that nobody has told his friend that we have \$4,000 remaining and that he could make the bill as near as possible to that.

4.35 p.m.

This is another case in which at the making up of the Estimates (1954-55) you did not put it in—at least you should have put it in the 1955-56 Estimates. I hope the Hon. Minister realises that two sets of Estimates are now dead. That concerns these Estimates. You have already had the 1953-54 and 1954-55 Estimates and those are now finished. You are on the third set of Estimates and during the 1953-54 and 1954-55 you said nothing at all about the matter. The Company is charging so much for the Aircraft and you know how many people were leaving to go to the Coronation. Let whoever did not send in their Bill early enough, pay for their negligence. That is the way we should deal with those people; because I am sure they do not deal with their own business in that way. You have chartered a plane in 1953 and you now wait all that time to get that money paid. Imagine \$923 to take a man from Jamaica. You should make them to understand that you cannot put that before the Legislature now; it makes it too absurd.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the matter becomes even more absurd when you reflect on the Resolution for the Coronation expenses. Of the total amount of \$75,000, at least \$50,000 went to the contingencies therefore the unforeseen expenditure was likely to be larger than was provided for. It is a very strange thing that after two years we have not heard what the unforeseen expenditure was, and therefore the amount of the contingencies, and now we are told that it had all been forgotten. I hope that the Hon. Minister will get wise to that practice because it makes it very difficult for us to keep track of public expenditure. It is not the sort of thing to be encouraged.

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

Head XXXI Labour

Head XXXI — was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the next is Head XXXI—Labour, Item 23 (New) Welfare—Liaison Service for Barbadian Emigrants in the United Kingdom. Some time ago it was thought that we might have a West Indian Liaison Office; but up to now that has not materialised; and Barbados has gone ahead with plans for the establishment of their own liaison service.

As hon. members know the Labour Commissioner is now in the United Kingdom. He has been serving as a kind of Liaison Officer for some time and I think hon. members can agree with me that he has been doing a very good service in this capacity. He had been mainly responsible for the hotel and other workers who were going up to the United Kingdom. It is the wish of the Government that he should remain in the United Kingdom. He is more or less pinned down to one place because he has not got a staff. He would like to go further afield to explore the possibilities of further recruitment of Barbadian Labour, and so it has been agreed to give him an additional staff comprising of an Assistant Liaison Officer and a Stenotypist. According to Note 6 of the Supplementary Estimate:

It is proposed that the staff for the interim service should consist of one Liaison Officer, one Assistant Liaison Officer and a Stenographer-Typist.

The functions of the interim organisation would include the provision of advice and assistance to, and liaison with, Government organisations, trade unions, welfare organisations, etc., on the employ-

ment and settlement of Barbadians in the United Kingdom; the supply of information on the employment situation, etc., in the United Kingdom to this Government; the settlement of Barbadian workers in suitable employment; advice and assistance to them in matters of accommodation etc., and personal problems; and public relations work.

The service will therefore be expanded. He will have an opportunity to do more as he will not be tied down to one spot; and those assistants, namely, the Assistant Liaison Officer and the Stenotypist it is estimated will cost us \$11,740. The figures are all there and can be examined. They are made up as follows.

	\$ (B.W.I.)
Capital expenditure (non-recurrent) including cost of office furniture and equipment:	2,640
Running expenses at rate of \$1,820 per month (5 months, November 1955 to March 1956) including salaries:	9,100
.....	11,740

I beg to move that Head XXXI — stand part.

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

Mr. Chairman, in seconding the motion I should like to fill in a little more of the background and history to this scheme. Hon. members will be aware that at present the only liaison and Welfare service for West Indian Emigrants to the U.K. is provided by the Jamaica Government by Mr. De Souza who is a Jamaican acting as Liaison Officer. That service is a branch of the Colonial Office; but Mr. De Souza is paid by the Jamaica Government. Administratively he works under an officer in the Colonial Office.

Some time in December, 1954 the Colonial Office (and I think I am correct in saying this) under the advice of Mr. De Souza, who felt strongly that the West Indies should have a Welfare Department, wrote the various Governments proposing the establishment of a West Indian regional welfare service. It was proposed to them to set up a service with the following functions:

(i) "To advise trade unions, the Ministry of Labour, The National Assistance Board, Local Authorities etc., and to represent the West Indian workers' interests in difficulties with employees as well as employers. The Jamaican Welfare Officer is doing all he can to advise about social and other problems.

(ii) Liaison with voluntary organisations and with the committees which have been formed in many areas to help workers.

(iii) To attend to personal problems of workers and to put them in touch with official and voluntary and other agencies that can help them; advise about accommodation, family questions, repatriation, savings and personal difficulties.

(iv) To help workers to avail themselves of educational facilities such as evening classes.

(v) To deal with "public relations"; the Press, the B.B.C., Mr. De Souza's advice has done much to correct wrong impressions in the public mind about the emigrants.

(vi) To keep the Caribbean Governments informed about the situation in the United Kingdom in regard to employment etc., and to give them guidance and information on all matters concerning emigrants."

It might be said that any colonial in the United Kingdom who is employed there should, like any

other worker, come within the fold of the various services provided by the British Government to look after the welfare of its people, whether it be the social services or the Ministry of Labour or others, in so far as the West Indian is concerned, the suggestion made here is of great merit, and for various reasons.

4.45 p.m.

There is no doubt that when migration first started sometime last year, when the flow of West Indian workers increased to the United Kingdom we were up against difficulties which did not confront migrants from other countries which for a long time previously had migratory movements to the United Kingdom. Those special difficulties, to my mind, made it necessary for us to employ special measures and a service such as this in order to meet and overcome them and that was one of the problems into which we enquired. I refer to the Labour Commissioner and myself when we visited Jamaica and discussed it with the Jamaica Government and the Chief Minister of the Jamaica Government, Mr. Manley.

Since then, we have been in communication with the Jamaica Government on this point of having a West Indian organisation rather than having two separate branches. One of the reasons why we were thinking of a West Indian organisation, and I think this Committee would appreciate our reason, is that abroad, in big countries—whether it is the United Kingdom or America—people from the West Indies, whether they be Jamaican, Trinidadian or Barbadian, are looked on as West Indians. If a Barbadian is working in some plant and you ask the foreman for him, the poor foreman would be non-plussed. It is true to say that Jamaicans are in the majority and as a result, the people there sometimes regard all West Indians as Jamaicans, but in general all are West Indians.

As a result, we felt that a West Indian service would be better and cheaper than a separate Barbadian service, but the Jamaican Government felt that they should enquire more closely into the sociological problems which the movement of their workers had thrown up, and had solicited the services of Professor Senior (assisted by Mr. Douglas Manley) who went over to Britain and enquired into that aspect of that problem. In the meantime they replied to me saying, that in view of the fact that they wanted this survey, they did not think that they should discuss at the moment the setting up of this Liaison service, and that we should wait until Professor Senior's Report had been handed in. That Report has been handed recently and the Jamaican Government is discussing it.

Sir, I feel, now that the rate of migration from Barbados has increased to such an extent, and in view of the good service which our Labour Commissioner is doing at present in the United Kingdom as Liaison Officer, we can go right ahead and set up an interim liaison service, and if in the process of time Jamaica and other West Indian colonies agree to have a West Indian service, we can have a merger and be integrated into a larger West Indian service. At present, I feel this is absolutely necessary for the cause of migration for Barbados, and also in view of the fact that we are going about things quite differently from Jamaica in that we are placing people directly in jobs and easing them of certain difficulties. I feel that we should go ahead with the establishment of this interim service on our own immediately and get this Liaison Officer who would be able to go about the country and look for jobs for Barbadians as well as to enquire into their working conditions.

As the Leader of the House stated in introducing this Resolution, we do not want the Liaison

Officer to be tied to an office dealing with innumerable problems coming to him; therefore we propose that he should be given an Assistant to look after administrative and welfare duties. In so doing, the Chief Liaison Officer will be able to contact employers of labour and to do things of that sort.

I think I have given the Committee most of the information it may need but I will be only too pleased to give any more information should honourable members ask for it.

Actually the capital expenditure is small and that is simply because we are getting the office space from the Crown Agents free of charge. [VOICES: Hear! Hear!] So we have saved office rent. The Capital Expenditure is to provide office furniture and equipment such as desks, chairs and so on, but the bulk of this vote as can be seen from the Note is for recurrent expenditure. The Liaison Officer will receive a salary of £1,300 per annum. [A VOICE: Who is he?] When he is appointed you will know.

The salary is in keeping with that of the Labour Commissioner. You will also bear in mind that that officer will have to live in London; and will have to travel all over the country, therefore, I think it is very reasonable if he be given an entertainment allowance as well. The Chief Liaison Officer will also have to do a lot of travelling in order to seek jobs: he will, as I have said, have to live in London, and will have to meet emigrants when they arrive. He will also have to go to the various hotels, hospitals and factories. As I have said, it is a big job, and it is going to entail considerable expense in travelling. It is proposed that he should be given a representation allowance of £500 per annum.

It is proposed that there should be a maintenance relief for necessitous cases. You do get emigrants in London who may lose their job and who may want for example warm clothing, and for that we are provided £100. The salary of the Assistant Liaison Officer will be £950 per annum, and there is proposed that there should be a Stenotypist at the rate of £500 per annum. The total annual expenditure is put at £4,600.

I beg to second the passing of Head XXI. ?

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few remarks on this Item. I understand that there is really a great need for assistance for people from this colony arriving in England *en masse* as they do, and searching not only for somewhere to live but somewhere to work. I have been made to understand that a mean advantage is taken of them is they are unprotected and certainly, by people who should not interfere with them at all, because some such persons are their own West Indian colleagues.

4.55 p.m.

Sir, I am at a loss to understand why the negotiations for something on a regional basis have broken down. The nucleus was already formed by the Jamaica Government. I was wondering whether it is the very best thing to have our Labour Commissioner virtually as the first liaison officer. I would prefer to see a "go ahead" Barbadian or West Indian in that capacity [*Cheers*] because you cannot put your finger on things and it is known that they are English people who resent the intrusion of these West Indian workers in England irrespective of whether there is employment for them or not, and whether or not they will be of great benefit to the country as a result. I think we have people in the Labour Department trained in this type of work already, probably in a more difficult sphere of operations; that is, in the United States of America; and if some of these people are available I feel that they should be seconded. It would be well worth the expenditure if, in addition to the Trade Commissioner, we had somebody in his office who would be willing

to do further work along side of him. I want to avoid any suspicion in this matter and therefore I am appealing to the Government to get the Labour Commissioner out of this matter as quickly as possible.

I admire the method of the introduction of this Item to this Committee. I have recommended it already and if it had been followed, a lot of talk might have been avoided. The Minister of Social Services can introduce an item and the Minister under whose portfolio it falls can second the motion and give the facts in connection with the Item.

It is quite understandable that in going from the West Indies to England you might not like the food which is served or the manner in which it is cooked. The food which you may want may not be good for you, but you may have a taste for it. I understand that great hardship is experienced by the workers in having their appetite satisfied as regards both the quantity and the quality of the food supplied; that is, when they actually get work whether in the hotels or elsewhere. However, that is a matter which can be dealt with discreetly by the Liaison Officer; and I suggest to the Hon. Minister of Labour to give that matter a little consideration. It might help a great deal in understanding on either side or on both sides to make some adjustments. I suggest that a real "go ahead" Barbadian or West Indian might do more in this job than an Englishman; and if he fails, you may not be able to bring any charge against him. We may have an excellent Labour Commissioner and so on; but if in placing our own people we do not do as much as the Jamaicans or Trinidadians, we will throw all the blame on having the wrong man whereas the man might be doing his best. Therefore for psychological reasons I am suggesting to the Government to try and find somebody else quickly to take over from the Labour Commissioner.

I am wondering whether in this Emigration Scheme that we are now setting up this service, we could not in some way arrange with the employers in Canada and the United Kingdom to assist us in making it easy for these people to pay back anything which they might have borrowed from the Government. Has the Government tried that out? I know that they are asking people to sign bonds for money which they lend them to go to Canada or the United States of America. I do not think that that was the system worked when people were going to the United States of America; at least the Americans were good enough to pay for some of the workers. In respect of the United Kingdom, if the employers get people and find that they are useful, these employers should pay back to this Government some of the money which was paid in passages in order to get these people up there. Let us shame them into doing that, if they will not do it otherwise.

I want to hear if we cannot work that same method as in the case of workers going to the United States of America. What is the use of leaving it to somebody to pay back \$10 a month or so and if he does not pay then you must pay? You have a system whereby people have to send back money to their dependents and there is no reason why the same should not be done in this case. Of course, it will be said that the Government is not sponsoring this system, but they will soon find that they are sponsoring it. It will be a help to the workers if you arrange to get back some of the money through one of the Banks.

