

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1955—56

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 7th February, 1956.

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*); 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. T. O. BRYAN, Mr. F. C. GODDARD, (*Leader of the Opposition*); Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A., Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN and Mrs. E. E. BOURNE.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the 12th January, 1956 have been printed and circulated and unless there be any objection, the Minutes will be taken as read and confirmed.

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

PAPERS LAID

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency to lay Message No. 2/1956 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly regarding the provision of accommodation for Barbadian workers recruited by road and rail transport undertakings in the United Kingdom.

The Message reads as follows:—

MESSAGE NO. 2/56.

*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 plans exist for the recruitment of Barbadians on a considerable scale by road and rail transport undertakings in the United Kingdom. In some cases, how-

ever, the employing undertaking is unwilling to proceed with recruitment unless satisfactory arrangements are made for the accommodation of the workers.

2. There are individuals in the United Kingdom who would be able and willing to make accommodation available for Barbadian workers provided that they receive certain assistance from this Government.

3. In view of the potential importance of this recruitment, the Liaison Officer, Barbadian Immigrants' Welfare and Liaison Service, has been authorised to enter into agreements with such persons, on the basis either of loans by this Government to be utilised for the provision and equipment of accommodation, or of guarantees by this Government of a certain minimum gross income from charges for board and lodging. In every case the interests of Barbadian emigrants and of this Government will be fully safeguarded by provisions in the agreements relating to such matters as the availability, standard and cost of the accommodation, the repayment of and security for loans, and so on. The cost will be charged to Head XXXI, Labour Department, Item 18, Emigration.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,

Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.

2nd. February, 1956.

M.P. 1001/S.10/22

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I am commanded by His Excellency to lay Message No. 3/1956 from His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable the House of Assembly presenting the draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1956-57.

These Draft Estimates are laid today. It is proposed to begin consideration of the Estimates on the 28th February, and to pass the Appropriation Bill on the 13th March, 1956. I say that for the benefit of hon. members.

The Message reads as follows:—

MESSAGE NO. 3/1956

*His Excellency The Governor
To*

The Honourable The House Of Assembly

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to present for the consideration of the Honourable House

of Assembly the draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1956-57.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Barbados.
6th February, 1956.
(M.P. 1356 Vol. XVI)

On behalf of the Hon. Premier, I am also commanded by His Excellency to lay: The Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) (Amendment) Order 1956.

Also,—Quarterly Return of Transactions in Rum, to 31st. December, 1955.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor to lay Statement of Post Office Advances for payment of Money Orders, to 31st October, 1955.

REPLIES

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I beg to lay reply to Question No. 25 asked by the hon. senior member for St. George (Mr. Barrow) regarding monopolistic practices.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to lay reply to question No. 67 asked by the hon. junior member for St. John (Mr. V. B. Vaughan) regarding rates of overtime payment for certain members of the Waterworks staff.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to lay Reply to Question No. 69 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Lucy regarding the disposal of clothing received from the United Kingdom.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

“Resolution to approve the Order entitled “The Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) (Amendment) Order, 1956.”

On my own behalf, I beg to give notice of the following:—

Resolution to place the sum of \$50,000 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. 68 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

In connection with this Resolution for \$50,000, I intend to ask leave to move the suspension of Rules 88 and 89 in order to proceed with this Resolution to-day. This Resolution is to rehabilitate certain privies and closets which have been blown down in St. Michael and the City of Bridgetown during the recent hurricane. This money is urgently needed.

Also, Resolution to place the sum of \$21,690 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1955-56, Part 1, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1955-56, No. 69, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:—Resolution to place the sum of \$2,315 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1955-56, Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1955-56, No. 67, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

I will also like to inform Your Honour that it is my intention to have this Resolution dealt with today. The Hon. Minister of Social Services has already intimated to the House that he intends to

move the suspension of Rules 88 & 89. I hope when this House goes into Committee this Resolution will be considered when those Rules are suspended.

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 its next meeting to consider the Resolution for \$21,690 given notice of earlier today.

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

Bill to continue various expiring laws.

Bill to repeal the Acts of this Island which provide for the issue of currency notes issued by the Commissioners of Currency of the Colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad & Tobago, to effect amendments to the Currency Act, 1950, consequent upon the appeal of the aforementioned Acts, and to provide for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.
3.25 p.m.

QUESTIONS

Mr. W. A. CRAWFORD: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will the Minister cause to be laid, at the earliest date possible, on the Table of the House, an audited statement showing:—

(1) The total number of omnibuses taken over by the Government during the year 1955 from Concessionaires.

(2) Total operational costs of these 'buses to 31st December, 1955, showing:—

(a) amounts paid to staff, including clerical, supervisory and other administrative employees.

(b) total amounts spent on petrol and oil and names of concerns from which purchases of these commodities were made.

(c) total amounts paid and due to non-government owned repair shops and garages and names of such concerns.

(d) total estimated costs of repairs and maintenance carried out in government owned repair shops.

(e) estimate of interest due to concessionaires for the period.

(f) total cost of taxes and insurance.

(3) Amounts spent on Tyres and other accessories.

(4) Gross Revenue received for the period.

