THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1956—61

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 19th December, 1956.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the following members of the House were present in their Chamber at 9.45 a.m.

Present:

Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M.D., C.M., C.B.E. (*Speaker-elect*), Hon. G. H. ADAMS, C.M.G., Q.C., B.A., (*Premier*), Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E., Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, Mr. T. O. BRYAN, Mr. F. C. GODDARD, Mr. F. E. MILLER, Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mrs. E. E. BOURNE, Mr. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., Mr. C. B. SEARLES Mr. L. St. A. THORNE, Mr. D. D. GARNER, Mr. H. A DOWDING, M.B.E., Mr. T. W. MILLER and Mr. F. G SMITH, B.A.

APPROVAL OF THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT: (Sitting in the Chair) I shall now ask the Hon. senior member for St. Joseph and the hon. senior member for St. Michael to repair to the Council Chamber and inform His Excellency the Governor that the House has elected its Speaker and is desirous of presenting him for His Excellency's approval.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I have information that prayers are now being said in the Other Place.

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

Hon. G. H. ADAMS and Hon. M. E. COX proceeded to the Council Chamber.

On their return.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker-elect, the hon senior member for St. Michael and I waited on His Excellency in the Council Chamber and reported to him that the House has made choice of its Speaker and is desirous of presenting him to His Excellency for his approval. His Excellency has expressed his willingness to accept Your Honour's selection by the House as Speaker and awaits the coming of the House

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT: Gentlemen, His Excellency awaits the Honourable House in the Council Chamber.

Mr. Speaker-Elect and the House, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, proceeded to the Council Chamber.

On their arrival.

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT: Your Excellency, the House of Assembly has elected me as its Speaker and I now present myself for Your Excellency's approval.

HIS EXCELLENCY: I have much pleasure in approving of the choice made by the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your Excellency, in the name and on behalf of the General Assembly I lay claim to their ancient and undoubted rights and privileges, and especially to freedom from arrest and molestation of their persons and servants, to freedom of speech in debate, to free access to Your Excellency whenever occasion may require it, and that the most favourable construction may be placed upon all their proceedings.

HIS EXCELLENCY: Mr. Speaker, I give and grant to the House of Assembly so far as it is consistent with the Royal Prerogative and with the laws and constitution of this Island, every privilege and liberty which have been enjoyed by any former Assembly as fully and freely as ever.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

His Excellency then delivered a Speech to the Houses of the Legislature, at the conclusion of which he presented a copy to Mr. Speaker.

The Speech is as follows:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

The customary formalities associated with the opening of a new session of the Legislature have been observed, and it is now my privilege to address you.

In opening the new Session, I offer a warm welcome to both chambers of the Legislature as a whole and especially to the individual Members of the General Assembly who are taking their seats for the first time.

The Honourable G. H. ADAMS C.M.G. Q.C., M.C.P., has accepted my invitation to form a Government and continues to hold the office of Premier. On the Premier's recommendation I have appointed the following Members of the House of Assembly to be Ministers:—

Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour: The Honourable M. E. Cox, M.C.P.

Minster of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries: D. D. GARNER, Esq, M.C.P.

Minister of Social Services: F. E. MILLER. Esq., M.C.P.

Minister of Communications, Works and Housing: The Honourable R. G. MAPP, M.C.P.

The appointment of these four members of the House of Assembly and the member of the Legislative Council as members of the Executive Committee will be notified to you in due course.

My Government has under consideration the appointment of one or more junior Ministers..

I must record with sincere regret the expiration of the Honourable Sir John Chandler's term of office as a member of my Executive Council. Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to grant him the right to retain the title of "Honourable" within the Island.

The Act of the United Kingdom Parliament for the Establishment of the British Caribbean Federation received Her Majesty's assent on the 2nd of August, 1956, and you will have noted that the Queen's Speech from the Throne on the 6th of last month promised that an Order-in-Council to provide for the Constitution of the Federation would be laid before Parliament in the current session. The draft of this Order-in-Council and the Report of the Commission appointed to make recommendations on the siting of the Federal Capital are among the important matters which will fall to be discussed in January next by the Standing Federation Committee, meeting in Jamaica.

It is planned that Federal Elections should take place during the first quarter of 1958 and it will be necessary for this Legislature to give attention to the arrangements to be made for those Elections in Barbados.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

It is too early to give accurate forecast of the results of the current financial year, but the indications are that the surplus on current account will be very much greater than the estimated surplus.

At 1st April, 1956, the surplus balance was $4.2 million as compared with $5.8 million at 1st April, 1952. But the Island has weathered the hurricane of September, 1955, and over the four years the Revenue Equilization Fund has been built up from $1 1/4 million to $6 2/3 million, the equivalent of about 4½ months' revenue.

As you are aware, consideration is being given to fixing a ceiling for this Fund, but it will be prudent to maintain it at about the present level. This does not, of course, preclude drawing on it to provide temporary finance for development pending the raising of loans.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

This year's sugar crop was a disappointing one by present-day standards, but the prospects for the 1957 crop are good. The recent announcement that the negotiated price for Commonwealth sugar is to be increased by £1 8s.4d. a ton, and the extension of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement to the end of 1964, provide additional security for our main source of revenue.