Mr. ALLDER: I must compliment the Government on bringing about a scheme such as this although there are a few things which I dislike. You have started off well enough by making the liaison service for Barbados separate and distinct from that of Jamaica or any other West Indian colony. This is

extremely complimentary in view of the fact that in the mixed service which now goes on as regards the American Scheme you have Jamaicans dominating the situation. Most of the good opportunities go to Jamaica because the liaison service is bossed by the Jamaicans: nothing has been done in this respect by the Mother Country. I prefer to see a separate and distinct department set up by us manned by Barbadians who are sympathetic towards such people and who would be efficient in their employment, but not necessarily the person who is up there, namely the Labour Commissioner.

5.05 p.m.

I cannot see why some other individual from the same department could not be selected; somebody who knows the people and who will listen to their problems. We know how some officials can be. We know that some officials cannot be approached by ordinary individuals. He is not going to take that time that is necessary to listen to them. That is why you have to be very careful in selecting the person who is going to work as the Liaison Officer in England. I must repeat that, regardless of whether the other colonies in the West Indies want a regional service, I prefer that we keep ourselves separate and distinct from the others. I prefer that the Government bear the whole cost instead of amalgamating with the other colonies. We have had the experience with the MacDougall case. He was the Officer who saw to it that the Jamaicans were always given preference; and according to reports, Barbadians never found their Officer or any officer at all. Let us be in a position to inform the emigrants as to where this office is going to be and what to do in case of difficulty; in short, how to see that their cases are taken up and handled promptly.

Another point is this: the Liaison Officer should be a person whom you know to be a social worker. As a matter of fact, we have an energetic social worker now in England in the person of Mr. Clyde Gollop, one who can sympathise with ordinary people. A man like him could be appointed or any other officer in the existing Labour Department whom we know would give the people a hearing. Furthermore, in as much as you have no supervisor in England over your Liaison Officer, one does not know if he would do his work as sympathetically in England as he would have to do here in Barbados due to our presence and constant surveillance over such matters. That is a very important aspect of the matter. You may get an officer going up there and lording it over the workers with nobody to report him if and when the people cannot get the service for which we are paying; in which case your service would have become of little or no effect. In short, it will have broken down.

I do not sympathise with the idea of staffing our Liaison Office with persons other than Barbadians. We have some brilliant young ladies here who would be willing to go up and I believe we have some brilliant ones who are already up there. It is also a matter of trying to help our surplus population, which is a point that should always be borne in mind. I prefer to know that the Liaison Office is staffed by Barbadians and that especially the head of the staff be a Barbadian; not a person whose only claim is that he has been working here for a few years, but a bred and born Barbadian sympathetically inclined towards the people.

Mr. Chairman, it is suggested that at this stage I move that you do now report progress with leave to sit again.

Mr. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, I take it that honourable members on the other side of the Table have finished their speeches and we could now have the question put.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I have already tried to explain that they are two other members who would like to speak.

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, 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 adjourned for half an hour.
5.15 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY RESUMED

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

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

Liaison Service in United Kingdom

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is—

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the Committee listened with very great interest to the speech of the Hon. Minister of Labour, principally, because it was the first time for a long time since we have heard him with such substance, especially since his famous report after his visit to the United Kingdom with the Labour Commissioner. It is true to say that he did not promise us more information in the course of time and his long silence might probably be due to the fact that he was selecting it and only now is he so near to the bursting point that he must give this information.

I can never speak on this subject of emigration without running the risk of raking up dead or dying embers, and every time we reach one further stage, I am almost tempted to express my regret that it has taken so long to reach that stage. I well remember even before the Hon. Minister left for the United Kingdom he was pressed in this House to see after the setting up of a liaison service to look after the interest of Barbadian workers who were migrating to the United Kingdom in large numbers. We have at last reached the stage that Government considers it practicable and necessary to establish this liaison service for Barbadians in the United Kingdom. That is all to the good and I welcome it.

Where there happens to be a serious divergence of opinion between Government and myself is upon what I have just heard from the Hon. Minister of Labour when he mentioned that Government proposes to use the services of Mr. Pickwood in a temporary capacity as Liaison Officer until the wider service is established. That I think, Mr. Chairman, is a grave psychological error. Now I wish to say at this point that Mr. Pickwood's work as Labour Commissioner of this island is not at all under dispute, nor can it enter the question under discussion, except by way of comment on the fact that if we are going to keep him there for a few months longer as the Hon. Minister has said, it appears to me that we can dispense with his services here. That seems to me a very peculiar aspect of the matter, and I hope that the Minister will say something to allay our

fears. So far as I can see, it has not been told to us that we can dispense with the services of the Labour Commissioner here. It can be argued that the Assistant Labour Commissioner is fulfilling his duties so admirably that we do not at all miss the services of the Labour Commissioner. That, I think, is true, and I myself on many occasions have seen at close range Mr. Jack's work, and have collaborated with him; and it is my opinion that any such quarrels as may arise would arise from the fact that he has to interpret all orders given to him in accordance with the view of the Labour Commissioner and does not act on his own responsibility.

I am asking Government to look at this matter in this way. I am asking Government to put aside all thoughts of whether Mr. Pickwood is a serviceable and efficient officer or not. I am asking Government just to take into account the fact that it is Barbadian people with whom you are dealing now in the United Kingdom and they are migrating there in increasingly large numbers in search of work. Thinking of the matter in that line, is it the best thing for Government to put as Liaison Officer a person whose connection with Barbadians and with the island or their birth is more due to the fact that he is employed by the Barbados Government as a Labour Commissioner? Are you asking Barbadians to feel satisfied in a strange country with an environment to which they have got to adjust themselves when you confront them with a native of that country in a responsible position over them? Are you prepared to argue beyond all shadow of doubt and beyond all controversy that Mr. Pickwood, an Englishman, is the most fit and proper person to work as a Liaison Officer for Barbadian workers? Are you going to say that in the whole range of persons whom you have as Civil Servants he alone can be picked? I do not think that you can argue that. I do not think the choice of him is an obvious one.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, on a point of Order, I do not know what the honourable member is trying to argue or infer. No one on this side of the table has said that an appointment is made as Liaison Officer, because, as far as I know, we have not appointed anyone to the post. If the honourable member is assuming that Mr. Pickwood is appointed Liaison Officer, that is a different thing altogether. We certainly have not said that.
5.55 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: I have understood from the Hon. Minister of Health and of Labour clearly that what I have said is the gist of what they want Mr. Pickwood to do and I am warning the Government that what they think might only be a temporary measure may blossom into a real thing.

If, Mr. Chairman, that officer is on leave, particularly in the country of his birth, there is nothing quite wrong with the Government using his services if he is willing so to be used in the interest of a matter with which he is closely connected in his work. There is nothing wrong in Mr. Pickwood being used; it appears that he is being asked to undertake certain duties. As I see it, he is being placed, no matter for how short a time, in a position of responsibility from which it would be very difficult to remove him, because he may so have acquired the knowledge and the know-how of the job as to take over the post before a new person can take over from him; and the Government might want him to stay there because he knows more than anybody else. Therefore I am disputing the point of having him there at all even on a temporary basis. It is all right to ask the Labour Commissioner while he is in England to investigate the possibilities of em-

ployment for Barbadians. If he has just left a country where the unemployment situation is so grave, it should be a matter of personal interest to him to see what opportunities there are to relieve the unemployment which he has left in Barbados; he should not even be asked to do that, he should do it on his own.

The Hon. Minister has said that the Labour Commissioner has been very useful in these contacts which he has been making with employers, in the visits he has paid to respective employers and the opportunities which he has gained for schemes of employment to be put into operation. While, of course, there are the facts, and it is known how valuable this officer is, only a mere fraction of what he has allegedly done has seeped through for public information. Apparently they have said much less about what he has actually achieved, if they know, because they have the facts and they have not disclosed very much to us. One case I remember reading about is his visit to a firm of contractors in the Midlands. These people are contractors of the Air Ministry and most of their work is in the construction of mortar and stone. Therefore they are people who employ a large number of masons every year, not only on their own work but also on work which they do for the Air Ministry. I noticed as published in the Press that as a result of a visit paid to that firm by Mr. Pickwood it has been decided to send what is known as a pilot party of workmen to this firm with the understanding that if these six workmen please that firm, they would be recommended for other firms throughout the building trade. There are: one carpenter, one mason, one painter and three labourers. Without in any way belittling Mr. Pickwood's efforts, I should just like to point out to the Government that if the Labour Commissioner has just left Barbados where, according to the statistics of his own Labour Department, so many hundreds of masons and carpenters are unemployed whose skill and aptitude is certainly known, it seems peculiar to me that the limit of his achievement should be a pilot party of six persons including one carpenter and one mason. Judging by that range the extent of his activity has not been very wide. If Mr. Pickwood does not bestir himself with something more spectacular and definite and does not act with greater awareness of the present unemployment here, the Government itself will not even get the best out of the money which it proposes to spend even for the short time during which it proposes to use him in a liaison capacity.

The point may seem to be one of insuperable difficulty to the members of the Government, but to other people it is a simple one. If Barbadians are now in the United Kingdom in such large numbers and if larger numbers of them are still going, the Government of Barbados has not got to wait to see what other West Indian Governments will do. The situation is urgent and present to them; therefore with the approach to anything which should be done on a regional scale, the Government of Barbados has a solemn duty laid on it of setting up its own liaison service as quickly as possible and see that the service is staffed from top to bottom by Barbadians.

I wish to sound a general warning on this point. If you decide in the future to appoint a full time liaison officer do not fall into the mistaken idea that because the person will be working in England, an Englishman is necessarily the best person.
6.05 p.m.

Do not believe that you have met all the requirements of your conscience by making his assistant a West Indian. You do not do it that way. The first im-

pression which you should try to create in the United Kingdom is that the people looking after the interest of Barbadians in England are themselves Barbadians. If you set up a Liaison Service in the United Kingdom how ridiculous it would appear when you go to that office and you see instead of Barbadians as you would expect to see looking after their own, Englishmen appointed to that office merely because it was thought by some as right and proper so to do.

You have here a Labour Department which is staffed by competent and intelligent persons. Even now you have waited almost too late to set up your Liaison Office. But you are not too late to start thinking along the right lines for the future, and you should see to that in every organisation which you propose to set up to look after the interest of Barbadian workers that Barbadians like themselves who know their troubles and problems will be the people to do the job on their behalf. Now, passing from that, Mr. Chairman, there are two other aspects of this emigration problem which are met. Again, I must bring it to the notice of the Government that quite a lot of unnecessary hardships are being met by persons who wish to leave the island to go to the United Kingdom in search of work. Again and again I must bring to their notice for the *nth* time, that the whole passport situation is getting out of hand and is working intolerable in convenience on law-abiding citizens. No subject of the Queen should be denied a passport form to fill out as long as he goes in a suitable and decent manner. The people in the Emigration Department should be able to use their discretion to see who is coming in to get a passport form for frivolous reasons; and by that I mean people who go to that department for forms to fill in having no particular need of them. They ought not to put a hindrance in their way by asking them to purchase their ticket before hand without giving them what is their right to have. You may argue, if you like, that the printing and getting together of a passport costs money and therefore you want to see when they are delivered to persons who will put them to good use. However, the police should have no authority whatever to deny people passports so long as these persons are entitled to them, and no impossible conditions ought to be placed upon them to prevent them from getting passports.

The next point is on the question of loans and how they are to be repaid. The hon. junior member for the City has laid great stress on the question of repayment and I wish to emphasise what he has said. A lot of people in this island get the impression from the way in which the loans are made to them that the Government distrusts them and that it is intentionally making it difficult for them to borrow money and is hedging it around with unnecessary restrictions. I am entirely in favour of arrangements being made in respect of loans because money advanced out of the Public Treasury is the taxpayers' money and as such ought to be safe-guarded. I agree that there must be certain necessary legal safe-guards; but I have had the experience of people being told emphatically in words to this effect: "Now you must remember to send back ten dollars a month without fail to this office. You must remember to send back fifteen dollars a month or else something may happen."

Now, Mr. Chairman, that, to me, is completely unnecessary. If the persons are going to work (and you know they are going to work because you do not lend them the money until they bring evidence) it is quite easy to take up the matter with the employers and ask them to deduct whatever the remittance

must be and make all arrangements for it to be posted back to the Government of Barbados in the name and to the credit of the persons borrowing the money. People, therefore, ought not to be put to the inconvenience of having to post money back weekly or fortnightly or monthly, when a much more efficient method is available to them. It has worked well in the case of labourers going to the United States, and there is no reason why it should not work equally well in other instances.