Mr. L. E. SMITH: To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture:—

Is Government aware of the hardship experienced by workers in the Sugar Industry in having to raise the required one-fourth share towards the purchase of chattel houses under the Labour Welfare Housing Scheme?

2. Will Government consider the advisability of

1. Deleting the required one-fourth; or

2. Instituting a small nominal deposit of \$50 in place of the said one-fourth.

Mr. L. E. SMITH: To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture:—

Is Government aware of the hardship experienced by small property owners in raising the sixty percent required by the Peasants' Loan Bank for the purpose of buying or clearing off mortgages etc.?

2. Will Government consider the advisability of reversing the stipulations of the Bank so as to make it possible for property owners to raise 40% in place of 60%.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the Bill to continue various expiring laws be now read a first time.

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

The question that the Bill be now read a first time was put and carried nem. con.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the following Bill be now read a first time.

Bill to repeal the Acts of this Island which provide for the issue of currency notes issued by the Commissioners of Currency of the Colonies of British Guiana and Trinidad & Tobago, to effect amendments to the Currency Act, 1950, consequent upon the repeal of the aforementioned Acts, and to provide for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

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

The question that the Bill be now read a first time was put and carried nem. con.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for two months' leave for the hon. junior member for St. James, as from to-day.

There being no objection leave was granted the hon. member.

LEAVE TO SUSPEND RULES 88 & 89

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Rules 88 & 89 be now suspended for the reasons given a little earlier.

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

There being no objection leave was granted.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and that the House go into Committee of Supply and that it be an instruction to the House when in Committee of Supply to consider two Money Resolutions for \$50,000 and \$2,315 given notice of earlier to-day.

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

The question being put and carried men. con.
Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. SMITH in the Chair.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to take charge of the two Resolutions which stand in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph who is absent.

Supplementary Estimates 1955-56 No. 64

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This is a supplementary Estimate and in accordance with the custom, I will take the Heads individually and then move the total sum.

Head X — Fire Brigade

Head X — Fire Brigade—was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Head X is a supplementary Estimate in connection with travelling done by the Fire Brigade. The amount of fires sir, which the Brigade has to attend has increased; consequently, the Fire Officer and his assistant have to travel more because of this, and the vote is almost exhausted. This amount of \$260 is required to carry on until the end of the Financial Year.

I beg to move that Head X—stand part.

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

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I really would like to know what this is all about, because I did not hear what was said.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question has already been put.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I am asking, for the benefit of those who have not been able to follow what is being said, to have a recommitment of Head X.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

3.35 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I accept that motion. However, I was suggesting that we might go through the Schedule and then come back to this Head.

Mr. ALLDER: I am wondering what is happening. A couple of years ago at this time of the year when the crop is soon to be started, there was an arrangement whereby a Committee was set up to discuss the possibilities of trying, by holding meetings and so on, to see if the incidence of cane fires could be lessened and I notice that this Department has had to do much work in that respect. I think you, Mr. Chairman, were a member of this Committee, and I am wondering if the Government has not considered setting up a similar anti-Cane Fire Committee whereby the work of this Department would be lessened. I have not been able to hear anything about the setting up of any such Committee, and in some places the crop has already been started. I feel that that Committee did a lot of work by way of propaganda; it went all over the districts holding meetings and the Department was much relieved as a result.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: In answer to the hon. member, I would like to say that the Hon. Minister under whose portfolio this matter falls, happens to be absent; but I will mention the hon. member's observation on that point.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, now that we are on this Head, there is just a little thing which has been exercising my mind, and it is this. I think generally the country has developed and is developing, and I am wondering if we should continue to rely on the water resources of the Colony, which are used for drinking purposes, to be also used for extinguishing fires. I want to suggest, as is done in every big country, that we take some central point on the water front and run a six or eight-inch main for two miles carrying sea water which could be used either for the purpose of extinguishing fires or for cleaning the street and other things. I have read much of that taking place in big countries and there has been a tremendous saving. In cases where it is needed, other equipment could be brought into service.

I am wondering whether the Government would consider laying a sea water main whereby you would considerably relieve the supply of water which is being used at present; but when things like these are not before people's eyes, you get a ready rejection by hon. members who are not prepared to think on them. However, in big countries they rely on sea water for street cleaning and fire fighting. I think we have reached the stage of our development where we should consider these things. I am simply asking that these matters be considered. I know that they will probably be thrown to the ground by those who would not think of them; but these things are done in big countries. For the purposes of the record, I am asking that the Head of the Department make the necessary recommendations and request the Government to adopt such a system.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not see why the hon. member should be so pessimistic about his suggestion. What he has suggested is not only done in big countries, but it has been done in this very place. It is true that there is a direct taking of the water for the purpose which the hon. member has mentioned, and not putting it in a main. However, I do not think that anybody should feel that this is such a revolutionary idea for Barbados. Sea water has been used for putting out fires, and the very Lord Willoughby which was imported here has the facilities for using sea water for extinguishing a fire in Bridgetown. As far as flushing is concerned, that was a daily activity in the City at one time, and I myself wondered why it was stopped. They not only flushed the gutters, but also the streets. Of course I heard that some car owners said that after the road was flushed with sea water and the cars passed over it, the water used to enter the fenders and rust them out.