In the favourable conditions that have been created it is hoped that there will be a rapid expansion of the tourist industry, and my Government is considering the establishment of a statutory Tourist Board. The developments now being carried out at Seawell airport have been planned to cope with the increased air traffic which is expected to result from our expanding tourist industry. My Government has it in mind to provide facilities for the purchase of goods free of duty by passengers leaving island by air.

My Government welcomes the decision at the recent Anglo-American talks in London under which,—subject to formal confirmation by the United States and United Kingdom Governments, rights will be given to an American operator between New York, Miami and Barbados; and to a British operator from Barbados to Baltimore. Washington and New York.

My Government's large development programme and the encouragement which will be given to business enterprises through the Development Board and otherwise also help to justify the assumption that the revenues of the Island will continue to increase.

A five year programme of expenditure on development covering the period 1955-60 will be laid before you. This programme, which modifies and replaces the Development Plan for 1952-1957, envisages the expenditure of upwards of $50 million. Sources of finance include surplus funds, the Island's Development and Welfare allocation, the Labour Welfare Fund and loans.

The Deep Water Harbour, which is by far the biggest single project in the programme, must be financed by external loan and legislation to authorise the raising of this loan will be laid before you. Meanwhile the call for tenders has been published, and it is expected that work will begin early in the next financial year. This work, along with the other projects in the development programme, should provide an abundance of employment opportunities.

My Government is anxious to promote savings and investment by the people especially in view of the large sums which will be spent under the development programme. The public will be advised to take advantage of the improved facilities of the Savings Bank and legislation will be introduced to remove the existing limit on the rate of interest payable on Government debentures. It is highly desirable that as much as possible of the loan monies required to carry out the development programme should be raised locally. My Government has confidence that banks and other corporations doing business in the Island will subscribe to local loans.

Next to the Harbour the biggest item of expenditure in the programme is Housing and my Government records with pleasure the progress made by the Housing Authority, which came into being on the 1st April of this year. Eighty-five houses have been completed and one hundred and ninety more are under construction in five parishes. Construction in three other parishes is about to begin and nego-

tiations are proceeding to acquire land for housing purposes throughout the Island. My Government will continue its policy of building new houses in permanent materials so as gradually to replace the chattel houses. Meanwhile it is noteworthy that over the past six years nearly 9,000 persons have been helped with loans to build or repair their homes.

Under Medical, provision is made for the construction of a new General Hospital, plans for which are to be discussed with the Nuffield Foundation.

The Rural Amenities Programme will continue and my Government intends to improve the health services in the rural areas.

My Government will provide improved facilities for elementary, secondary and technical education so as to equip the youth of the Island to play a full part in its further development. In order to relieve as far as possible over-crowding where it exists and to meet the annual increase in this school child population, it is proposed to erect new schools, to make major extensions to some schools and to add additional classrooms to others where the pressure on existing accommodation is greatest.

The Government is aware of the staffing difficulties of the Secondary Schools and will take appropriate steps to remedy this situation.

I record the Island's thanks for the following grants towards the programme which have already been made from Development and Welfare funds:—

Airport extension and improvements	$600,256
Water Supplies	789,184
Central Market	133,738
Tenantry Roads	475,000

The British Union Oil Company Limited surrendered their oil prospecting licence in September and negotiations are proceeding with the Barbados Gulf Oil Company who have expressed interest in the concession. Proved reserves of natural gas are not yet sufficient for exploitation on a large scale, and my Government will seek to ensure that all possibilities of obtaining further supplies of gas, as well as discovering resources of oil, are fully explored.

On the 2nd November, 1956, with the concurrence of the Government of Barbados, Agreement was concluded between the Government of the United States of America and Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for the establishment of an Oceanographic Research Station in the Island. The legislation required to implement the Agreement was enacted under the title of the United States (Oceanographic Research Station) Act, 1956. This is a joint programme of research which indicates the abiding confidence and faith of the two Governments in each other.

Legislation was enacted in the last Session to effect the reorganisation of the Judicial system and to establish a Judicial and Legal Service Commission. This legislation will be brought into operation as soon as practicable.

The retirement of Sir Allan Collymore as Chief Justice of this Island brings to an end a distinguished career of thirty years' service and has left us all with a sense of personal loss. I know we all wish him many more years of happiness in our midst.

New legislation will be introduced for the encouragement of Pioneer Industries.

Existing labour legislation is being examined in the light of Mr. Matthews's recommendations and amending legislation will be proposed from time to time.

My Government is resolved to maintain progress in improving social and working conditions and will continue to assist and encourage emigration to countries offering opportunities to our workers.

A Bill will be laid before you to provide the necessary powers for undertaking erosion control in the Scotland district.

Other legislation to be presented to you will include a Bill to repeal and replace the present Police Act, a Bill to repeal and replace the Fire Brigade Act, a Bill relating to the sale and supply of intoxicating liquor, a Bill relating to the collection and publication of statistics, and further amendments to the Local Government Act. Town and Country Planning legislation is being prepared for presentation to you.