One other aspect of the matter is this: it is so seldom that we get the Hon. Minister of Trade in a serious frame of mind that, perhaps, he would not take it too much as a compliment if we asked him, in the course of his summing up, to tell the House something of the conditions of emigration to Canada. We have read in the Press about a certain number of nurses selected, and the possibility of their being more; but the situation is not completely clear, and many of us are being asked by our constituents whether we have anything to tell them with respect to the Canadian Emigration. That is a point which I cannot refrain today from reminding the House. Sometime ago the Hon. Minister had told us that emigration prospects to Canada were not so bright in view of the colour bar and for other reasons. I hope that things have changed so much today that the Government would be willing to take advantage of the change. I also remember that after he had said that, the Jamaican Minister of Trade and Labour —

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, on a point of Order, what has this matter to do with Canada? 6.15 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: This is a money Resolution.

Mr. TUDOR: It is quite relevant, because it is a money Resolution which we are discussing. It is something dealing with labour, therefore, it is under the portfolio of the Minister of Labour. As I have said, Mr. Chairman, I hope that in the changed circumstances more and greater efforts will be made about prospective emigration to Canada so that in the future, we will have the pleasure of seeing larger numbers of Barbadians going to that country, and having better prospects.

It is stated in the Addendum that this service would be established on a temporary basis, pending establishment of a proposed B.W.I. regional service. This is important enough for the Minister, by now at any rate, to have it in mind what Government proposes with respect to the liaison service. I cannot think that they want simply to enter into it in a few months without having their policy known beforehand. I therefore was astonished to see that when the Minister spoke about this matter, he did not speak about what shape or form the proposed liaison service would take, nor did he enlighten us as to whether any preliminary discussions were held with other West Indian Governments about it.

I want to say this before I sit. We on this side of the Table have been pressing this matter of emigration to the United Kingdom on the Government for some time, and it is sad to have to record that in this matter of helping people to get to the United Kingdom the Government has always lagged behind the public in its thinking, and behind the thinking of members of this House. Everything that the Government is doing now, they have been urged to do. We have had to create a terrific fuss and a lot of noise to get the Government to consider what it is doing now. I would like to keep the records straight, because I do not want them to take the credit for what they are doing. I am glad that they have reached this stage of having somebody to look

after the interest of the Barbadians in the United Kingdom. Some of us on this side of the House have talked about it and thought about it some six months ago. Members of the Government resisted it as they resisted almost everything else, and they have now got around to it. It took them six months to accept every idea put forward by other people and that is a sad commentary on them, and one cannot help feeling that sometime after the next general election when they are no longer in power they will be seeking to implement all the things which we are urging upon them.

Mr. GODDARD: It is now three years since Barbadians of both sexes have been emigrating in increasing numbers to the United Kingdom. To date, there are some thousands of Barbadians in employment in England, and we have now got around to the establishment of this liaison department of Social Welfare for our people in England. It is commendable and it is something which the House has asked for before; so now that it is being established on a temporary basis, I readily agree with it.

However, I cannot agree with some of the other members who have spoken before me when they said that Mr. Pickwood who is opening up this service is not a suitable type for Liaison Officer. I would agree with their suggestion if he were permanently appointed in that job; as a matter of fact, I would be the first who would register protest; because I think it should be felt that a Barbadian should know the likes and dislikes of Barbadians better than anybody else, and that must be very important in a place like England where things are different from their home and I accept Government's view that it is better to get on with the job now and in doing so they have in initiating the Labour Commissioner as the first person to carry out the service: someone on the spot, someone who went on the mission with the Minister of Labour a couple of months ago and in that respect he must have gained sufficient experience to know what is required of him in England for those people; and he should know by his association with people in Barbados through his office as Labour Commissioner something of the Barbadian temperament. Added to that, Barbados is not the only West Indian island in which he has worked. He came here from British Guiana where he was Labour Commissioner, so that is a lot to be said on his behalf.

I think quite a number of good suggestions have been put up to Government with respect to this matter. I would also like to make a suggestion to the Government. The Jamaican Government has established a Social Welfare Department for Jamaicans in London and we are establishing one on our own, and both Governments are hoping that in future these departments will be merged into one to deal with the whole problem on a regional basis. With that I heartily agree, but while the two are working separately, I am wondering if it would not be worthwhile for one of these departments to concentrate in London and the other to establish its post in Birmingham. I think it would be a great assistance to both of them if that is done because each may be able to handle the other's problem in that area. I understand that there is a large number of West Indians in Birmingham although I think the greater proportion is in other parts of England, but I am saying that inasmuch as we will be having these two departments in London, it may be something worth consideration to establish one of those posts somewhere other than in London.

The establishment of this office with just three officers is a beginning, but with improved knowledge of the social worker, and your having to deal with

the necessary appeals of people who will be seeking all sorts of information, I am sure Government will have to think very seriously in the near future of widening the scope of that office.

I would suggest to Government when this Liaison Service in England begins to function well that a member from Barbados Social Welfare Department or the Labour Department be flown up to England so that that person will have first hand knowledge of what is happening. It could be a training ground for many of our people in the Social Welfare Department as well as the Labour Office. As I have said, it is a good beginning, and I do believe that it is better to start in a small way and build on that as time goes by. If you start top heavy you will find something tumbling down in the course of time.

6.25 p.m.

We all wish it well and we want it to get off to an early start. As a matter of fact I think it speaks well for the Barbadian emigrants that a more pressing need has not been made out before: and it shows how well they have settled into life in England and found employment in their own right. If there is any feature which may be preventing Barbadians from finding ready employment in England, it certainly is not to be blamed upon the other Barbadians who are there; it might be due to other West Indians. Many Barbadians have gone abroad and in a matter of days they find employment and they stick to it. Whenever they move off they are successful; it is only recently that some of my employees have gone and tomorrow another is going abroad. They are encouraged to go.

Some hon. members have spoken and they have erred in this respect. It is not the Labour Commissioner who has erred in not speeding up the progress of Barbadians from here to England; it is the fault of the Government [Cheers]. They deal with the policy. The Labour Commissioner is only a servant and he cannot be blamed and should not be blamed for any lack in the speeding up of the flow of Barbadians to England. More people would go abroad if the money was available for their passage. It is true that they are getting a reasonable amount, as the last speaker has said, and terms must be given to the Government for the repayment of these sums. I am afraid, however, that in some departments the encouragement is not given to people who want to go, for some reason or other best known to those Departments.

This new Welfare Department in London is long overdue and it is necessary. I hope that the Labour Commissioner will put it on such a good foundation that whoever steps into the office will find it well established, well organised and capable of handling all the complaints of Barbadians in England.

Mr. CRAWFORD: In this matter, as in so many other matters connected with emigration, the Government is merely trying to keep pace with events. The fact is that large numbers of Barbadians are now finding themselves in Britain looking for work. The Premier himself has expressed the view before this emigration started that Barbadians were never favoured for emigration to Britain on a large scale. Faced with the actual fact that this information to us was incorrect, the Government has now had to follow behind the circumstances as created by the people themselves. In other words instead of giving a lead they are following on. It is now an accomplished fact that there is an appreciable number of Barbadian work-

ers in Britain and their presence there poses certain social and other problems; and the least the Government could do in order to ensure that they are settled in tolerably satisfactory conditions is to appoint a liaison service to fulfil the functions which in part are mentioned in the Addendum to this Resolution.

Now I am not at all satisfied in my mind that this is enough. I understand that the Labour Commissioner who is now in England and who has, according to the Minister, rendered services in this issue, will be acting in the post of liaison officer if and when this offer is established. It may be within the knowledge of the Ministry and the Government precisely what has been the services rendered by the Labour Commissioner; but as far as other hon. members are concerned, we are entirely ignorant of these services. All we have heard is that three artisans and three unskilled labourers have been sent to the Midlands to a building firm at his instance, and one may presume that the hotel workers who went to Britain under contract with certain hotels were also contracted for as a result of his efforts. It has to be borne in mind that the first arrangement for the entry of Barbadian Hotel Workers under contract was carried through by a private citizen, the Headmaster of a Secondary School; and the Government, in endeavouring to secure a very small contract for workers, merely followed what this private citizen had already done; so that, so far as we know, all that has been accomplished by the Labour Commissioner at the moment is that half dozen workers from the building trades and a few from the hotel industry have been contracted for.

Now the position is this: in my opinion if the Government were at all interested in this matter in the way in which it should be, far more good could have been accomplished. We have paid the expenses of the Minister of Labour and the Labour Commissioner himself having a long sojourn in England; they travelled widely and extensively and when they came back here they did not bring a single contract for a single Barbadian to work in Britain. In fact it did not seem to enter their heads that during their stay in Britain and during their wide travelling in that country something along that line should have been accomplished.

6.35 p.m.

Only after the Minister had returned here and read in the Press that this schoolmaster had obtained work under contract for domestic workers, did he bestir himself. It is for this reason that I am agitating in this matter. We have been sending workers to the United States of America under contract for some time. There are hundreds of thousands of vacancies in Britain. At the beginning of last year there were 283,000 vacancies in Britain. It does appear that a Labour Commissioner, entrusted with the responsibility of investigating the possibilities of finding employment should have, at least, found contracts for a few hundred, if not a few thousand workers; but nothing whatever has been done. The Labour Commissioner has been in Britain for some time; yet people in this country have been forced to pick up money to go to Britain and when they get there have to find themselves a job. Now, this is the first time in the history of this country that they have had large scale emigration under these conditions. At the rate at which Barbadians are going to Britain, within a year or two we shall have sent not less than 15,000. Now the least that it costs these emigrants is \$15,000; so that within a year, an average of 5,000 emigrants will

have had to look for \$2½ million. This means that this country is impoverished to the extent of \$2½ million, money which in a community like this should be in circulation. In other words, because of the indifference and ignorance of the Government, the people are forced to sell whatever they have, borrow whatever they can and impoverish the community to the extent of \$2½ million a year in order to get to Britain to find work.

Now, I am in agreement with any Barbadian who seeks to better his position by going abroad. He cannot find work here. The Government has no programme for development of any sort which would employ 15 people, much less 500; and therefore, in order to better his position, the Barbadian has to go abroad. When he goes abroad, he will acquire new skills; and if and when he should return here, those newly acquired skills will be of some benefit to the country. But in the meantime this impoverishment of the country goes on in a manner unparalleled in our entire history.

At the beginning of the 20th Century when the Barbadians went to the Panama Canal, they were paid to go. [A VOICE: By whom?] Transport was provided for emigrants going to Cuba. Later on, during the years of World War II, large numbers of people were recruited for work in Curacao, Aruba, Bermuda and the United States' bases in the Caribbean, and passages were paid for them. [Hon. R. G. MAPP: By whom?] The cost of transport was refunded from the workers' earnings. The United Kingdom is faced with the need for recruitment of labour, and we are providing that labour at no cost to the British employer. These workers who are going to Britain are just as much in demand as the workers who went to the United States during the last war; and they are performing services just as vital to British industry as those which they performed in American industry during the war. Therefore, I contend that British industry should contribute to the cost of getting that labour there. The only people who can ensure that, are men like the Minister of Labour and the Labour Commissioner, who is now there. They should endeavour to secure contracts for all workers with the understanding that the employers will contribute towards the cost of their passage. If a few hundred people were going to America looking for work or anywhere around the West Indies, we might not have to think of this drain on our economy; but from the time that we began to think of emigration to England, we suggested to the Government that they try to get contracts for the people who are expecting to go there. We suggested to them to lend money to the emigrants to enable them to get there, and we also suggested to them to endeavour to secure work under contract before the emigrants got there. They told us that they were not lending money to every Tom, Dick and Harry; and our answer to them was: every Tom, Dick and Harry did not go to the United States; but those who went were assisted with transport costs because they went under contract and their employers assisted them with transport costs. It may well be that within the next few years this money will begin to trickle back into the Colony. But what we want now is to ensure that when a man spends \$500 to render a service to British industry, that industry should refund, to some extent, what it costs to get that worker there, on the ground that he is as much rendering a service to British industry as he is rendering a service to himself. Therefore, in the light of my argument, to consider the detailed functions of this office which it is proposed to establish in Great Britain is purely negative in the sense that the people are already there and the least that you can do is to provide for them some sort of liaison between themselves and other

sources; the British Government perhaps and the Welfare Service. This however, is not enough.

There is a Department in Washington which performs similar and other services for British West Indian workers in the United States and they do far more than that. That Department keeps the relevant Governments informed of labour conditions, employment possibilities in various parts of the United States and it is almost correct to say that it assists them in securing almost every contract under which workers from Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad and elsewhere went to work in the United States.

6.45 p.m.

Unless, Sir, and until this proposed liaison service in Great Britain does the same thing, in my opinion it shall not be fulfilling any service of any appropriate value to the colonies concerned. It will not be justifying its existence or the money which we will be spending on it.