Mr. MILLER: I was not being pessimistic about what hon. members would think or believe; I was thinking of a distribution of water through a main about two miles from the City. I was thinking of that as a service to the community in the thickly populated areas of the City, and of the service to the Island generally.

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

Industrial Schools

Head XVII—Industrial Schools—was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This Head deals with two Items under the Head "Industrial Schools." They have recently acquired a new truck which they have to equip with a platform, number plate, locks to gas tanks, spare tyres and tool box and painting, and the various amounts for these items are set out in the notes. There is also an amount for the upkeep of gardens, for livestock and transport units. I beg to move that Head XVII stand part of the Schedule.

3.45 p.m.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before the question is put, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to enquire whether the Hon. Minister does not think that the sum of \$450 is somewhat extravagant merely for fitting a platform to a lorry. I have not had one done myself, but if I did have to fit one, I doubt very much that I would pay the sum of \$450 for doing that.

I enquired of it because it appears exorbitant to me and any hon. member who knows more about it than I and who can enlighten me on it, I will be glad to hear something.

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

General Hospital

Head XXIII (2) General Hospital, was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This Head deals with the General Hospital and the sum of \$6,930 is needed for service rendered by Specialist Officers and Medical Staff. This is really necessary because of the increase in the number of operations on patients: and naturally if that is increased, the fees paid to Specialist officers will be increased. This amount is required to carry on until the end of March this year. It is just an advance and it will eventually find its way back into the Treasury owing to the arrangements made that half of the fees charged will be paid into the Treasury. The next sum required under this

Head is \$1,040 to meet living-out allowance to Nurses. As the Note to the Item states, five more Nurses are living out, as the rooms formerly occupied by them are being used as dressing rooms for Nurses who are living out. It is necessary to have these rooms for the purpose of changing uniforms and so on.

The sum of \$20,000 is required for the purchase of provisions. This is due to increased prices, shortage of certain cheap foodstuffs and the need for providing special diet to T.B. patients.

I beg to move that Head XXIII (2) stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I am going to raise a question which more particularly concerns the first Item under this Head. I would like to let the hon. member know that there is a rumour going the rounds now to the effect that patients going to the General Hospital (I know of at least one) for X-ray pictures (not X-ray treatment) have been recommended not to bother anymore with the X-ray department at the General Hospital, but to go elsewhere and have it done. That is a very ugly rumour. I know it has the flavour of dissatisfaction with the service rendered at the General Hospital. My information is that the incidents have been reported in the proper quarter, but I am mentioning it here so that the Hon. Minister of Health should give the matter the necessary attention. Of course, any patient who is dissatisfied with the service at the General Hospital has the opportunity of changing his doctor or radiologist, if he can; but I mentioned this matter because it does not sound nice to know that you have such expensive and up-to-date equipment at the General Hospital and then for somebody to recommend a patient not to pursue that course for treatment but to go elsewhere if he wants satisfaction.

Mr. BRANCKER: Before the Hon. Minister of Social Services replies to that point, I would like to add something further to it. With respect to the case in which I have heard something similar to what the hon. junior member for the City was pointing out, the patient was advised to go to a private clinic which is alleged to be now in possession of much equipment which previously belonged to the General Hospital: and it was felt that when the Government parted with that equipment to this private Hospital it was not good enough for the purpose of the Government and that is why we allowed the General Hospital to part with it. I would be glad if the Hon. Minister of Social Services would tell us something about it. I have first-hand information that this paying patient has been told that he could get his X-ray picture taken outside of the General Hospital better. I know there is some difficulty in getting an appointment for an X-ray photograph at the General Hospital but I am wondering if the equipment there is not working satisfactorily, or if another Radiologist is needed, or, if the present one is not pulling her weight.

Mr. VAUGHAN: While we are on this subject, Mr. Chairman, I wish to draw something to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Social Services. As I have said on a former occasion, he cannot possibly know everything involving the administration of these Departments. It has been brought to my attention that there is always a large crowd awaiting for treatment in the Casualty. I understand it is considerably larger than what it was when I used to be there: and owing to that, a lot of hardship and inconvenience are caused to the people seeking attention because there is only one Clerk to take the names of them; and when he goes to breakfast no one is there at all. Is it not possible to get another Clerk from the Office to help and relieve that Clerk when

he happens to be absent so as to enable names of the persons attending the Casualty to be attended to quicker than is done at present and without any break in the taking of them? I see no reason why the people seeking treatment in the Casualty should be made to stand waiting there for an hour or more. I do not think it is absolutely necessary, so I am drawing it to the Hon. Minister's attention in order that he can draw it to the attention of the Superintendent of the Hospital. The situation does cause hardship and inconvenience as well as additional expense to the people, because very often they have to go away and return next day and that means that they have to pay additional bus fares.

There is this unfortunate attitude among minor staff in several Government Departments. They seem to think that it does not matter, when it comes to the average person, who is the most important person to the Government. That is a deplorable attitude and one which should be corrected. I do not believe that the Ministers are aware of this attitude and I therefore draw it to the Hon. Minister's attention because I believe if he knows of it he will inform the authorities in order that it may be rectified. 3.55 p.m.