A number of matters arising out of the Godsall Report remain to be dealt with and a Committee has been appointed to investigate any anomalies that may have resulted from the Report.

My Government believes that the time has come to establish a cabinet form of Government modelled as closely as possible on the system obtaining in the United Kingdom. Exploratory discussions have already been held with the Secretary of State, and after further consideration locally, detailed proposals will be submitted for his concurrence with a view to their introduction into the Legislature.

Consideration will also be given to the question of electoral reform including the abolition of double-member constituencies.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly

I now declare the legislative session open and I pray that the Blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados,
19th December, 1956.

HOUSE RETURNS

Mr. SPEAKER and the House preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace returned to the Assembly Chamber and entered upon the Business of the Day.

After Prayers

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House attended His Excellency the Governor in the Council Chamber on the occasion of the opening of the Legislature, His Excellency was pleased to deliver a Speech, a copy of which he has handed to me.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Speech be taken as read.

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

The question that His Excellency's Speech be taken as read was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, now that that motion has been made that the speech be taken as read, I propose to state that just like in the United Kingdom, if the Government wants to follow their practice, the Governor's Speech should become a document of the House and placed on the Order Paper so that any member may discuss the policy of the Speech and a day be set aside to debate the Speech by His Excellency because it is the Government's Speech and not the Governor's Speech any longer, and therefore, it should be a matter for the House to debate Government policy for the coming Session. I raise it now at this stage without any apology to anyone in the matter, though the Premier may be holding down his head.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will inform the honourable member that a Select Committee will be appointed to prepare an answer to His Excellency's Speech, and I take it that when that Select Committee reports the whole House will have an opportunity to debate and make any amendments to the Address recommended by that Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER APPOINTED

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to propose the honourable junior member for St. John as Deputy Speaker for this Session.

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

Mr. VAUGHAN: It is always embarrassing for me to accept a compliment paid to me without a suggestion or some counter proposal and therefore, I invite someone from either quarter of the House to make another nomination. I am not refusing, but I would like to know if it is the desire of any member of the House to make another nomination. [*Aside*]

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the senior member for St. Peter to restrain himself from talking across the Table; not only him, but all honourable members.

There being no other nomination, the hon. junior member for St. John is appointed Deputy Speaker.

Mr. WALCOTT: I rise on a point of Order.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Order.

Mr. WALCOTT: You are not the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the honourable senior member for St. Peter please to restrain himself.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of Order to say that the question has not been put.

The question that the honourable junior member for St. John be appointed Deputy Speaker was then put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the present Rules of the House remain the Rules of the House for this Session until altered.

Mr. BRANCKER: I beg to second that.

The motion was put and agreed to.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph be Chairman of Committees for the Session.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, in support of that motion, I will only say this: I had hoped that the hon. member who has been proposed as Chairman of Committees would have been interested in some other preferment, because there can be no doubt that during many Sessions he has borne the heat and burden of the day unflinchingly and uncomplainingly. I am rather surprised that the hon. member, in view of certain changes which have been made, is apparently willing to remain with that self modesty of his, in the same office which he has held for so long. I will throw out the suggestion, if the hon. member retains the same office, that certain matters connected with the Office and not unconnected with Her Majesty's Treasury should be considered with a view to certain adjustments being made.

There can be no doubt about it that the Chairman of Committees has to do the greater part of the sitting in the Chair; he has no comfortable room into which he can retire, and he has to remain there during the most furious altercations to which there is no limit either in duration or multiplicity. I will say this; that our past and respected present Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, is one person who, as soon as temper has died down, is absolutely without rancour. He will meet the most trying member at the conclusion of a furious altercation in the most friendly and amicable way and he will most unhesitantly have a drink with him and in no way show that he bears any malice, ill-will, or grudge against him. Because of that fact, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph is rightly regarded as the most cheery member of the last House and I regret that the hon. member has not seen fit to offer himself for a high or different office.

The question that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph be appointed Chairman of Committees for this Session was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

APPOINTED COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, it is true that I have intimated to one member of the Opposition that perhaps in the appointment of Committees and members of Boards, we should revert to the old practice of appointing the senior representatives of their constituencies to recommend to the House who should be appointed to these Committees and Boards. However, I am suggesting that such changes as I propose should be accepted by everybody, because all the Parties are fairly represented, and the changes which are being made are made mostly on account of certain members having lost their seats.

I propose to make motions for the appointment of these Committees and members of Boards. On the Printing Committee, Your Honour will be in the place of the last Speaker, I propose that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries will take the place of the former Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, and that the other members of the Committee remain as they are.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: I should like to know who are the other members otherwise.

I will make a motion that the names of the members of the Printing Committee be read out.

Mr. SPEAKER: The members of the Printing Committee are the hon. junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. BRANCKER), the hon. junior member for Christ Church (Mr. GODDARD), the hon. junior member for St. Philip (Hon. D. D. GARNER) the hon. junior member for St. John (Mr. VAUGHAN) and myself as SPEAKER.