Finally, I am making it as plain as I can to the Government that it is not enough to allow the people in this country to scrape for money wherever they can find it to go to England or to tell them that you will lend them a certain amount of money if they can get themselves a job. I say that, because when the Minister of Labour went up to England with the Labour Commissioner to enquire into this matter, he could not find work for any one person at all, but now he is telling the people that if they find work before they leave they can get a loan from the Government. The Minister of Labour went to England and came back like Moses with nothing in his pocket; but he is saying to the people who want to go there, that if they get themselves a job before hand the Government will lend them some money to get up there. Let me say that from the time we activated the Government into doing something to get the people up to England, we had been telling them to find jobs for them and to get them there; and if they feel they can sit there, and allow the people to get up there however they can, and then to have this liaison service discharging its duties in this manner that has been put to us and think they are fooling other people, they will be fooling nobody else but themselves. I see some of them are laughing at what I have said. Let them continue to laugh; they are living in a fool's paradise. Do you mean to tell me that if the Labour Commissioner was of such great value as what the Minister says he is, up to now we cannot hear of larger numbers of workers going to Great Britain with jobs already secured for them? Until such time, any expenses incurred under this Head as referred to in the Resolution before us shall also remain open to question.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, there can be no objection in my view to the establishment of this Welfare Liaison Service as has been proposed under this Head. Unfortunately for me, I did not hear the remarks of the Hon. Minister who referred to the proposal for the first or acting Liaison Officer; but I gather he did mention the name of the substantive holder of the office of Labour Commissioner in this island. I am of the view that that Department is run extremely well now, and under a most efficient head, and to my mind even much better than when the substantive holder of the office was in the island; yet, Sir, although I am quite satisfied that that office is being extremely well run now, I do not see the justification for placing even in an acting capacity or for a short time in charge of the liaison service in England the present Labour Commissioner of Barbados.

Sir, not only am I raising objection to that acting appointment because of the disfavour with which that officer is looked upon by almost the entire community of agricultural labourers (as they have told me, and as I have no doubt that they have told others, that they see him too often at the tennis and cocktail parties of the plantation owners and local bourbons), but it seems to be a misplacement to have a non-Barbadian as Liaison Officer when they are so many obviously competent Barbadians to act as Liaison Officer for those hundreds and thousands of Barbadians who are now in England. I think, Mr. Chairman, it is rather an affront to the many available Barbadians that none of them is selected for such an appointment.

I am not saying that the appointee must be of necessity a coloured man, but after all, the preference should be given to suitable and eligible coloured Barbadians if you are dealing with thousands of coloured Barbadians. Failing that, a Barbadian is the obvious choice. Sir, you should not take this gentleman, who is a social conservative gentleman, and select him as the most worthy person to be in charge of the Welfare Liaison Service in the United Kingdom to help emigrants of Barbados to settle and to find employment for those persons. Can you imagine those emigrants confiding in him as they would in you? I am not saying that you can spare the time to go there to serve as Liaison Officer. I am saying that they should not be put in the position of having to either ignore their Liaison Officer or to have to go to a person like Mr. Pickwoad, who would obviously be uncongenial to them to tell him of their worries and their complexities with a view to his rendering them assistance. If it were a question of finding a West Indian who is already in England, there is an obvious choice in the person of Mr. "Dick" Greenidge: but it may be argued that Mr. Greenidge is getting on in years although he is sympathetic to the cause of all Barbadians irrespective of race, creed or colour, and particularly since he is about to resign as Secretary of the West India Society. His sound counsel and experience would be invaluable; and owing to the fact that he has never lost the common touch and that he can be approached by and will give sympathetic hearing to everyone, I am quite satisfied from all reports received from Colonial Office that any coloured Barbadian who knows him would certainly know one who will not fail to regard him as a friend and fail to regard the sterling work of this gentleman.

I do not agree with the choice of Mr. Pickwoad as Liaison Officer, and I trust that it was not mentioned: but whether it was mentioned or not I trust that even for a day his services would not be requisitioned. I trust that I have been misinformed of this gentleman, although I may say that it is my belief that the Labour Department is better run in his absence by Mr. Jack.

6.55 p.m.

I have had workers telling me how much happier they are when they go to this Department now than before this gentleman went on leave.

The Note to this Item deals with the employment and settlement of Barbadians in the United Kingdom. I should like to say that apropos to the settlement of Barbadians in the United Kingdom, it is twice on record that I have had to protest against the treatment of people who are going abroad and who apply for passports to leave this colony. The Police are insisting that they are not issuing passports unless people can produce their receipts showing that they have paid their passage money. That is acting *ultra vires* and it is a prac-

DP 1647 — 1654 missing:

DP 1655 — 1662 twice

such elementary and naive interpretation of points which require no interpretation and which ought to be obvious even to a school boy. I noticed that the Minister dared to think that they would help hon. members to understand better; but I am not quite sure yet whether he was being facetious or serious.

Now, as I said before, it is not enough merely to say that the Government of the United States would be granted the right to exercise Jurisdiction in certain circumstances. There are what is known as Exclusive Jurisdiction and Concurrent Jurisdiction. Obviously in matters in which the American Government will be entitled to exercise Exclusive Jurisdiction there can be no cause for complaint. The only point that arises is: why should the Attorney General think that no case would arise in which the American Government will not elect to exercise the Jurisdiction to which it is entitled under the Agreement. To most of us it seems elementary not to think that, so long as it is a grave matter, the American Government is not going to demand the right to exercise Jurisdiction under the Agreement. I, therefore, feel that the House should make our position perfectly clear by means of additional stipulations with regard to the conditions under which the United States Government will operate under this lease or acquired territory in order to preserve all the rights of the people of this country and in order to ensure that no unfair advantage is taken of the population whatsoever. I am not at all insinuating that American Jurisprudence does not compare favourably with British Jurisprudence, nor am I suggesting that natives will not be entitled to similar protection under either form of justice. But as a West Indian I cannot forget what has happened elsewhere in the West Indies, and I must express the hope that similar occurrences will not take place here.

It should still be fresh in the minds of the public of Barbados how, not so long ago, a Naval Court of Enquiry acquitted a U.S. Naval rating for shooting an old fisherman in the back of a British territory in Trinidad. While one is willing to admit that in British or any other form of justice it is possible to have a miscarriage of justice yet one is justified, I think, in endeavouring to ensure before hand, that little possibility exists for these miscarriages of justice. [Mr. BRANCKER: We have that every day in the Court of Appeal.]

Now I want to suggest a certain amendment to the Reply. The Reply reads as follows:—

"The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 25/1955 dated 20th September relative to the desire of the United States of America to establish in this island an Oceanographic Research Station.

The House approve in principle, for the concurrence by the Government of Barbados in the conclusion between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America of an agreement along the lines set out in paragraph two of Your Excellency's Message and for the submission of such legislation as may be required to give effect to its provision."

Now I want to add a third paragraph to that Reply which reads as follows: "The House is further of the opinion that possession of fire arms by foreign nationals outside the leased areas should be forbidden."

Mr. SPEAKER: Outside the site is better, I think.
9.40 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: (b) That the functions and activities of foreign nationals should be strictly limited to the purposes for which the Research Station is to be established; and that in no circumstances should such foreign nationals interfere with or participate in any industrial or political dispute outside the area.

(c) That the courts of justice in this island shall have jurisdiction over foreign nationals employed or stationed within the area proposed to be leased.

(d) That persons lawfully in the said area although subject to such military regulations as may be imposed shall not be subjected to any racial discriminations separation or segregation similar to those imposed upon people of colour in the Southern States of America.

(e) That the usual method of selecting juries from local Jury Lists shall be insisted upon in trials of foreign nationals for indictable offences.

There is one other point which I would like to mention in passing and it is that in the construction of this station, local labour should be employed wherever possible, and that the wages paid and working hours need not conform to those existing locally. I want to make my position perfectly clear; whether we are a colony or whether we are completely self-governing, I should be in complete agreement with the utilisation by Great Britain or any of her Allies of any part of this country which might be necessary for the protection of the Allies' cause. If we were a self-governing West Indian nation we would naturally be able to demand some sort of reciprocity in the granting of these rights and privileges to a foreign country even although that country might be an ally. The fact that we were self-governing would not mean, of course, that we could not enter into an agreement of this sort because, so far as I know, the same agreements, for instance, which existed between the United States of America and the Philippines before the Philippines got self-government and independence still apply. But I say that my apprehensions are based purely on events which I have seen transpired in similar circumstances elsewhere in the West Indies; and with the best will in the world, with the most humane sort of Government, in the final analysis, the laws or the interpretation of laws, depends in the main on the people who are administering them. The United States of America might have the most democratic Government in the world, but the administration of justice in a particular area in a foreign territory might be conditioned not so much by the broad principle of American Government as by some person who is in charge of the base.

That is why a community, constituted as we are — I speak racially — has got to ensure that there must be no misunderstanding about the democratic rights and privileges of the natives of this country; and because we are without arms, and defenceless, we must not be left entirely at the mercy of people within our gates, who possess arms and what not. I believe that every right-thinking American would agree with any safeguard we apply as regards these rights and privileges because he would demand no less for himself. [Cheers.]

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for someone to second the amendments which have been proposed because they are very long. There are one or two points which I have before me. I do not know if Your Honour will grant us the favour of having these amendments typed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member seconding the amendments? He will have to do that in order to carry on the debate.
10.00 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I do not know if Your Honour will allow the seconding of the amendments for the sake of discussion. I am seconding the amendments with the reservation of further amending them. If I cannot do that with reservation then I do not second them.

Mr. Speaker, while you are awaiting the typed copy of the honourable member's amendments to the Reply, I could perhaps proceed to express my opinion on the matter generally. I think this is a matter of very great importance. We have listened to the speech of the Hon. Minister of Social Services and we have had some time to think on it. My colleague is of the opinion that we should postpone the matter; but I do not think there is much for us to disagree with; because in a matter of this sort I think the question resolved itself largely into one of courtesy. As the honourable senior member for St. Philip has said, in any matter which would assist the United States of America and the United Kingdom in coming together against a common enemy, we in Barbados and those of us in this Chamber would always be willing to render whatever assistance we can. It has been explained to us that this is one of the things which would be a guide in many scientific ways for the Allied Powers (if I may be allowed to use that term) and therefore there is not much to say from the layman's point of view. I think that from the layman's point of view we can say that everything would be done to ensure there should be no misunderstanding by any Americans who may be taken from that part of the United States where there is not that harmonious relationship between Negroes and White people. We should like to get a better understanding of the likely attitude of the Americans towards us and also that our point of view on this particular aspect of the matter should be clearly understood by the Americans; because when you come from a place like that, there may be some definite misunderstanding at some time or other and therefore it is well that we express our views here this afternoon: and in whatever reply we make these things should be clearly set out.

One of the questions I should like to ask the Hon. Minister of Social Services is this: on the last occasion (I am speaking subject to correction) he said that there was some misunderstanding of a lease between the owners of the land (I think it is at Harrison's) and the U.S. Government; and that there was also an understanding that after the buildings were put up and the United States Government had decided not to carry on any longer, the Barbados Government would be given the option of taking them over before anybody else.

Am I to understand that those same conditions obtain today or that since the Hon. Minister has spoken the position has changed? Is there any truth in the rumour that the Barbados Government is now negotiating the purchase of this land in spite of the lease by the United States Government?

Now as to the amendments I do not think we need waste any time on these. The honourable senior member has suggested that "the House is further of the opinion that the possession of fire arms by foreign nationals should be forbidden."

Now I quite appreciate what the honourable member is getting at; but I do not like it put that

way. To say the possession of fire arms should be forbidden by foreign nationals when you pass a reply to a Message like this is something which really I cannot subscribe to. The position is this: you have foreign nationals here. Why are you going to say that 500 or 50 attached to the United States Government or the United States Military Authority should not be allowed to carry guns? That will operate against other Canadians or Americans coming in here and living. As I said just now, I know what the honourable member is driving at. His amendments states: "the House are of the opinion that the possession of fire arms outside the areas proposed to be released should be forbidden. I think what the honourable member means is "unless they hold the license from the proper authority." If it is the practice in the United States that on the particular area you can carry fire arms but that you are not allowed to carry fire arms outside the area unless you possess a licence from the necessary authorities, then, to me, that would present a means of overcoming the difficulties. But I do not know if the honourable member is prepared to put that in his amended paragraph. If that is what the honourable member means why does he say "foreign nationals?" The honourable member must have intended to discriminate if he says "foreign nationals". I cannot subscribe to the idea that foreign nationals are not to carry firearms. If you say that the base personnel should not be allowed to carry fire arms outside the area, then I agree. A foreign national is entitled to live here under the laws of this country and to have a licence to carry firearms for his own protection. I would say "base personnel" instead of "foreign nationals."

10.10 p.m.