Mr. HAYNES: I would like to draw the Minister's attention to the Eye Department at the Hospital. I understand

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: May I remind hon. members that this is really out of order. This debate deals with Specialist Officers, and Medical Staff, Living-out allowance to Nurses, Provisions and Specialist Nurses; therefore, the Eye Department has nothing to do with it.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, what I am going to speak about is quite relevant. After all, there is an Eye Specialist as well as a Physician Specialist and so on, so I think I am in order there; and I should have thought that the Minister would have welcomed a little knowledge about what is happening; I thought so. I understand that at this Eye Department— I do not think there is an Eye Specialist—but they are supposed to go at certain hours—and I am told by good authority, that people who are supposed to go there at twelve have to wait a long time before being attended to. It is not at all fair. They have a habit of going at two and moving before four. Well, I mean you can imagine that is cutting their hours in half and I think something should be seriously done about it, because four hours are small enough to attend to eyes: but if you are going to cut it to two hours that would not do. I think the hon. member would do the country a great deal of justice if he would look into this important matter and find out if it is correct. I have been told this by one or two of my constituents; therefore, I take it that they would not be telling me anything that is not correct; but I do not see why these medical men should not be made to come to time. After all, I do not mean fifteen minutes, but two hours, I think, is absolutely fantastic. That is my opinion and I think others will agree with me.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before you put the question Sir, a previous speaker drew attention to the unsatisfactory treatment on the part of the clerical staff because of insufficient numbers at the Casualty. I do know from complaints made to me that people are kept waiting almost interminably for treatment. You go in the morning at an early hour and late in the afternoon you still have not been attended to. The honourable junior member for St. John claims that the Clerical Staff is insufficient, but it appears to me that the Medical Staff is also insufficient. Most of the people who go there are in pain of some sort of another and have to remain almost the entire day

without treatment. It is agonising, to say the least. I also had drawn to my attention the case of a woman who went to the Hospital unsent. As a matter of fact when the poor woman went there she was actually in the last stages of pregnancy, and to use the local phraseology, she was in labour; and would you believe it, Sir, that the medical authorities there refused to examine her unless she could furnish a certificate from her own doctor saying that she was pregnant? She went there in the morning at half past six and my information is that at three o'clock the examining Medical Authority told her that he could not accept that she was pregnant unless she produced a certificate from her own doctor, and the woman was sent from the Hospital to her doctor for a certificate showing she was pregnant. As a matter of fact, she returned with the certificate and had the child the same evening. Well now, her employer brought the facts and the case to my attention some time after.

I know nothing of the policy under which the Hospital is conducted, nor do I know whether the doctor was justified in demanding a certificate of pregnancy from her doctor, before she was accepted for treatment, but whatever be the policy of the Hospital in this connection it appears to be almost inhuman, because any doctor would know when a woman is in the last stages of pregnancy, and the fact that the woman had the child the same evening attested to the fact that she was in the final stages. It was only good fortune that she did not have the child on the way back to the doctor for the certificate to return to the Hospital. Certainly, Mr. Chairman, if even the established principle is that you must have a certificate from your private doctor, I believe that exception should be made in exceptional cases, and a woman in pregnancy should not be left to take chances with her life merely because when she entered the Hospital at that late stage she had no certificate. I must regard it as incredible; but the woman's employer assured me of the factors of the case and if he were not deeply perturbed about it, he would not have brought it to my attention.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I have always said if you will give me the information I will have these cases investigated; so it is of no use saying that I hear so and so. Give me the names of the persons and so on and I will have them investigated. It seems fantastic.

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, I do not want to interrupt, but it sounded so fantastic to me when I heard it a week ago that I went and telephoned the employer for confirmation and he said exactly what I said this afternoon.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Sir, If he telephones the employer again I will have the matter investigated. 4.05 p.m.

Mr. LEWIS: I really feel that I must give the Hon. Minister a bit of advice. It is a very dangerous thing in any small community to expect people to go around dishing out names when we have only one Hospital to which they can go when they are ill. The Hon. Minister must be well aware of the fact that it is a most difficult thing to get people to come and say that they are even overcharged for things when the Price Control Authorities would be glad for some information which would assist them. That is common knowledge; even people who have been fleeced have refused to allow themselves to be drawn into cases to prevent them from being fleeced again. If there is only one Hospital in the island and you have to go back there when you are ill, there is no doubt about it that somebody will know your name.

I am asking this question which I would like the Hon. Minister to ponder. I quite agree that he has not got sufficient information about this matter, and I disagree with honourable members waiting until a vote like this comes up before taking advantage of the situation. This matter should have been brought to the Hon. Minister's attention before today. It should have been told to him even yesterday that this thing occurred, and he could have made investigations about it. Somebody could have said during the day yesterday that no such incident occurred at the Barbados General Hospital. If the Hon. Minister is told that by the persons who should know, and then after that the hon. member could give him concrete evidence that it did happen, the Minister would have a case against the employee. The Hon. Minister has said that you must have these cases in writing, but from my experience I find that people are willing to come to representatives in this House and air their grievances; and if you ask: "Can I mention your name", they will say "If that is the way you want to investigate it, then drop it."