The question that the members proposed be the members of the Printing Committee was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

THE DEBATES COMMITTEE

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: As regards the Debates Committee, I propose the same changes as in the case of the Printing Committee, namely, His Honour the Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, Hon. D. D. GARNER, and the others remain the same.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: In seconding the motion, I should like to draw to your Honour's attention the phrase which has been used by the Hon. Minister. Let me say that no Minister was put on this Committee. The hon. senior member for

Christ Church (Mr. TALMA) was placed on that Committee before he was a Minister; therefore, the House must not be misled in believing that a Minister was put on this Committee. It is another name for a name.

The question that Mr. SPEAKER, Mr. GODDARD, Mr. BRANCKER, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Hon. D. D. GARNER and Mr. VAUGHAN be members of the Debates Committee was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

VICTORIA EMIGRATION SOCIETY

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Members of the Victoria Emigration Society during the last Session were: the hon. senior member for St. George at that time, (Mr. BARROW), the hon. senior member for St. Andrew (Mrs. BOURNE), and the hon. senior member for St. James (Mr. HOLDER). This is a Committee which is appointed by Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the place of the late senior member for St. George, I appoint the hon. junior member for St. Andrew (Mr. F. G. SMITH). The other hon. members remain the same.

SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I propose that the following should be members of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank:—

The hon. junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. BRANCKER), the hon. junior member for St. Michael (BRYAN), the hon. senior member for St. George (Mr. DOWDING) and the hon. junior member for St. James (Mr. SEARLES).

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, there is an error in the printing of this Board. The Agenda says that the members at the end of the last Session were: Mr. BRANCKER, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. BRYAN and Mr. MILLER. Mr. BRYAN was never a member of this Committee; the members of that Committee were: Mr. BRANCKER, Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY and Mr. MILLER.

I therefore propose, Mr. Speaker, that in place of the hon. junior member for St. George (Mr. MILLER) who is now a Minister that the hon. senior member for the City be a member of this Board.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I understand the amendment made by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, he is proposing that the hon. senior member for the City be substituted for the hon. junior member for St. James.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am proposing that the hon senior member for the City be a member of this Board. I pointed out that the hon. junior member for St. Michael was not a member of this Board but I am not making a substitution.

Mr. SPEAKER: In this case, I will have to put the names individually.

The question that the hon. junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. *BRANCKER*) *be appointed a member of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

The question that the hon. senior member for St. George (Mr. DOWDING) be appointed a member was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The question that the hon. junior member for St. Michael (Mr. BRYAN) be appointed a member was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The question that the hon. junior member for St. James (Mr. SEARLES) be appointed a member was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows:—

Ayes: Mr. SMITH, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. M. E. Cox, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Hon. D. D. GARNER, Hon. F. E. MILLER, Mrs. BOURNE, Mr. HOLDER, Mr. THORNE, Mr. SEARLES, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. T. W. MILLER, and Mr. VAUGHAN—13.

Noes: Mr. HUSBANDS, Mr. TALMA, Mr. WALCOTT, Mr. DOWDING, Mr. GODDARD, Mr. SMITH, Mr. TUDOR and Mr. BRANCKER—8.

PEASANTS' LOAN BANK

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, and the hon. senior member for St. James be appointed as members of the Peasants' Loan Bank.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

FANCY MOLASSES CONTROL AND MARKETING BOARD

On the motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the hon. junior member for St. John, the hon. junior member for the City, Mr. Nigel Reece and Sir John Saint were appointed to serve as members of the Fancy Molasses Control and Marketing Board.

SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CONTROL BOARD

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to propose the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, the hon. senior member for St. John, the hon. senior member for the City and Mr. H. A. C. Thomas to be members of the Sugar Production and Export Control Board.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, in addition to any name or as a substitute I beg to move that the name of Mr. McDonald Blunt take the place of Mr. H. A. C. Thomas.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, as an amendment I beg to move that the following be members of the Sugar Production and Export Control Board: the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, the hon. senior member for St. John, Mr. McDonald Blunt and Mr. H. A. C. Thomas.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I will accept the amendment by the hon. member that in place of the senior member for the City, Mr. McDonald Blunt be a member of the Board.

Mr. WALCOTT: It is not a matter of what he accepts as an amendment. I made a motion that Mr. Blunt be placed on the Board in place of Mr. Thomas. You cannot make an amendment that Mr. Blunt be placed on the Board in place of the hon. senior member for the City. You cannot put a name as an amendment to another name.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will put the names individually.

Mr. WALCOTT: I beg to move that my amendment be placed first.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken three times.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am speaking before putting the motion. I am moving that my amendment be made first.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, ...

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. I made an amendment to the motion for which you have not put before the House; that Mr. Blunt be placed in

place of Mr. H. A. C. Thomas, and I respectfully move that my amendment should be placed before the House. It has not been placed before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a further amendment that in place of the hon. senior member for the City, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph . . .

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, my amendment was never accepted; my motion still stands as an amended motion.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: An amended motion what!

Mr. WALCOTT: Shut up!

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the hon. member to take his seat.