When you say, "foreign nationals" that is discrimination. All of us should agree that there is no reason why they should be walking about Bridgetown with revolvers. I come now to amendment (b). It reads as follows:—

"That the functions and activities of foreign nationals should be strictly limited to the purposes for which the Research Station is to be established; and that in no circumstances should foreign nationals interfere with or participate in any industrial or political dispute outside the area."

The honourable member when he spoke did not elaborate on this part of the matter. I am wondering if he can just give me some more information on this matter. Is it that the function and activity should be strictly limited to the purpose for which a Research Station should be established? And that in no circumstances should such foreign nationals interfere with or participate in any industrial or political dispute outside of the area?

What I would like to say to the honourable senior member for St. Philip who moved this amendment is that if he is going to use it, he should cut out the first paragraph and go straight to the point. Paragraph 3 should be as follows:—

"that in no circumstances should such based personnel interfere with or participate in any industrial or political dispute outside the area."

I think that would cover the whole point the honourable member wants to make. I cannot vote for that amendment as it stands; it is too wide, and I would suggest to the honourable member to delete the first part. [A VOICE: You have seconded the motion, yet you are making another motion.] I made it quite clear that I was seconding it for the sake of discussion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is offering his suggestions.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am suggesting that the first part of paragraph 3 should be deleted, and that the last part remain. In other words what the mover of the amendment wants to say is that if you have a political or industrial dispute nobody here should be able to call out the military at that Station.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I accept that.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: It goes on to say at (c) :—

"That the courts of justice in this island shall have jurisdiction over foreign nationals employed or stationed within the area proposed to be leased."

As I have said, where the words "foreign nationals" occur, the words "stationed personnel" should be used instead.

Now, I think the honourable senior member for St. George should be able to enlighten us on this matter: are we replying to an Address suggesting something which would be in contravention of national code or law when we reply according to amendment (c)? I would like to hear some authority on that. I do not pretend to know anything on it; I am just seeking advice; but reading through what the learned Attorney General has sent in, here it would appear so to me. Let me give you an idea of what I mean. You have a personnel of two hundred or three hundred persons employed on that 35 acres of leased land. Someone there commits an offence against the person. It seems to me that a Barbadian would feel infinitely better to have justice administered in the traditional way in which he has been accustomed to than to have it administered in a foreign way. I am asking for guidance in this interpretation and unless I am told otherwise, I am prepared to vote for this amendment as put by the honourable senior member for St. Philip. From what the learned Attorney General has written to say, in paragraph 3, it appears as if it can happen with a certain amount of reservation therefore I agree with the amendment by the honourable senior member for St. Philip; I am only waiting to hear what the Hon. Minister or the honourable senior member for St. George has to say on it.

10.20 p.m.

Paragraph (d) of these amendments says this: "That persons lawfully in the said area although subject to such military regulations as may be imposed shall not be subjected to any racial discrimination separation or segregation similar to those imposed upon people of colour in the Southern States of America."

I think that that amendment make the position very clear, and I would be very unkind to myself and to my own conviction if I did not support that particular amendment. Some people might think that that amendment is superfluous but I think I would be unkind to myself if I did not support it. When this base has been established here you must abide by the Regulations; as long as you are lawfully there you must abide by the Regulations. Before I would vote for the deletion of this particular paragraph I would vote against the entire reply to His Excellency the Governor.

Paragraph (c) says: "That the usual method of selecting juries from local Jury Lists shall be insisted upon in trials of foreign nationals for indictable offences."

I do not think the honourable member has made the position quite clear as to that amendment. However I shall listen to hear him on that amendment because I am somewhat confused over it. Paragraph

(e) deals with the Courts of Justice. To be honest, while I agree with the honourable member I do not think that (c) or (e) is really necessary. I do not think that the trial of foreign nationals by the Courts is necessary. However as I have already mentioned I am voting for (d) in any circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, after the necessary deletions and insertions, the amended paragraph reads as follows:

3. (a) The House is further of the opinion that the possession of fire arms by "foreign nationals" outside the area proposed to be leased should be forbidden.

(b) That the functions and activities of "foreign nationals" should be strictly limited to the purposes for which the Research Station is to be established; and that in no circumstances should such foreign nationals interfere with or participate in any industrial or political dispute outside the area.

(c) That the Courts of justice in this island shall have jurisdiction over "foreign nationals" employed or stationed within the area proposed to be leased.

(d) That persons lawfully in the said area although subject to such military regulations as may be imposed shall not be subjected to any racial discriminations separation or segregation similar to those imposed upon people of colour in the Southern States of America.

(e) That the usual method of selecting juries from local Jury Lists shall be insisted upon in trials of "foreign nationals" for indictable offences.

I therefore have much pleasure in seconding the amendment as moved by the honourable senior member for St. Philip which, I hope will be accepted. I also hope that his views on this matter and his experience, not only in Barbados but also in Trinidad and the United States will be appreciated and accepted. It is merely as I said before, a Reply to a Message; but it expresses the view of this Chamber, making it clear that while we appreciate, and will do everything to facilitate and assist the United States and United Kingdom in doing everything to combat the common foe, we must still preserve our individuality and let it be known to the people who have been living here for many years.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member cannot second an amendment and at the same time make an amendment.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have done no such thing. All I have done is that when you pointed out to me at the beginning that the honourable member could make the—

Mr. SPEAKER: There is nothing irregular at all about what the honourable member has done.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Thank you Sir. Some people seem to get stupid overnight.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the first matter which I should like to draw to Your Honour's attention is the fact that in the colony of Barbados there are only in existence the magnificent number of three or four copies of the Letters Patent and Royal Instructions. I doubt very much that there are four members of this Chamber who have ever had the privilege of reading something which is the key stone of our Constitution and the foundation of our practice in matters of this kind. There is certainly not a copy of the Royal Instructions and Letters Patent of the House of Assembly in Barbados. The honourable junior member for the City owes the secret of his success as a Parliamentarian to the fact that he is the only member of the House in possession of a copy of the Letters Patent which he is safeguarding with the diligence

of the guardian in Hades. I am not suggesting that my learned friend is consigned to the Nether Regions.

I should like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that there are certain matters that are exclusively reserved to the United Kingdom Parliament. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas who is now gracing the Ministerial Bench, seemed to agree with this opinion of the 5th February, 1952—

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member referring to the Minister of Social Services?

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am referring to the Minister of Labour; he is a mystery. The member for St. Thomas illustrated by a very interesting debate that he was also of that opinion. I should like to draw the attention of the members of the House to the fact that the background of this Agreement which we are discussing here tonight is contained in an Address to His Excellency the Governor *re* the Exchange of Notes. "Message No 3/1952 dated 8th January, 1952 relating to the exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom Government and the United States Government." (Nothing to do with the Barbados Government at all.) The reply stated that: "The House agree in principle to the exchange of new Notes between the United Kingdom Government and the United States Government." This was signed by no less a person than Your Honour.

In the debate on the Exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom Government and the United States Government, our Good Neighbour, I pointed out certain provisions or stipulations, I should say, in the terms of the agreement itself which, at that very early date I anticipated would have repercussions in this colony both of a military, social and economic nature. The Message at that time stated that the main points of the United States Note are: "record of earlier agreement and adherence to general principle in the act of strengthening the security of the free world."

You notice the tenor, Mr. Speaker. "Agreement to join in promoting world peace, to take any action which may be mutually agreed upon to eliminate tension and fulfil military obligations which may have been assumed by treaty with the United States, to make practical contributions to our own and the free world's defence, to take reasonable measures to develop defence capacity and to ensure that American aid is properly used."

I do not want to go into all the clauses, but before the question is put, I should like to say that the Message is a rather long one and perhaps we were not fully conversant with it before it was introduced into the House. However, I did point out (certainly a proper copy of the Letters Patent itself was not within the province of the Chamber), that after the off-hand manner in which the West Indian Governments were treated after the war, flush decks, in the sense of the flush decks of the Hoyle destroyers, which were in contradistinction to cut-away decks, were introduced for the different bases in the West Indies; a matter in which we were not consulted and against which protest was recorded by responsible citizens within the West Indian area.

10.40 p.m.

It does seem that a new constitutional stage had been reached in the relationship between metropolitan countries and dependent territories when we were consulted and asked to concur in this exchange of notes between the United States and the United Kingdom Governments on Friday 26, 1952; therefore, although directly speaking, His Excellency the Governor need not consult us at all in this mat-

ter, the precedent was already established as early as 1952. That precedent was the outcome of criticisms against the uni-lateral agreement by the late leader of the British Conservative Party.

I may also point out that America is our neighbour and the United States of America is anxious to be a good neighbour of these colonies; but even at this late day when the ground has been cleared for direct action, aid and participation in the economic well-being of the under-developed Caribbean colonies through the Mutual Security Act which relates back to the Point Four Programme, we do not find that that Act has made any direct impact on the West Indian colonies and in 1952 (I am going backwards and forwards to draw my analogy) we were prepared to mortgage our future and that of our children. To be clear, we would like to know what the Mutual Security Act means to Barbados in terms of hard cash.

Sir, I feel that at every turn we have been sort of tied down and frustrated and fettered, by the anxiety of our own Mother Country not to let American economy make itself to be of any great impact on the West Indian people because for so long there has been these cases of neglect in these British colonies that the British feel that these colonies would turn from the quarter from which their help comes and from which they looked for help in the first half of the 20th century, if the American economy were to make itself felt in these parts. Here it is, we have this proviso in 1952, and three years later we have this invitation of the Legislature of Barbados to signify its approval to the leasing of this land for an Oceanographic Station; so you can see it was not so insignificant as some people would have liked to think at that time, but that it has had repercussions on our future both from a military and economic point of view. In the three years that has elapsed, all that we have is the manifestation of the military exchange of notes in this important agreement; we do not have the economic impact for which we have so long hoped and which we had been told to expect. It would seem to me, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that there is another significant departure in this agreement. My recollection is that when the Hon. Minister of Social Services first introduced this particular Address in the Chamber, it was indicated at that time that the area of land wanted for the purpose was going to be acquired directly by the United States Government. I do not know that he was misinformed at that particular time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was saying before Your Honour took the Chair that when this Address was first brought before the House by the Hon. Minister of Social Services, the House was given the impression that the area of land was going to be acquired directly by the United States Government. I can very well see that honourable members have much the very same feeling as I entertained at that particular time when I opined to myself that here was a foreign Government acquiring territory in Barbados with all the iniquities that would go with extra-territoriality.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I should point out to the hon. member that paragraph 2 of the Message states very distinctly that the United Kingdom Government is going to acquire the site.

Mr. BARROW: If you will reflect, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will remember when this Address was first introduced (I do not mean at this particular sitting of the House) we were given the impression that the land was going to be purchased directly

by the United States Government. Now, it would appear that the United Kingdom Government in deference to the protest of West Indian statesmen have adopted the advice and they themselves intend to take active part in the particular scheme to purchase land from the property owners in Barbados and in turn to lease it or lend it to the United States Government.

In this particular respect it would appear that these fears which were attendant on the proposition that the land would have been acquired directly by the United States Government would no longer be tenable, because the principal of extra-territoriality would no longer apply; therefore, while I entirely agree with the lot of amendments suggested by the hon. senior member for St. Philip, I do consider that they serve to indicate a clear expression of the hopes of the people of Barbados against certain iniquitous practices which the other islands of the West Indies experienced during the last World War rather than the effective change or alteration of the contract which already exists between the United Kingdom Government and the United States Government. It would appear to me that all we need to say is that the United States personnel serving in Barbados should be subjected to the Laws of the Land except in those matters which are relevant to the military jurisdiction of the United States Army or Navy.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we come to examine the Notes and the provisions relating to the agreement, they are extremely involved, outrageous and irrelevant; anyone who has the slightest acquaintance with constitutional law or private or public international law or any conflict of laws knows that you can never have only an exclusive and concurrent jurisdiction; there must be always the third by implication, because you must have two exclusive and one concurrent. I think, I pointed that out when we discussed the S.C.A.C. or Rance Report that all Legislatures must have three jurisdictions and not two; because you must have one exclusive to the other two. If you only recognise two, it means that the United States Government has exclusive jurisdiction and we have concurrent jurisdictions in other matters with the United States Government; but in other matters we have no jurisdiction, and that is nonsense.

10.50 p.m.

While I entirely endorse the expression of sentiments made by the hon. senior member for the City and the hon. senior member for St. Philip, at the same time in view of the Letters Patent, the nature of this agreement itself, the fact that we really have no say in the matter, the fact that we admire the United States (there is no American democracy beyond the Mason-Dixon Line) the fact that we have a democratic ideology — in view of all those facts, I do not think we need have any fear that in these enlightened days, we may get any wild west exhibitions. I do not think we need have any fear about people walking about lynching Barbadians or anything of that kind. We must rely on the good sense of the people who will be our guests and we will also have to rely on the natural propensity of the average Barbadian to protect its members. It will be our duty to see that our rights are in no way encroached upon.