I take it that it is not a good thing, with only one Hospital, for people to go around making themselves nuisances. If that matter had been reported to me, I certainly would have got in touch with the Minister and said: "It is quite alright for you to enquire if such a thing occurred at the General Hospital last week, the 15th of last month or yesterday morning." So long as you can pinpoint the time, the Minister can enquire of it, and he can get the facts of the case. I am asking him to adopt that attitude, because it is very difficult to get people to allow their names to be mentioned; and in this case, it is really unnecessary. Somebody at the Hospital would know what has happened, and if you pick out a particular date, the matter can be investigated. If it is a fact that such a thing has happened, the method I have suggested should be the one to be adopted so as to prevent people who are enduring something from being afraid of mentioning it, since they may have to go back to the Hospital.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am quite willing to give the name of the person to the Hon. Minister privately, if he so desires it.

The question that Head XXIII (2) stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIII (7)

Health Centres

Head XXIII (7) — Health Centres—was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, this Head deals with Health Centres, as hon. members will see. The note says: "Consequent on the expansion of the services at the St. Michael Health Centre it has been found that the provision of \$240 under Item 31, "Stationery" is inadequate to meet commitments to the end of the financial year. Supplementary provision of \$120 is now required."

The same thing applies with even more force in respect of the B.C.G. Campaign, and the *Aedes Egypti* Campaign. More staff is required and more stationery is needed. As regards contingencies, the note says: "In April, 1955, it was decided that the wages and cost of living allowance of a caretaker (\$728) hitherto met from Capital Expenditure—III Medical Services—should be met from Item 38—Incidentals—\$600 and supplementary provision sought to cover the amount of these emoluments. Provision of \$700 is now sought, accordingly. Provision will

be made in the 1956—57 estimates for wages of a caretaker under item—"Unestablished Staff".

In future this matter will be dealt with under a different Head; it will no longer be put under the Head "Incidentals", but under the Head "Unestablished Staff". I beg to move that Head XXIII (7) stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that Head XXIII (7) stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIV

Barbados Regiment

Head XXIV—Barbados Regiment—was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, this Head deals with the Barbados Regiment. Hon. members will remember that the wholetime staff of the Regiment and their families are given free Medical and Dental treatment. That was in accordance with the express wishes of the House some years ago when the Staff Officer was extended that courtesy, and the House decided that the same courtesy should also be extended to all whole-time employees of the Regiment. This vote has been practically expended, the amount left is very small and we are therefore asking for \$1,000 to carry on until the financial year.

Honourable members will remember that a few years ago a similar thing occurred, and steps are now being taken to put the matter on a different footing. There will now be a regular Medical Officer who will attend to these men and their families, and when they require hospitalisation they will be sent to the General Hospital and not to a Nursing Home where high bills are likely to be piled up. I beg to move that Head XXIV stand part of the Schedule.

4.15 p.m.

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

Mr. LEWIS: I am glad to hear the Hon. Minister repeat that something is being done, but we were given the assurance years ago that something was being done along the lines of providing this treatment at our own Hospital. If the Officer wants to go outside, then let him go outside. I must say that if \$1,440 is a reasonable average based on the number of years that this provision has been going on, then this additional \$1,000 is a rather great percentage of increase.

However, Sir, I know that it is not estimated with any degree of accuracy: but I would not like the idea to be spread that we are instituting a system for the purpose of cheapening this thing, but for giving the people proper medical attention. I hope it is known that the idea behind the change in the system is that you are not changing because it costs you more money but that you are changing it because the person can get better medical attention.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, to satisfy the honourable member I am going to say this. First of all, he said that a similar thing was said on the last occasion. On the last occasion, we did take the opportunity to warn the authorities to watch this vote. On this occasion we are appointing, as in the case of the Police, a Medical Officer to whom the people of the Barbados Regiment can go for medical attention and that Medical Officer will get an annual salary: and in the case of anything serious those people will go to the General Hospital for treatment. I think that explanation will meet with the satisfaction of this Committee.

Mr. ALLDER: I do not know if this Medical Officer will only be allocated to those who get free

medical attention in the Barbados Regiment now. I hope the whole Army will get free medical attention because sometime in the past at a parade one of the soldiers became seriously ill with hernia and because he was not one of those to whom free medical attention is given he was unable to get this assistance from the Government.

What worries me about this matter is that there was provision of the sum of \$1,440 in the present Estimates for this service and the financial year will come to an end in another month or two, yet you see the sum of \$1,000 asked for to cover this short period. All I can hope is that this additional sum of \$1,000 will not be spent. But there is yet another danger in our voting this sum. When you vote such handsome sums to supplement current Estimates before the time comes for another annual expenditure to be gone into, it gives some sort of encouragement to those who have to handle these expenditures to act too liberally. I prefer to see a Supplementary Resolution asking for a smaller amount than necessary and if through the occurrence of unforeseen circumstances between now and the 1st April, it is necessary for you to come for more money you can come and ask for the additional sum. I am sure all honourable members will agree that if you estimate it to cost \$1,440 for the financial year, when you come to two months before the financial year is out and ask for \$1,000 that is unbusinesslike. It will cause those who benefit from this scheme in the Regiment always to go and get the most expensive medical attention.