Mr. WALCOTT: Hon. members cannot shout across the table at me.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am standing.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a point of order. I made a motion that Mr. Blunt be placed on the Board instead of Mr. Thomas which was seconded, and according to the Rules that motion should be placed before the House and it has not been placed.This is not a matter of a quarrel; I can go back to the people.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the hon. senior member for St. Peter to let us have order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to have order, but I made a motion and according to the Rules I should be given the courtesy of having the motion accepted in the normal manner and put to the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that Mr. Blunt's name be placed in place of Mr. Thomas.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: On a point of order. There is a subsequent amendment and if any amendment is going to be put first, the subsequent amendment should be put first.

Mr. WALCOTT: There is no amendment before the House from the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not asking for any advice from any side of the House. [*Cheers*].

The question that Mr. Blunt's name be substituted for that of Mr. Thomas, was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows—

Ayes: Messrs HUSBANDS, TALMA, WALCOTT, TUDOR, F. G. SMITH, and BRANCKER—6.

Noes: Mr. L. E. SMITH, Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Hon. D. D. GARNER, Hon. F. E. MILLER, Mrs. BOURNE, Messrs. HOLDER, SEARLES, BRYAN, T. W. MILLER, VAUGHAN, DOWDING and GODDARD—15.

The question that the hon. junior member for St Joseph (Mr. L. E. SMITH), the hon senior member for St. John (Mr. THORNE), Mr. Blunt and Mr. Thomas be members of the Sugar Production Board was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SELECT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER AND REVISE THE RULES OF THE HOUSE

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Select Committee be appointed to consider and revise the Rules of this House.

Mr. BRANCKER: I beg to second that.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: Subject to their willingness to serve, I appoint the following as members of that Select Committee: The Hon. Premier, (Hon. G. H. ADAMS), the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, (Hon. R. G. MAPP), the hon. junior member for St. Lucy (Mr. BRANCKER), the hon. junior member for St. John (*Mr. VAUGHAN*), the hon. junior member for Christ Church, (Mr. GODDARD), and I associate myself with the Committee.

Mr. BRANCKER: May I suggest, Sir, the addition of the hon. junior member for St. Andrew (Mr. SMITH)? I am quite sure that with his legal background, the hon. member will be of great assistance to the Hon. Premier and to me in this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have no objection to that addition. I include the name of the hon. junior member for St. Andrew as a member for this Committee.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: As Your Honour pleases.

DOCUMENTS

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

Financial Report of the Accountant General of Barbados for the month ended 31st October, 1956.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the half year ended 30th September, 1956, from the parish of St. John in connection with tenantry roads.

Highway Accounts for the half year ended 30th September, 1956, from the parish of St. Peter.

ELECTION PETITIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk has received two Election Petitions—one from Mr. H. V. Gilkes and the other from Mr. D. Carter.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:—

Resolution to place the sum of $399,254 at th disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1956—57, Part II—Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1956-57, No. 45, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at the next meeting to consider th Money Resolution of which notice has just been given.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until 8th January next at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, speaking on the motion for the adjournment, I think, perhaps, it is appropriate that this side of the House should say one or two things which we feel are important.

First of all, in due course, so far as my own party is concerned, a communication will be made this very day to His Excellency the Governor with respect to the fact that we have chosen a leader and then leave it to him to do whatever else necessary is required.

Apart from that, members on this side of the House hope very much that this Session will bring

sense, and I did not do like the junior member for St. John, but I am appealing to the hon. senior member for St. John who is a man, not to agree to this hanging by saying that he was on the gallows before you came. You are an old and respectable gentleman but I know that voice still speaks no matter to what party you belong.

The hon. senior member for St. James likes the Party and he likes good friendship; what have you got against the hon. junior member for St. Peter? Do not talk about your reaching agreement last night and the hon. member changing his mind, because they change their minds just as some people change their shirts. They were always willing to remove the hon. junior member for St. Peter; at one time if they had a majority, the Speaker would not have been the Speaker because he disagreed with them. Let them do what they are doing now to a man like the hon. junior member for St. Thomas because he does not possess any political sagacity. He has taken over from the "Piles" and the "Wilkinsons" because he feels that he is an aristocrat and he subscribes to the view that some people must go through his gate and others through the front door. You can see what they are doing today; they ran against Frank but they failed. They ran Morris against me, but if Mr. Morris were in here, far from being nominated as Speaker there would have been something different.

The D.L.P., has lost and the P.C.P., has lost; but would I be a member of three blind mice? Here you have the sort of propaganda which the members of the Labour Party are using; they are offering the former Speaker of this House the post of Parliamentary Under-Secretary which does not exist in the Constitution at all. They are telling you that you must hold on until the last man gets out, but the last man will never get out, and therefore you do not get any hand. That is the sort of nebulous nonsense which they are always telling people. The Country voted for them but I still hold that the Labour Party Organisation is an amorphous one; it is a nebulous amorphous Organisation with this oligarchic control by which you bring a man from Timbuctoo, you can curse him today and make him Pope tomorrow. You have some people in this community who do not realise that it is a question of the taxpayers' money being spent; they do not hold their lions together Everybody in St. Peter voted for the hon. junior member for St. Peter and therefore we can have a by-election next week.