If we try to be too specific in this matter, we will find ourselves tied down to stipulation and interpretation which would be an inhibiting factor against the freedom of action of both parties. At the same time, since we have taken the trouble to express all the things which, we think, one's ingenuity can devise in the sphere of human relation

ships, we may have left out other things which may be more important and which would certainly fetter the exercise between Party and Party and Government and Government in these exchanges of justice and goodwill.

The only deficiency in this matter is the Report of the Select Committee: that Select Committee was comprised of three members — the Chairman of Committees, the hon. junior member for St. John and the Minister of Social Services. I think that this is an imposition. You have a Select Committee to embody in the Message some expression that we look forward for historical and geographical reasons to the aid and help of the United States Government, especially in matters of security. I am not in any way being disloyal to the Throne when I say that most of us in time of national emergency look naturally to the West rather than to the East. Our neighbours are in a better position to come to our aid — a fact which seems to be universally recognised today — than the Home Fleet tied up in Scapa Flow. I would like to see some expression of our ties with American democracy and the terms expressed in 1952 will find some tangible expression in Barbados in the form of economic and technical aid.

This is not a formal amendment, but I hope that the Minister of Social Services will put something like that in this Reply. Since we have been called in on a high diplomatic level, I would certainly like some phrase or expression of the kind which I have enunciated to be inserted in the Reply to this Message from His Excellency the Governor and the other Party to this Agreement, the President of the United States of America.

Mr. TUDOR: I am unfortunately in the very dangerous position in this House of having been a member of the Select Committee which was appointed to consider the Reply to His Excellency's Message, and in not having attended when the Committee held its meeting. I see here that the Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, the 27th September, 1955, at 2.30 p.m. when the following members were present, namely: the Minister of Social Services, the Chairman of Committees and the hon. junior member for St. John. At no time did I receive a summons for a meeting of this Committee, [A MEMBER: Shame!] and I should not have thought that 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon before this House is due to meet, is a fit and proper time to call a meeting of the Select Committee to consider so important a matter.

11.00 p.m.

That they have done it that way is a forceful instance of, not only their careless attitude towards it, but also it has not been borne in mind that they were dealing with matters of importance. I have been told that when the Committee and their members were considering drafting the Reply they were not in possession of a copy of the Message. That again shows the cavalier manner in which they did their business. [A VOICE: Who told you that?] If any more evidence were needed of the slight manner in which they embarked upon this business, that would supply it.

Now Mr. Speaker, I have listened with interest to the debate as it has proceeded so far and I am not ashamed to say that I have learned a lot. When the hon. senior member for St. Philip was speaking I listened to him with interest and I, personally, regretted that I had not been able to sit on that Committee because, certainly the amendment which he made on racial discrimination would have been one upon which I would have insisted. We have just listened, too, to the hon. senior member for St. George who has brought a wealth of knowledge to

bear upon a subject of which we are all ignorant. I am taking a rather different line of argument although I propose to speak in support of the amendment. It so happens that I represent the constituency in which all this wonderful development is to take place, and I dare not conceal my pleasure that it is St. Lucy that is getting such benefits. But because of that I am even more concerned that the arrangements shall work as smoothly as possible and that, over and above everything else, there should be opportunities of ample employment and economic prosperity for the people of that constituency [VOICES: Hear! Hear!] I look forward therefore to the coming of the Americans and even more so to the coming of the American Currency. The noise of it has been spread abroad in my constituency and they are awaiting it with eagerness. However, there are certain aspects of it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which we in St. Lucy find very disquieting, and I dare say that an opportunity will be found later to let us know the rights and wrongs of the matter. We are not yet certain whether it will be the Barbadian Government which will first acquire the territory to be leased and then make its own arrangements with the Americans through the British Government, or whether the Americans themselves will deal directly (if this is possible) with the owners of the proposed site. There is an ugly rumour going around that the Government itself foresees that the Americans might possibly surrender the base or give up the lease after a certain number of years, and the Government itself will have to secure for future generations, shall we say, the benefits of a well developed site by acquiring the whole plantation by compulsory purchase; so that in that case the owner would be putting through the deal. When legislation comes before the House, doubtless, the Hon. Minister of Communications, who knows everything, will tell us all about it; but until that time we can only just mention the speculations and the rumours which are troubling most people.

Quite a lot has been said about the impact which might be made by Americans on Caribbean society as we know it in Barbados. There is no doubt that genuine alarm is felt due to certain disquieting features of American life which, according to public report, we find not to our liking. I think that in fairness to the Americans I am bound to state that those disquieting features find no place among all that is best in American life and society. Of course the recent efforts of the Americans deserve our praise and support and we should not withhold that praise where it is due.

On the other hand there have been equally disquieting features. But I want to emphasise that while of course, there may be genuine alarm over certain features of American life: yet we need not be too unduly alarmed because the American Government are well aware of the pattern of life in Barbados and they would not willingly inject at their risk an element which would upset the peaceful pattern of local life. They would be, I think, alert enough to know that in such important matters as the choice of personnel and management of their bases here in the West Indies, they should seek to choose such personnel as would be in sympathy with the West Indian customs and not find it difficult to live in a society where there was an almost complete absence of racial antagonism.

On these matters, which quite probably fall within the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom Government I cannot afford to speak; because my knowledge both of Anglo-American agreements and the technicalities of the subject is necessarily limited. But in passing I cannot but give praise, I think, to the United Kingdom Government for what seems to me to be the unprecedented step it is taking to

actually inform us of the agreement. It has not been suggested, even by the most violent Barbadian nationalists that we are a sovereign state: and therefore we are not in a position to make treaties with the other Governments. However, we are aware of the fact that the British Government has seen fit to tell us what it proposes to do in their Treaty with the United States and to seek our concurrence in the matter.

11.10 p.m.

So far, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the Law Courts are concerned, I take it that before the Agreement is fully signed the matter of jurisdiction will be carefully gone into, and that the point so clearly made by the hon. senior member for St. George that they must of necessity be three jurisdictions be borne in mind. The only thing that disturbs me is the Note which the Hon. Attorney General has sent here for our guidance as to the nature of the Concurrent and Exclusive Jurisdiction and their application to different cases. The point that worries me is that I suspect that the American and British Interpretations do not agree. For instance, I know in England that treason must be continuous, and it is not enough to discern a single treasonable act, and call it treason. I do not think that is the American view. From my reading of American Trials of Treason, there is divergence of opinion on that, and although I do not think that such cases will arise, yet I think it is well before we made this legal agreement that we look into these matters and see that they are made as clearly as possible so that they will be no wrangling on the other side.

So far, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the point by the hon. senior member for St. Philip goes about the danger of a Naval Base or any Base we are making here, I am not really too alarmed about the alleged danger, because I do not think if another War comes it would need the establishment or the existence of a Base anywhere to make that particular place vulnerable. One never knows what will happen. However, I am of such a happy frame of mind that I take comfort in the fact that since we all are going into the next world soon it does not really matter if we go from a Hydrogen Bomb or rot. I do not think we need worry over such matters. I feel we are not in any more danger by the establishment of any Base here. Secondly, recent developments in international affairs have taken a turn for the better, and if President Eisenhower's "Open Skies" policy is followed by the Russians, who knows that perhaps in a few months we will see Premier Bulganin and Marshal Krushchev here inspecting some parts of the Lighthouse at Harrison's Point, St. Lucy as they will do under the Agreement to look at each other's installation, and each other's secret weapons I think that is a good thing and nothing at all to be deplored. So, Sir, on the whole, apart from the few reservations which I have, principally, on the racial issue and other matters which have to be looked into by those competent to do it, I welcome the fact that there is going to be such an establishment as an Oceanographic Station in the parish of St. Lucy. I therefore associate myself with the reply to the Governor's Message as amended by the hon. senior member for St. Philip.

(Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.)

The question that the words proposed to be added stand part was put and resolved in the negative the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BARROW, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Mr. TUDOR and Mr. ALLDER.—6.

Noes : Mr. SMITH, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN, and Mr. MILLER.—8.
11.20 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that this Address do now pass. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. I ask the Hon. Minister of Social Services to present this Address to His Excellency the Governor.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS : As Your Honour pleases.

SELECT COMMITTEE DISCHARGED

Mr. SPEAKER : I have the honour to discharge the Select Committee appointed to consider

and draft a reply to His Excellency's Message No. 19/55 relating to the formation of a West India Regiment.

ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS : I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week Tuesday, 1st November, 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, 1st November, 1955, at 3 o'clock p.m., was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
11.30 p.m.

such elementary and naive interpretation of points which require no interpretation and which ought to be obvious even to a school boy. I noticed that the Minister dared to think that they would help hon. members to understand better; but I am not quite sure yet whether he was being facetious or serious.

Now, as I said before, it is not enough merely to say that the Government of the United States would be granted the right to exercise Jurisdiction in certain circumstances. There are what is known as Exclusive Jurisdiction and Concurrent Jurisdiction. Obviously in matters in which the American Government will be entitled to exercise Exclusive Jurisdiction there can be no cause for complaint. The only point that arises is: why should the Attorney General think that no case would arise in which the American Government will not elect to exercise the Jurisdiction to which it is entitled under the Agreement. To most of us it seems elementary not to think that, so long as it is a grave matter, the American Government is not going to demand the right to exercise Jurisdiction under the Agreement. I, therefore, feel that the House should make our position perfectly clear by means of additional stipulations with regard to the conditions under which the United States Government will operate under this lease or acquired territory in order to preserve all the rights of the people of this country and in order to ensure that no unfair advantage is taken of the population whatsoever. I am not at all insinuating that American Jurisprudence does not compare favourably with British Jurisprudence, nor am I suggesting that natives will not be entitled to similar protection under either form of justice. But as a West Indian I cannot forget what has happened elsewhere in the West Indies, and I must express the hope that similar occurrences will not take place here.

It should still be fresh in the minds of the public of Barbados how, not so long ago, a Naval Court of Enquiry acquitted a U.S. Naval rating for shooting an old fisherman in the back of a British territory in Trinidad. While one is willing to admit that in British or any other form of justice it is possible to have a miscarriage of justice yet one is justified, I think, in endeavouring to ensure before hand, that little possibility exists for these miscarriages of justice. [Mr. BRANCKER: We have that every day in the Court of Appeal.]

Now I want to suggest a certain amendment to the Reply. The Reply reads as follows:—

"The House of Assembly have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Message No. 25/1955 dated 20th September relative to the desire of the United States of America to establish in this island an Oceanographic Research Station.

The House approve in principle, for the concurrence by the Government of Barbados in the conclusion between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America of an agreement along the lines set out in paragraph two of Your Excellency's Message and for the submission of such legislation as may be required to give effect to its provision."

Now I want to add a third paragraph to that Reply which reads as follows: "The House is further of the opinion that possession of fire arms by foreign nationals outside the leased areas should be forbidden."

Mr. SPEAKER: Outside the site is better, I think.
9.40 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: (b) That the functions and activities of foreign nationals should be strictly limited to the purposes for which the Research Station is to be established; and that in no circumstances should such foreign nationals interfere with or participate in any industrial or political dispute outside the area.

(c) That the courts of justice in this island shall have jurisdiction over foreign nationals employed or stationed within the area proposed to be leased.

(d) That persons lawfully in the said area although subject to such military regulations as may be imposed shall not be subjected to any racial discriminations separation or segregation similar to those imposed upon people of colour in the Southern States of America.

(e) That the usual method of selecting juries from local Jury Lists shall be insisted upon in trials of foreign nationals for indictable offences.

There is one other point which I would like to mention in passing and it is that in the construction of this station, local labour should be employed wherever possible, and that the wages paid and working hours need not conform to those existing locally. I want to make my position perfectly clear; whether we are a colony or whether we are completely self-governing, I should be in complete agreement with the utilisation by Great Britain or any of her Allies of any part of this country which might be necessary for the protection of the Allies' cause. If we were a self-governing West Indian nation we would naturally be able to demand some sort of reciprocity in the granting of these rights and privileges to a foreign country even although that country might be an ally. The fact that we were self-governing would not mean, of course, that we could not enter into an agreement of this sort because, so far as I know, the same agreements, for instance, which existed between the United States of America and the Philippines before the Philippines got self-government and independence still apply. But I say that my apprehensions are based purely on events which I have seen transpired in similar circumstances elsewhere in the West Indies; and with the best will in the world, with the most humane sort of Government, in the final analysis, the laws or the interpretation of laws, depends in the main on the people who are administering them. The United States of America might have the most democratic Government in the world, but the administration of justice in a particular area in a foreign territory might be conditioned not so much by the broad principle of American Government as by some person who is in charge of the base.