We had some Resolution here some time ago which made provision for the birth of a child and that cost the taxpayers a greater sum than it would cost for medical attention to the relatives of that family. That is the reason why I say that in these cases when you show a willingness to give whatever is asked for you certainly can get some squandering.

I would prefer to know that we have an up-to-date General Hospital or that we are aiming towards that end by obtaining some of the best specialists and equipment there. I would really like the Hon. Minister of Social Services to give instruction that the personnel of the Army and their families whenever in need of medical attention should be sent to the General Hospital and that they be given the best attention there instead of allowing those officers and their wives to go to the most expensive clinic, probably because one of them might have some boil on their arm. I believe anyone will say that the service, equipment and the personnel at the General Hospital are better than what you can get outside. The outside service is purely an exclusive service based on one's social standing.

I hope the Hon. Minister of Health will consider these matters in the future. It seems to me that the expenditure on this Item is increasing faster and faster. So much so, that I am wondering if an epidemic were to break out among the members of the Regiment what will happen. However, Sir, I just want the Hon. Minister of Health who has control over this matter to view the possibility of having the expenditure on this Item cut down in the future.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, it is very good to know that the Government has seen that this sort of expenditure is very high. However, if the honourable senior member for St. John who has just sat down reads the explanation given in the note to the particular Item, he will see that it appears as if the last amount rendered was up to the end of October which shows that they have nearly a half year more to account for. I take it that they want to be on the safe side and perhaps they might have a Bill or two outstanding.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$32,200 do now pass.

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

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

4.25 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 68

Sanitary Conveniences

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of \$50,000 to make provision for privies and closets. The Addendum to the Resolution is quite explanatory as it sets it out as follows:—

The Commissioners of Health, St. Michael, have reported that approximately 825 closets destroyed by hurricane "Janet" remain to be rebuilt. The matter is urgent as the spread of flyborne disease such as typhoid is to be avoided at all cost.

It is proposed that these sanitary conveniences should be restored by the Housing Board at a cost of approximately \$60 per unit or a total cost of \$50,000 for which provision is now required.

These will be built by the Housing Board and with the assistance of the Sanitary authorities will be distributed to the sufferers.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, surely an explanation as to whether this is only for St. Michael should have been given. Did we have a hurricane in Barbados, or in St. Michael only? The damage, as I know it, was more severe in Christ Church, St. Philip and St. Michael after that. St. Michael has brought out the point of the condition of these latrines, but I cannot understand the Government coming here with a Resolution such as this without enquiring from the other parishes or from the Housing Board what is the condition of latrines throughout the Island. I am not going to sit down and ask for an explanation because I sincerely hoped the Minister would have done so when he introduced the Resolution. Did Government enquire whether the same conditions existed in other parts of Barbados other than St. Michael? If they did not enquire in other parts of Barbados other than St. Michael, why did they not enquire? Well, I will tell you now, Christ Church is no better off than St. Michael and in many cases somewhat worse. We have not had any Typhoid cases in Christ Church. Of course, I do not think that Government could be so blind as to wait for something like that to happen before it dawned on them that similar conditions existed elsewhere than in St. Michael. St. Philip, Christ Church and St. Michael were the three mostly affected areas as a result of the hurricane; St. John and St. George to a lesser degree, but the Commissioners of Christ Church did not think that they would have to come and tell Government that there were so many closets in the same condition as in St. Michael so as to get results. Is Government only going to give people that ask? Is that their attitude of holding back until they were asked for help? This is a matter of health. Well, Sir, I am going to sit and I want to hear the reasons why they have come with this Resolution, as it states, for St. Michael, and what they intend to do for the other parishes, because I can assure him that the conditions in the other parts of Barbados are no better than in St. Michael.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: If I were the honourable member who just sat down I would not have got up. I do not know if the honourable member is a member of the Sanitary Board in the parish of Christ Church! [Mr. GODDARD: Yes, I am.] Well, if I were you, I would be ashamed to admit it. The St. Michael people got busy, found out how many closets were destroyed and appealed to the Government for help. The Christ Church people sat down and did nothing and expected people to walk behind them and find out how many were destroyed and then take up the matter; but the St. Michael people had some foresight and appealed to the Government. Only two or three days ago since the Christ Church people saw this thing in the newspaper, they came along with something vague that some closets were blown down in that parish and they would like some help. The honourable junior member for Christ Church who is one of the people responsible for the health of that parish is now asking if Government is going to do the same for Christ Church, that they had a hurricane too. If I were he, I would be ashamed to bring up the matter.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is the Minister of Health for Barbados. Does he not know the conditions of the health of the people in Barbados? When it was drawn to his attention by the authorities in St. Michael, he must have known that other parts of Barbados were in the same condition. Well, I am a Commissioner of Health in Christ Church and I am proud of it because the conditions which now exist are as a result of the very active steps we took after the hurricane as Government did not step in. The Commissioners in Christ Church were very active and that is the reason why there was no outbreak of any disease in that parish. But this is exactly what happened with housing; they did nothing until we came here and squeezed it out of them. When I came here and asked about sheds they were the same way as they are over this matter of health. It will go down that in whatever they did after the hurricane struck Barbados, they were so vague, so unprepared, and up to now they do not know what should have been done. Well, any little first form boy would realise that if one parish came and said this is the condition and we are asking you to come to our rescue, it would have been obvious that similar conditions existed in other parishes. That information could have been given to him overnight; but surely when we think of the lethargy with which they have dealt with all phases of the hurricane, it was to be expected that they would allow it to continue in respect of the health of the island!