How can you appeal to the hon. junior member for St. James when, ten years ago, he was a member of the Labour Party, and when the Congress Party came along, he was like a butterfly? His greatest ambition in life has been achieved, Mr. E. K. Walcott is now out of the House and Mr. C. B. SEARLES is in the House! He has now shed his teeth at sixty-two years and therefore you must know how long he will take to bring out his first new one. If he can hear them assassinating a man, he will vote for them; he was one of those who told the people to return the former Speaker to the House of Assembly and he told them that the hon. junior member for St. Peter was eligible for the office of Speaker.

I am saying that there can be no misgivings about this matter; what has happened today should be an important lesson for the former Speaker of this House and the public, because there are some people in the community who are supporting the Government although they may be assassinating somebody. I have just given the history as to how things work; they do not want the former Speaker as Speaker, they want somebody else as Speaker and that is the end of the matter. The hon. senior mem' for St. Michael did not come down from being Vice President of the Labour Party and the hon. junior member for St. Thomas withdrew; you bring down the constituencies today and let the Premier see how much the public is behind him for the Federal Parliament.

When you come to these things in question, you can see that they did not want him; they wanted to assassinate him politically. And that is what it is.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Now, Mr. Clerk, according to the Rules, after the Speaker has been elected, you are supposed to pass on his election to the Governor.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Clerk, everything that has been said by members on that side is far from being true. I expected to hear in certain circumstances and from certain speakers things which are not true. Some of these things are easily refuted but it is not always possible or always advisable for everything to be said at a particular time. I will in due course reply to anything which seems necessary.

Some really preposterous things have been said which give a completely wrong idea of the position of Speaker or that if a particular Speaker is not re appointed that that is a reflection on him. I hope to see in the fulness of time the same sort of unwritten customs that exist in Great Britain exist here, although some hon. members are aware that unwritten customs are not always observed in Great Britain However, we are very far from the English practice at the present moment. For instance, I myself am not sure that the general public of Barbados would be willing at this stage of our history to have it accepted as a general principle in comparison with Great Britain the carving out of a special constituency for a Speaker. We all know what a task it was years ago when the Speaker's seat was contested.

Let me say to the Opposition quite early in this Session this: if they choose to declare war, they would have it; and when it comes to the decorum of this place, members of this side of the House will do everything possible to bring Barbados back up to the place where it was [*cheers*]. In less than a month I shall have to try to get the Federal Capital in Barbados. I will only say that it is a good thing that members of other Legislatures in the West Indies were not in here today and have seen Barbados at its worst. I will still do my best as long as I have the honour of this position or even an ordinary position on the floor of this House, and as long as I have the confidence of the people of Barbados as they have shown. In spite of the severe blow being given to the chance of Barbados being made the Federal Capital, I shall still do my best in the coming month.

Mr. Clerk, I do again promise this House and the general public that the misrepresentation of facts that has been made today would be cleared up by me in public in due course but it is impossible for me to do it today in view of the fact that this Legislative Session has not yet formally been entered upon. Because of that, it is impossible for me to make these explanations.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Clerk, here again is a last attempt by the Premier to hoodwink this whole matter which was the result of the ex-Speaker making the statement in this House of what took place and that what he was offered he had to refuse.

One or two things have happened; either the Speaker's statement is incorrect and is a false statement intending to mislead the House or in the absence of the statement we have to decide whether certain things are true or not. To get up and talk about a Federal Capital is a joke. The ex-Speaker is willing to serve, but you say "no" you are not having him any longer, you are having somebody else, and he has given reasons why he is willing to serve. Tell us whether what HUSBANDS said is correct or not. This is the thing we all want to know.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Clerk, we are not interested in what statement he has to make; he can make that on a public platform. We are confident in the Speaker and know that he is the only man who can keep order in this House. He can teach anybody in here, but what are you doing? You go into a blacksmith's shop to get white paint. We have all come from the public now; so do not worry to think about war being declared; war was declared on me four months ago and I came out conqueror. If you want to declare more war, you can declare it on the Union and let me tell the people about you and the Unions' money.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Clerk, I regret very much that the Premier made reference to things that could be refuted and has not yet been refuted. I think it would do this House and serve this House a very good and useful purpose if the Premier had made refutations to what hon. members have said on this side of the House and especially if he could find it possible to refute anything I have said. I am going to repeat what I said earlier.

Now, it is a fact that members of a Party have found themselves committed to vote for a Speaker. I do not agree with that, and I will never agree with it. This is Parliament; and an officer of Parliament should be freely elected by Parliament; and every hon. member on the Other Side of the Table could not be in my opinion duty bound to what the Party's Leader has dictated for him. . . The day that comes and persists, the institutions of democracy and Parliament are bound to sink. It is foolishness waiting until the millennium ushers itself in to hope we will ever rise to the British conventions. When will it happen if we in our times have not prepared for it? As I sat in that Chair as Speaker, I have had to go to May's, the British Procedure of the British House of Commmons, and I feel that Parliament should remain so exalted, when it comes to the Speakership no one should be fooled to think he has got to vote as the Premier or anyone else dictates. I say this and more; it is an easy matter to go out of this Chamber and write anything in the columns of any newspaper, but why not say it here that I personally can nail it on the head? I challenge any man on either side of the Table to say he can bring anything I cannot refute today.