That is why a community, constituted as we are — I speak racially — has got to ensure that there must be no misunderstanding about the democratic rights and privileges of the natives of this country; and because we are without arms, and defenceless, we must not be left entirely at the mercy of people within our gates, who possess arms and what not. I believe that every right-thinking American would agree with any safeguard we apply as regards these rights and privileges because he would demand no less for himself. [Cheers.]

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for someone to second the amendments which have been proposed because they are very long. There are one or two points which I have before me. I do not know if Your Honour will grant us the favour of having these amendments typed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member seconding the amendments? He will have to do that in order to carry on the debate.
10.00 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I do not know if Your Honour will allow the seconding of the amendments for the sake of discussion. I am seconding the amendments with the reservation of further amending them. If I cannot do that with reservation then I do not second them.

Mr. Speaker, while you are awaiting the typed copy of the honourable member's amendments to the Reply, I could perhaps proceed to express my opinion on the matter generally. I think this is a matter of very great importance. We have listened to the speech of the Hon. Minister of Social Services and we have had some time to think on it. My colleague is of the opinion that we should postpone the matter; but I do not think there is much for us to disagree with; because in a matter of this sort I think the question resolved itself largely into one of courtesy. As the honourable senior member for St. Philip has said, in any matter which would assist the United States of America and the United Kingdom in coming together against a common enemy, we in Barbados and those of us in this Chamber would always be willing to render whatever assistance we can. It has been explained to us that this is one of the things which would be a guide in many scientific ways for the Allied Powers (if I may be allowed to use that term) and therefore there is not much to say from the layman's point of view. I think that from the layman's point of view we can say that everything would be done to ensure there should be no misunderstanding by any Americans who may be taken from that part of the United States where there is not that harmonious relationship between Negroes and White people. We should like to get a better understanding of the likely attitude of the Americans towards us and also that our point of view on this particular aspect of the matter should be clearly understood by the Americans; because when you come from a place like that, there may be some definite misunderstanding at some time or other and therefore it is well that we express our views here this afternoon: and in whatever reply we make these things should be clearly set out.

One of the questions I should like to ask the Hon. Minister of Social Services is this: on the last occasion (I am speaking subject to correction) he said that there was some misunderstanding of a lease between the owners of the land (I think it is at Harrisons) and the U.S. Government; and that there was also an understanding that after the buildings were put up and the United States Government had decided not to carry on any longer, the Barbados Government would be given the option of taking them over before anybody else.

Am I to understand that those same conditions obtain today or that since the Hon. Minister has spoken the position has changed? Is there any truth in the rumour that the Barbados Government is now negotiating the purchase of this land in spite of the lease by the United States Government?

Now as to the amendments I do not think we need waste any time on these. The honourable senior member has suggested that "the House is further of the opinion that the possession of fire arms by foreign nationals should be forbidden."

Now I quite appreciate what the honourable member is getting at; but I do not like it put that

way. To say the possession of fire arms should be forbidden by foreign nationals when you pass a reply to a Message like this is something which really I cannot subscribe to. The position is this: you have foreign nationals here. Why are you going to say that 500 or 50 attached to the United States Government or the United States Military Authority should not be allowed to carry guns? That will operate against other Canadians or Americans coming in here and living. As I said just now, I know what the honourable member is driving at. His amendments states: "the House are of the opinion that the possession of fire arms outside the areas proposed to be released should be forbidden. I think what the honourable member means is "unless they hold the license from the proper authority." If it is the practice in the United States that on the particular area you can carry fire arms but that you are not allowed to carry fire arms outside the area unless you possess a licence from the necessary authorities, then, to me, that would present a means of overcoming the difficulties. But I do not know if the honourable member is prepared to put that in his amended paragraph. If that is what the honourable member means why does he say "foreign nationals?" The honourable member must have intended to discriminate if he says "foreign nationals." I cannot subscribe to the idea that foreign nationals are not to carry firearms. If you say that the base personnel should not be allowed to carry fire arms outside the area, then I agree. A foreign national is entitled to live here under the laws of this country and to have a licence to carry firearms for his own protection. I would say "base personnel" instead of "foreign nationals."

10.10 p.m.

When you say, "foreign nationals" that is discrimination. All of us should agree that there is no reason why they should be walking about Bridgetown with revolvers. I come now to amendment (b). It reads as follows:—

"That the functions and activities of foreign nationals should be strictly limited to the purposes for which the Research Station is to be established; and that in no circumstances should foreign nationals interfere with or participate in any industrial or political dispute outside the area."

The honourable member when he spoke did not elaborate on this part of the matter. I am wondering if he can just give me some more information on this matter. Is it that the function and activity should be strictly limited to the purpose for which a Research Station should be established? And that in no circumstances should such foreign nationals interfere with or participate in any industrial or political dispute outside of the area?

What I would like to say to the honourable senior member for St. Philip who moved this amendment is that if he is going to use it, he should cut out the first paragraph and go straight to the point. Paragraph 3 should be as follows:—

"that in no circumstances should such based personnel interfere with or participate in any industrial or political dispute outside the area."

I think that would cover the whole point the honourable member wants to make. I cannot vote for that amendment as it stands; it is too wide, and I would suggest to the honourable member to delete the first part. [A VOICE: You have seconded the motion, yet you are making another motion.] I made it quite clear that I was seconding it for the sake of discussion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is offering his suggestions.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am suggesting that the first part of paragraph 3 should be deleted, and that the last part remain. In other words what the mover of the amendment wants to say is that if you have a political or industrial dispute nobody here should be able to call out the military at that Station.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I accept that.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: It goes on to say at (c) :—

"That the courts of justice in this island shall have jurisdiction over foreign nationals employed or stationed within the area proposed to be leased."

As I have said, where the words "foreign nationals" occur, the words "stationed personnel" should be used instead.

Now, I think the honourable senior member for St. George should be able to enlighten us on this matter: are we replying to an Address suggesting something which would be in contravention of national code or law when we reply according to amendment (c)? I would like to hear some authority on that. I do not pretend to know anything on it; I am just seeking advice; but reading through what the learned Attorney General has sent in, here it would appear so to me. Let me give you an idea of what I mean. You have a personnel of two hundred or three hundred persons employed on that 35 acres of leased land. Someone there commits an offence against the person. It seems to me that a Barbadian would feel infinitely better to have justice administered in the traditional way in which he has been accustomed to than to have it administered in a foreign way. I am asking for guidance in this interpretation and unless I am told otherwise, I am prepared to vote for this amendment as put by the honourable senior member for St. Philip. From what the learned Attorney General has written to say, in paragraph 3, it appears as if it can happen with a certain amount of reservation therefore I agree with the amendment by the honourable senior member for St. Philip; I am only waiting to hear what the Hon. Minister or the honourable senior member for St. George has to say on it.

10.20 p.m.

Paragraph (d) of these amendments says this: "That persons lawfully in the said area although subject to such military regulations as may be imposed shall not be subjected to any racial discrimination separation or segregation similar to those imposed upon people of colour in the Southern States of America."

I think that that amendment make the position very clear, and I would be very unkind to myself and to my own conviction if I did not support that particular amendment. Some people might think that that amendment is superfluous but I think I would be unkind to myself if I did not support it. When this base has been established here you must abide by the Regulations; as long as you are lawfully there you must abide by the Regulations. Before I would vote for the deletion of this particular paragraph I would vote against the entire reply to His Excellency the Governor.

Paragraph (c) says: "That the usual method of selecting juries from local Jury Lists shall be insisted upon in trials of foreign nationals for indictable offences."

I do not think the honourable member has made the position quite clear as to that amendment. However I shall listen to hear him on that amendment because I am somewhat confused over it. Paragraph

(e) deals with the Courts of Justice. To be honest, while I agree with the honourable member I do not think that (c) or (e) is really necessary. I do not think that the trial of foreign nationals by the Courts is necessary. However as I have already mentioned I am voting for (d) in any circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, after the necessary deletions and insertions, the amended paragraph reads as follows:

3. (a) The House is further of the opinion that the possession of fire arms by "foreign nationals" outside the area proposed to be leased should be forbidden.

(b) That the functions and activities of "foreign nationals" should be strictly limited to the purposes for which the Research Station is to be established; and that in no circumstances should such foreign nationals interfere with or participate in any industrial or political dispute outside the area.

(c) That the Courts of justice in this island shall have jurisdiction over "foreign nationals" employed or stationed within the area proposed to be leased.

(d) That persons lawfully in the said area although subject to such military regulations as may be imposed shall not be subjected to any racial discriminations separation or segregation similar to those imposed upon people of colour in the Southern States of America.

(e) That the usual method of selecting juries from local Jury Lists shall be insisted upon in trials of "foreign nationals" for indictable offences.

I therefore have much pleasure in seconding the amendment as moved by the honourable senior member for St. Philip which, I hope will be accepted. I also hope that his views on this matter and his experience, not only in Barbados but also in Trinidad and the United States will be appreciated and accepted. It is merely as I said before, a Reply to a Message; but it expresses the view of this Chamber, making it clear that while we appreciate, and will do everything to facilitate and assist the United States and United Kingdom in doing everything to combat the common foe, we must still preserve our individuality and let it be known to the people who have been living here for many years.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member cannot second an amendment and at the same time make an amendment.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have done no such thing. All I have done is that when you pointed out to me at the beginning that the honourable member could make the—

Mr. SPEAKER: There is nothing irregular at all about what the honourable member has done.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Thank you Sir. Some people seem to get stupid overnight.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the first matter which I should like to draw to Your Honour's attention is the fact that in the colony of Barbados there are only in existence the magnificent number of three or four copies of the Letters Patent and Royal Instructions. I doubt very much that there are four members of this Chamber who have ever had the privilege of reading something which is the key stone of our Constitution and the foundation of our practice in matters of this kind. There is certainly not a copy of the Royal Instructions and Letters Patent of the House of Assembly in Barbados. The honourable junior member for the City owes the secret of his success as a Parliamentarian to the fact that he is the only member of the House in possession of a copy of the Letters Patent which he is safeguarding with the diligence

of the guardian in Hades. I am not suggesting that my learned friend is consigned to the Nether Regions.

I should like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that there are certain matters that are exclusively reserved to the United Kingdom Parliament. The honourable senior member for St. Thomas who is now gracing the Ministerial Bench, seemed to agree with this opinion of the 5th February, 1952—

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the honourable member referring to the Minister of Social Services?

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I am referring to the Minister of Labour; he is a mystery. The member for St. Thomas illustrated by a very interesting debate that he was also of that opinion. I should like to draw the attention of the members of the House to the fact that the background of this Agreement which we are discussing here tonight is contained in an Address to His Excellency the Governor *re* the Exchange of Notes. "Message No 3/1952 dated 8th January, 1952 relating to the exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom Government and the United States Government." (Nothing to do with the Barbados Government at all.) The reply stated that: "The House agree in principle to the exchange of new Notes between the United Kingdom Government and the United States Government." This was signed by no less a person than Your Honour.

In the debate on the Exchange of Notes between the United Kingdom Government and the United States Government, our Good Neighbour, I pointed out certain provisions or stipulations, I should say, in the terms of the agreement itself which, at that very early date I anticipated would have repercussions in this colony both of a military, social and economic nature. The Message at that time stated that the main points of the United States Note are: "record of earlier agreement and adherence to general principle in the act of strengthening the security of the free world."

You notice the tenor, Mr. Speaker. "Agreement to join in promoting world peace, to take any action which may be mutually agreed upon to eliminate tension and fulfil military obligations which may have been assumed by treaty with the United States, to make practical contributions to our own and the free world's defence, to take reasonable measures to develop defence capacity and to ensure that American aid is properly used."

I do not want to go into all the clauses, but before the question is put, I should like to say that the Message is a rather long one and perhaps we were not fully conversant with it before it was introduced into the House. However, I did point out (certainly a proper copy of the Letters Patent itself was not within the province of the Chamber), that after the off-hand manner in which the West Indian Governments were treated after the war, flush decks, in the sense of the flush decks of the Hoyle destroyers, which were in contrast to cut-away decks, were introduced for the different bases in the West Indies; a matter in which we were not consulted and against which protest was recorded by responsible citizens within the West Indian area.

10.40 p.m.

It does seem that a new constitutional stage had been reached in the relationship between metropolitan countries and dependent territories when we were consulted and asked to concur in this exchange of notes between the United States and the United Kingdom Governments on Friday 26, 1952; therefore, although directly speaking, His Excellency the Governor need not consult us at all in this mat-

ter, the precedent was already established as early as 1952. That precedent was the outcome of criticisms against the uni-lateral agreement by the late leader of the British Conservative Party.