4.35 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: The argument of the hon. junior member for Christ Church is really irrefutable. The Hon. Minister of Social Services really wants to provide for the House today some little comic relief; he really does not intend to be taken seriously. As Minister of Health in Barbados, it is his overall duty to enquire into every state affecting the health of the people of this Island after the Hurricane. He should not be waiting on the Commissioners of Health of any Parish to tell him whether or not some condition arising out of the Hurricane is injurious to the health of the community; it is farcical for him to sit there and attempt to decry the Commissioners of Health of any parish for not telling him of any condition which has developed after the Hurricane and which would be injurious to the health of the Island. The Government has so much faith in the Commissioners of Health that they want to abolish them; therefore

the Government has no excuse in sheltering behind the fact that the Commissioners did not report that latrines had been blown down.

The Hurricane Re-housing Authority in St. Philip, for instance, has said most categorically that the Government will not repair out-houses which were damaged by the storm. That is the position. Whether the Commissioners of Health had reported about fallen toilets or not, the Government's policy, in so far as St. Philip is concerned, was not to spend a single cent on replacing out-houses, toilets or even shedroofs which were damaged by the storm. Even in cases where the owners of these out-houses were obviously poverty-stricken and totally unable to replace them, not one single cent by way of assistance was forthcoming. What has happened is this: it is not the report of the Commissioners of Health with regard to the destruction of toilets that is leading the Minister along the track, it is the menace of typhoid fever in the metropolitan area. It is to be admitted that the incidence of typhoid fever from this reason cannot be as high in the rural areas as it will be in a highly built-up area; but the responsibility of the Government to provide assistance for restoring the sanitary facilities throughout the Island remains. It is not merely because we have the menace of typhoid fever in St. Michael now, and purely in order to safeguard the health of the community that you are going to give assistance in respect of the replacement of these toilets in St. Michael. The responsibility of the Government is also inescapable in so far as helping the people who cannot afford to rebuild their toilets in the non-metropolitan areas. You may not have for some time as many cases of typhoid fever in the rural areas from the same reason as you would have in St. Michael for obvious reasons; but it does not mean that the Government has not got to come to the assistance of people in the rural areas and help them to restore their sanitary conveniences. If the Government can expend this money in St. Michael, then they can spend less in coming to the assistance of people in the rural areas who have suffered in the same manner as the people in St. Michael have suffered; but thanks to the more healthy living conditions, these people have been spared the visitation of a contagious disease like typhoid, but still have found themselves without these sanitary facilities through no fault of their own. It is the Minister's duty to enquire now into the position throughout the Island and not to sit there awaiting the reports of Commissioners of Health; it is his duty to take the necessary steps to remedy the situation, having been informed of what that situation is.

Mr. ALLDER: The only concern of the Government seems to be the parish of St. Michael. I will support the remarks of the previous speakers in their criticisms of the policy of the Government in excluding the other parishes where Hurricane damage has also taken place. The hon. junior member for Christ Church is correct in what he has said, and as I said on the last occasion when we were here, as a matter of fact, I suggested to the Hon. Minister of Housing that he should get around and see some of these things for himself. In the parish of St. John, only a few days ago I was standing over a spot which was once a latrine. The top structure has gone, the hole is still there, and bits of galvanise, which were once a part of the latrine were strewn in the area. What is more unfortunate is that the same people have been trying to get loans from the Labour Welfare Department to put back their latrines, and they have not been able to get any loans. I know of cases of some other people

who have been suffering the same fate, and who would have been glad to put back their latrines, kitchens, palings and even shed roofs; but for some reason or other the difficulties seem to have increased day after day relative to labourers getting loans from the Department which has been put there to assist them in getting these loans to repair their houses.

I would like the Hon. Minister of Social Services to realise that this fault is solely his in view of the fact that as Minister of Social Services with a Medical Department at his disposal, and with a Sanitation Officer, such a Department should be interested in the health of the community, whether it is in St. Michael, Christ Church or elsewhere. Since this Hurricane came along, as Authorities on sanitation, they should not have waited for a few laymen sitting down as a Sanitary Body to say that the latrines of the poor people have been destroyed and flies are carrying around typhoid fever and such diseases before they come to the aid of such people. That is a falling down of responsibility, not on the part of the Parochial Authorities in the respective parishes, because in case they did not want to shoulder the responsibility. Must the Island be allowed to become stricken with an epidemic because a lethargic Sanitary Department with so-called capable Officers specially trained in tropical medicine and so on—must the Island suffer as a result of these Officers failing to do what they should do at the appropriate time?

4.45 p.m.

What is more, it can only mean that the Government is so shortsighted, so parochial and so political in its outlook that it has done nothing about it although it has been drawn to their attention that typhoid fever is on the march [A VOICE: Where?] In Barbados and it will soon spread to Station Hill too.