Now, lots of people thought I had been offered a Ministry; a member of the Other Place had a strong conviction that I was offered a Ministry and that I refused it. He had no intention of creating another one; but somebody is saying that I in this year of grace agreed to accommodate the Premier last Friday in a situation, could not review my decision! My political future was at state. I telephoned him last Sunday and last Monday and allowed him to know that in no equivocal manner: and that is why I am here in this position today. What have I got to do with what arrangements had been made with the Ministers? I have never wanted one: I am not any political careerist as such; I have an independent spirit, and that is why I appeal to you gentlemen, that if you can bring any lie I will nail that lie on the head and refute it here and now. Do not wait to do it in any cheap manner in the yellow press behind my back; I am here to defend myself and I challenge anyone who has decency, honour or respect left in him to know I have been led up the garden path by being offered the position I could not hope to accept. I have let them know that in no uncertain equivocal manner, and after I say that you can vote as you please. Do not let them deceive you. In my anxiety to accommodate him, have I not got the right to revise a position which affects me politically! I must be denied of that right! One man who has not got that right is Husbands! I must accommodate them even if I lose materially! But I know retribution will make itself felt, and, I hope even in my own time.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Clerk, the hon and learned Premier spoke of a special constituency for the Speaker. I will recall this: in the last Session we discussed the matter of single member constituencies and I understood the hon. and learned Premier suggested that the matter should receive further consideration, and felt it should be put to the electorate of the Island. I do not know if it has been put or if it is to be put in 1961; I have not heard of it, but it is only if you have single member constituencies that, Mr. Clerk, you can ensure that Mr. Speaker is in a position that his seat is not contested by any decent person or any Government of Parliamentary Democracy. In view of what took place in St. Peter not very long ago, if you had single member constituencies, of course, I presume Mr. Speaker would have been left untouched, and the hon. senior member who has been returned would not have been returned with a greater majority than he had the honour to receive, but for a long time I mentioned in the House as well as the former member for St. Andrew, the capitalist member Mr. J. A. Haynes that there is no point carrying single member constituencies here as in England or any part of the British Commonwealth.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Clerk, a remarkable fact that has emerged from the closing stages of this debate is that in spite of the allegations which have been made by the Ex-Speaker and others today, we are told that a refutation will be made and nothing is to be said today in answer to these allegations. A stupid excuse has been advanced that since Parliament is not formally opened, it can remain until later on. What you can expect is this: at some future date outside this House some attempt will be made to stab the Speaker in his back, at a time and a place when he cannot reply. The correct place to answer these statements is in the House in front of the Ex-Speaker who can answer the charges thrown on him and refute any mis-statements made, and therefore when in the future there is an attempt outside this House to reply to this issue today or to stab the Speaker behind his back, let the people who do it understand that we knew before that that is what we would expect.

Mr. BRANCKER: Now, Mr. Clerk, let me make this point plain, no one can adjourn this House as there was an attempt to adjourn, and I want that to be conveyed to Government House as soon as possible. This House cannot be adjourned by the Head of the Administration disappearing and saying, I am adjourning until ten o'clock tomorow. According to the Rules of this Chamber, he has no alternative until the constituted representatives of the people have arrived at a decision in the choice of a Speaker. Rule 13 states this, after the choice

quite a lot of changes in this Chamber which we have always been wanting. One thing with which we notice with interest is that among the Ministers there are two new faces, one of which had not been seen in this Chamber for quite sometime and I would like to extend a welcome to him personally.

The second thing is this. We hope that when our co-operation is asked for by the Government, while we do not mind giving it in the carrying out of Government Business because we realise that they are the Government and therefore they must carry on the business of the Government, yet, at the same time, it will help this side of the House to help them if some of the things we have been complaining about are no longer seen in the House. We want to see greater efficiency, and a greater direction of approach among the Ministers in the carrying out of their duties.

I should like to stress that the Opposition has its rights which we insist should be respected. When we ask questions of the Minister, we ask them in the hope that we can get answers to satisfy our constituents. I sincerely hope that there will be no repetition of the grievances which the Opposition suffered during the last Session that questions asked to which answers were expected were ignored, and as a result the Opposition was prevented from carrying out their duties to the people whom they represent.

One other point, Mr. Speaker, in this. During the last Session we heard quite a lot, erroneously in my opinion, about the nature of the Ministerial System and what was no longer possible under it. To give a case in point, confusion largely arises over whether or not addresses should be moved and passed in this Assembly by private members to His Excellency the Governor. Members of the Opposition during the last Session suffered severe inconvenience because of the doctrine expounded by the Premier although it was broken on more than one occasion and from the same side of the House that initiated it.