I may also point out that America is our neighbour and the United States of America is anxious to be a good neighbour of these colonies; but even at this late day when the ground has been cleared for direct action, aid and participation in the economic well-being of the under-developed Caribbean colonies through the Mutual Security Act which relates back to the Point Four Programme, we do not find that that Act has made any direct impact on the West Indian colonies and in 1952 (I am going backwards and forwards to draw my analogy) we were prepared to mortgage our future and that of our children. To be clear, we would like to know what the Mutual Security Act means to Barbados in terms of hard cash.

Sir, I feel that at every turn we have been sort of tied down and frustrated and fettered, by the anxiety of our own Mother Country not to let American economy make itself to be of any great impact on the West Indian people because for so long there has been these cases of neglect in these British colonies that the British feel that these colonies would turn from the quarter from which their help comes and from which they looked for help in the first half of the 20th century, if the American economy were to make itself felt in these parts. Here it is, we have this proviso in 1952, and three years later we have this invitation of the Legislature of Barbados to signify its approval to the leasing of this land for an Oceanographic Station; so you can see it was not so insignificant as some people would have liked to think at that time, but that it has had repercussions on our future both from a military and economic point of view. In the three years that has elapsed, all that we have is the manifestation of the military exchange of notes in this important agreement; we do not have the economic impact for which we have so long hoped and which we had been told to expect. It would seem to me, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that there is another significant departure in this agreement. My recollection is that when the Hon. Minister of Social Services first introduced this particular Address in the Chamber, it was indicated at that time that the area of land wanted for the purpose was going to be acquired directly by the United States Government. I do not know that he was misinformed at that particular time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was saying before Your Honour took the Chair that when this Address was first brought before the House by the Hon. Minister of Social Services, the House was given the impression that the area of land was going to be acquired directly by the United States Government. I can very well see that honourable members have much the very same feeling as I entertained at that particular time when I opined to myself that here was a foreign Government acquiring territory in Barbados with all the iniquities that would go with extra-territoriality.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I should point out to the hon. member that paragraph 2 of the Message states very distinctly that the United Kingdom Government is going to acquire the site.

Mr. BARROW: If you will reflect, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you will remember when this Address was first introduced (I do not mean at this particular sitting of the House) we were given the impression that the land was going to be purchased directly

by the United States Government. Now, it would appear that the United Kingdom Government in deference to the protest of West Indian statesmen have adopted the advice and they themselves intend to take active part in the particular scheme to purchase land from the property owners in Barbados and in turn to lease it or lend it to the United States Government.

In this particular respect it would appear that these fears which were attendant on the proposition that the land would have been acquired directly by the United States Government would no longer be tenable, because the principal of extra-territoriality would no longer apply; therefore, while I entirely agree with the lot of amendments suggested by the hon. senior member for St. Philip, I do consider that they serve to indicate a clear expression of the hopes of the people of Barbados against certain iniquitous practices which the other islands of the West Indies experienced during the last World War rather than the effective change or alteration of the contract which already exists between the United Kingdom Government and the United States Government. It would appear to me that all we need to say is that the United States personnel serving in Barbados should be subjected to the Laws of the Land except in those matters which are relevant to the military jurisdiction of the United States Army or Navy.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when we come to examine the Notes and the provisions relating to the agreement, they are extremely involved, outrageous and irrelevant; anyone who has the slightest acquaintance with constitutional law or private or public international law or any conflict of laws knows that you can never have only an exclusive and concurrent jurisdiction; there must be always the third by implication, because you must have two exclusive and one concurrent. I think, I pointed that out when we discussed the S.C.A.C. or Rance Report that all Legislatures must have three jurisdictions and not two; because you must have one exclusive to the other two. If you only recognise two, it means that the United States Government has exclusive jurisdiction and we have concurrent jurisdictions in other matters with the United States Government; but in other matters we have no jurisdiction, and that is nonsense.

10.50 p.m.

While I entirely endorse the expression of sentiments made by the hon. senior member for the City and the hon. senior member for St. Philip, at the same time in view of the Letters Patent, the nature of this agreement itself, the fact that we really have no say in the matter, the fact that we admire the United States (there is no American democracy beyond the Mason-Dixon Line) the fact that we have a democratic ideology — in view of all those facts, I do not think we need have any fear that in these enlightened days, we may get any wild west exhibitions. I do not think we need have any fear about people walking about lynching Barbadians or anything of that kind. We must rely on the good sense of the people who will be our guests and we will also have to rely on the natural propensity of the average Barbadian to protect its members. It will be our duty to see that our rights are in no way encroached upon.

If we try to be too specific in this matter, we will find ourselves tied down to stipulation and interpretation which would be an inhibiting factor against the freedom of action of both parties. At the same time, since we have taken the trouble to express all the things which, we think, one's ingenuity can devise in the sphere of human relation

ships, we may have left out other things which may be more important and which would certainly fetter the exercise between Party and Party and Government and Government in these exchanges of justice and goodwill.

The only deficiency in this matter is the Report of the Select Committee: that Select Committee was comprised of three members — the Chairman of Committees, the hon. junior member for St. John and the Minister of Social Services. I think that this is an imposition. You have a Select Committee to embody in the Message some expression that we look forward for historical and geographical reasons to the aid and help of the United States Government, especially in matters of security. I am not in any way being disloyal to the Throne when I say that most of us in time of national emergency look naturally to the West rather than to the East. Our neighbours are in a better position to come to our aid — a fact which seems to be universally recognised today — than the Home Fleet tied up in Scapa Flow. I would like to see some expression of our ties with American democracy and the terms expressed in 1952 will find some tangible expression in Barbados in the form of economic and technical aid.

This is not a formal amendment, but I hope that the Minister of Social Services will put something like that in this Reply. Since we have been called in on a high diplomatic level, I would certainly like some phrase or expression of the kind which I have enunciated to be inserted in the Reply to this Message from His Excellency the Governor and the other Party to this Agreement, the President of the United States of America.

Mr. TUDOR: I am unfortunately in the very dangerous position in this House of having been a member of the Select Committee which was appointed to consider the Reply to His Excellency's Message, and in not having attended when the Committee held its meeting. I see here that the Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, the 27th September, 1955, at 2.30 p.m. when the following members were present, namely: the Minister of Social Services, the Chairman of Committees and the hon. junior member for St. John. At no time did I receive a summons for a meeting of this Committee, [A MEMBER: Shame!] and I should not have thought that 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon before this House is due to meet, is a fit and proper time to call a meeting of the Select Committee to consider so important a matter.

11.00 p.m.

That they have done it that way is a forceful instance of, not only their careless attitude towards it, but also it has not been borne in mind that they were dealing with matters of importance. I have been told that when the Committee and their members were considering drafting the Reply they were not in possession of a copy of the Message. That again shows the cavalier manner in which they did their business. [A VOICE: Who told you that?] If any more evidence were needed of the slight manner in which they embarked upon this business, that would supply it.

Now Mr. Speaker, I have listened with interest to the debate as it has proceeded so far and I am not ashamed to say that I have learned a lot. When the hon. senior member for St. Philip was speaking I listened to him with interest and I, personally, regretted that I had not been able to sit on that Committee because, certainly the amendment which he made on racial discrimination would have been one upon which I would have insisted. We have just listened, too, to the hon. senior member for St. George who has brought a wealth of knowledge to

bear upon a subject of which we are all ignorant. I am taking a rather different line of argument although I propose to speak in support of the amendment. It so happens that I represent the constituency in which all this wonderful development is to take place, and I dare not conceal my pleasure that it is St. Lucy that is getting such benefits. But because of that I am even more concerned that the arrangements shall work as smoothly as possible and that, over and above everything else, there should be opportunities of ample employment and economic prosperity for the people of that constituency [VOICES: Hear! Hear!] I look forward therefore to the coming of the Americans and even more so to the coming of the American Currency. The noise of it has been spread abroad in my constituency and they are awaiting it with eagerness. However, there are certain aspects of it, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which we in St. Lucy find very disquieting, and I dare say that an opportunity will be found later to let us know the rights and wrongs of the matter. We are not yet certain whether it will be the Barbadian Government which will first acquire the territory to be leased and then make its own arrangements with the Americans through the British Government, or whether the Americans themselves will deal directly (if this is possible) with the owners of the proposed site. There is an ugly rumour going around that the Government itself foresees that the Americans might possibly surrender the base or give up the lease after a certain number of years, and the Government itself will have to secure for future generations, shall we say, the benefits of a well developed site by acquiring the whole plantation by compulsory purchase; so that in that case the owner would be putting through the deal. When legislation comes before the House, doubtless, the Hon. Minister of Communications, who knows everything, will tell us all about it; but until that time we can only just mention the speculations and the rumours which are troubling most people.

Quite a lot has been said about the impact which might be made by Americans on Caribbean society as we know it in Barbados. There is no doubt that genuine alarm is felt due to certain disquieting features of American life which, according to public report, we find not to our liking. I think that in fairness to the Americans I am bound to state that those disquieting features find no place among all that is best in American life and society. Of course the recent efforts of the Americans deserve our praise and support and we should not withhold that praise where it is due.

On the other hand there have been equally disquieting features. But I want to emphasise that while of course, there may be genuine alarm over certain features of American life: yet we need not be too unduly alarmed because the American Government are well aware of the pattern of life in Barbados and they would not willingly inject at their risk an element which would upset the peaceful pattern of local life. They would be, I think, alert enough to know that in such important matters as the choice of personnel and management of their bases here in the West Indies, they should seek to choose such personnel as would be in sympathy with the West Indian customs and not find it difficult to live in a society where there was an almost complete absence of racial antagonism.

On these matters, which quite probably fall within the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom Government I cannot afford to speak; because my knowledge both of Anglo-American agreements and the technicalities of the subject is necessarily limited. But in passing I cannot but give praise, I think, to the United Kingdom Government for what seems to me to be the unprecedented step it is taking to

actually inform us of the agreement. It has not been suggested, even by the most violent Barbadian nationalists that we are a sovereign state: and therefore we are not in a position to make treaties with the other Governments. However, we are aware of the fact that the British Government has seen fit to tell us what it proposes to do in their Treaty with the United States and to seek our concurrence in the matter.

11.10 p.m.

So far, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the Law Courts are concerned, I take it that before the Agreement is fully signed the matter of jurisdiction will be carefully gone into, and that the point so clearly made by the hon. senior member for St. George that they must of necessity be three jurisdictions be borne in mind. The only thing that disturbs me is the Note which the Hon. Attorney General has sent here for our guidance as to the nature of the Concurrent and Exclusive Jurisdiction and their application to different cases. The point that worries me is that I suspect that the American and British Interpretations do not agree. For instance, I know in England that treason must be continuous, and it is not enough to discern a single treasonable act, and call it treason. I do not think that is the American view. From my reading of American Trials of Treason, there is divergence of opinion on that, and although I do not think that such cases will arise, yet I think it is well before we made this legal agreement that we look into these matters and see that they are made as clearly as possible so that they will be no wrangling on the other side.

So far, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the point by the hon. senior member for St. Philip goes about the danger of a Naval Base or any Base we are making here, I am not really too alarmed about the alleged danger, because I do not think if another War comes it would need the establishment or the existence of a Base anywhere to make that particular place vulnerable. One never knows what will happen. However, I am of such a happy frame of mind that I take comfort in the fact that since we all are going into the next world soon it does not really matter if we go from a Hydrogen Bomb or not. I do not think we need worry over such matters. I feel we are not in any more danger by the establishment of any Base here. Secondly, recent developments in international affairs have taken a turn for the better, and if President Eisenhower's "Open Skies" policy is followed by the Russians, who knows that perhaps in a few months we will see Premier Bulganin and Marshal Krushchev here inspecting some parts of the Lighthouse at Harrison's Point, St. Lucy as they will do under the Agreement to look at each other's installation, and each other's secret weapons I think that is a good thing and nothing at all to be deplored. So, Sir, on the whole, apart from the few reservations which I have, principally, on the racial issue and other matters which have to be looked into by those competent to do it, I welcome the fact that there is going to be such an establishment as an Oceanographic Station in the parish of St. Lucy. I therefore associate myself with the reply to the Governor's Message as amended by the hon. senior member for St. Philip.

(Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.)

The question that the words proposed to be added stand part was put and resolved in the negative the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BARROW, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, Mr. TUDOR and Mr. ALLDER.—6.

Noes : Mr. SMITH, Hon. Dr. CUMMINS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. BRYAN, and Mr. MILLER.—8.
11.20 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that this Address do now pass. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. I ask the Hon. Minister of Social Services to present this Address to His Excellency the Governor.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS : As Your Honour pleases.

SELECT COMMITTEE DISCHARGED

Mr. SPEAKER : I have the honour to discharge the Select Committee appointed to consider

and draft a reply to His Excellency's Message No. 19/55 relating to the formation of a West India Regiment.

ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS : I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week Tuesday, 1st November, 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, 1st November, 1955, at 3 o'clock p.m., was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
11.30 p.m.