I should like to make it clear that we on this side of the House have no intention of obstructing the Government in the legitimate business of the Government but we have no intention of seeing any of the privileges of hon. members abrogated or disregarded. If the Ministers can, perhaps, be got to believe that the Opposition has its rights and is willing to co-operate, I think that things would run much more smoothly. Obviously, there will be the clash and strife of party battle because some hon. members have come in under one banner and others under others; therefore, their policy is not ours and it is not expected to be; but apart from that, the business of the House can be proceeded with as smoothly as possible if both sides of the House prepare to acknowledge the rights of each other.

One last matter, Mr. Speaker, is this. It has not been announced who the Leader of the House will be. Obviously, it will be one of the Ministers or the Hon. Premier himself. Whoever the person is, he has it within his power to bring about all that I have been asking for—this smoothness and this pleasant atmosphere — but whatever approach he makes towards that, speaking now for my own side of the Opposition, I think I can disclose that we are prepared to co-operate with the Leader of the House in whatever he wishes to consult us on with respect to the business of the House and to that end we have asked the hon. junior member for St. Andrew to be our spokesman with the other side because being new in this Chamber, he has not as yet been involved in the storm and strife of party battles. Therefore, I think he is on speaking terms with quite a number of hon. members on the other side. He has undertakened to be our spokesman with members of the Government and the Leader of the House may address any communication to us by sending it to the hon. junior member for St. Andrew.

With these few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I would like to end by saying that this group wishes to express the hope that all the business will be conducted smoothly, and I leave it to my colleague whenever we have announced him to speak in a more official capacity than I can today.

QUESTIONS UNANSWERED

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, it may not be out of place for me just in the light of past experience very briefly to refer to one or two matters. One is a matter of the greatest importance, because as you know Sir, in the past session or two that most invaluable feature of any parliamentary democracy has not been observed. Replies have been laid after considerable time and others not at all, and the opportunity for discussing some has almost entirely not existed. You will probably agree that this should not be in a British Parliament. Even if it might be that some time will be expended in the discussion of the revision of the Rules, even before that is completed, I am throwing out that whosoever shall be named as Leader of this House should see that we have reasonable opportunity to discuss the points that use be made of in question time. Sir, I am going to refer now to another matter.

It has happened every now and again during the last session—yesterday it occurred—when an hon. member sought to find or to refer to the Official Debate in this Chamber and a volume was found, it was discovered that the particular pages to which hon. members were seeking to refer had been torn out from that volume. That, Sir, is a most extraordinary and deplorable thing to happen. I do not for one minute suggest that when the debate started any hon. member hurried away and removed those pages, but I am suggesting to you that you see that the Librarian exercise such a ceaseless vigil that such a thing can never take place. It is most deplorable that we have not got complete records due to an obvious act of sabotage, and yesterday it was fortunate that we were able to borrow for the purpose of reference to which hon. members were making, the records of the Other Place They showed a spirit of cooperation with the spirit of the time, and we welcome it, but our records should be kept intact. I feel you will see to it that a ceaseless watch is kept and all of our documents will be safely guarded. Sir, as you will appreciate, it is laid down as the duty of Her Majesty's Opposition that they must always be constructive and in the case of ourselves it cannot be otherwise, so that if that is appreciated and understood by all sides, I would not commend any hon. members to re-read their constitution, because I am sure these things are fresh in the minds of each and every member of this Chamber; that is enough, I think, on that point. You may recall that some years ago the present Prime Minister of Great Britain paid a visit to Barbados and was entertained by the Legislature. Sir Anthony Eden said then that the business of the Government Party was to undertake the burden of Government: the business of the Opposition is to make that burden intolerable; so let them realise they must because of the Opposition, exercise the utmost vigilance in carrying out the duties of Government.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member spoke about question time. Provision is being made in the draft Rules to be presented to a Select Committee which has been appointed. Some hon. members will be aware that that Committee sat, concluded their deliberations, but because the attendance was very spasmodic—sometimes there were three members, and next time there were three others—it was finally decided to try and get the full Committee before presenting the Rules to the House. The ex-Leader of the Opposition who may yet be Leader of the present . . .

Mr. HUSBANDS: I rise on a point of order.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I am not giving way to the hon. member.

Mr. HUSBANDS: It is not a question of giving way; I rise on a point of order.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I am not giving way to the hon. member; I am speaking on the motion for the adjournment.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I wondered whether the Hon. Premier was referring to me.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: That question will be settled by the Rules. If I had been in the Opposition I would have found all the time I wanted at question time. If the members of the Opposition did not care to take up the matter and use the brains that the Almighty gave them . . . In making the motion for the adjournment I will seize this opportunity to wish Your Honour the compliments of the Season and a happy return to the House and a successful tenure of your office.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr Speaker, on behalf of our Party I would like to extend to you the compliments of the season.

Mr. SPEAKER: I accept the compliments of the season from hon. members and I heartily reciprocate them. I hope you will have a happy holiday, and if we happen to see each other we will be able to recognise each other.

I will take this opportunity to remind the gallery that there should be no laughing, applause or anything of the sort. If during my time as Speaker that sort of behaviour exists or shall exist, I will have to take measures to stop it. You are here on sufferance; we are glad to see you here because you show an interest in the work of the colony, but while you are here you must submit yourself to the Rules of the House.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 8th January at 3 o'clock p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.