Now, Sir, even if you will excuse the Government for ignorance as regards what should have been done at the appropriate time, you certainly cannot excuse them now that the matter has been brought to their attention and they have only brought down a Resolution to remedy the evil in one parish, leaving out the other ten parishes. I quite imagine a particular State in the U.S.A. making provision for such assistance leaving out the others because a State of the U.S.A. is several times the size of Barbados and an epidemic may not be so easy to spread to other States; but not in a little island like Barbados which is only 14 x 21 miles, where a fly can easily travel from St. Philip to St. Lucy in a couple of hours.

What is the intention of the Government in respect of the other parishes in this matter? Certainly that question should have been drawn to the notice of the Government. I must support the honourable junior member for Christ Church in his statement that Christ Church suffered the greatest damage as a result of the hurricane. In my opinion, even up to now, those of us who drive through that parish will have to agree that the situation there looks more chaotic than in other parishes; and that is what led me to make the statement previously in this Chamber that many houses will still be lying on the ground and will have to be put back up after the crop is over.

It is my opinion that if you are going to do a kindness in this respect, you should do it in every parish; it is not a question of your coming down with a Resolution to make provision for only the City of Bridgetown and St. Michael when the parishes of St. George, St. John, Christ Church, St. Philip and elsewhere are in need of similar treatment also. If the Hon. Minister doubts my statement I would take him

around the parish which I represent so as to let him see the condition for himself.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Government would let us know what is their intention in respect of the other parishes as regards the provision for latrines. Even those persons who can benefit under the Labour Welfare (Housing Loans) Fund have been meeting with some difficulty in getting loans granted to them. There are old women and men who have ceased to work for a long time whose latrines have been damaged as a result of the hurricane and those people have no means of existence far more to spend money on replacement of a toilet. I repeat Government should come to the aid of people in the other parishes. It is no use spending this amount of money in St. Michael because if the exposure is causing an epidemic, while you are spending it in St. Michael to stop the evil, it will still come in from the other parishes. Owing to the inter-communications which obtain between the metropolitan parishes and the other parishes, you cannot say that by spending such a sum in St. Michael alone you are safe from the spread of the epidemic. I will sit down with the hope of getting some clarification on the matter.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, while I commend the Government for making this provision for the parish of St. Michael, I agree with the honourable member who has just sat down that some consideration should be given to the other parishes.

What I would like to know is what is the status of these latrines when they are supplied out of Government Funds. Will they become the property of the Government? Why I ask that question is because it has been the policy of the General Board of Health year after year to offer various parishes, sometimes four, sometimes six model latrines for distribution in the parish concerned under the conditions that latrines be given to people who cannot afford to provide one for themselves, and those people are called upon to sign a document on which is stated that the latrine is Government's property and that the Commissioners of Health for the particular parish are responsible for seeing that those latrines are not moved.

That has presented a big problem to the Commissioners of Health of some of the parishes because some parishes have between 30 and 40 of such latrines which are unroofed and blown down by the hurricane. They are nice model buildings; they are built with overlapping eaves; but the people for which they are provided are saying that they are not going to repair them because if they move from their place of abode, they cannot move those latrines because they are Government's property. The Commissioners of Health are faced with the problem that all these nicely built latrines are now without roofs and nobody is prepared to put his hands in his pocket, even if he can, to repair them, because they are Government's property.

I think it is childish to call upon those people to sign that document. Are you going to take those latrines away from where they are sited and move them to the Public Works Department, should the people for whom they are provided vacate the spot? this is tantamount to what the people have signed. Anyhow, I am bringing this question to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Social Services to let him know what is the state of affairs as regards these nice little buildings. I believe they cost in the region of \$120 to \$130 each but many of them are now dropping to pieces because the people for whom they are provided are saying that they have signed a document which states that those latrines are not their property and because of that they would not repair them.

4.55 p.m.

I think, Sir, that is a point he should certainly consider; and anyhow even if he does not rectify all those in the country that were destroyed or damaged, he could easily get that order rescinded and let the people know that it is their property. He should make it definitely understandable that it is their property. You are not going to get people to spend money on other people's property; you cannot expect them to, even if they could. I hope the Minister—and I see he has been listening—will pay some heed to what is said because it is a very serious matter. Every year this money is spent and like all Government schemes, you take a horse and feed him up and so on, leave him in the stable and then let him starve. That is not the way to carry on or to progress; you retrogress, you do not progress that way. When you think you are progressing everything is going to pieces. I look upon it, Sir, as a very very serious state of affairs, and I hope the Hon. Minister will look up the files and get those orders rescinded so that some of these could be repaired, because I do not think he could expect people to repair something belonging to somebody else. I would like to hear his views on the matter.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise with a view to commending the Government for coming to the House with such speed to put this into operation this scheme in the parish of St. Michael, but I would like to point out to the Minister of Social Services that the parish of St. Philip which I happen to mis-represent or represent right now [laughter] has need for toilet replacements. I want to say the hurricane has occurred in St. Philip as well as in St. Michael, and we of the parish of St. Philip must be thankful for the high winds that have been blowing for the last two months that prevented typhoid from spreading up there. We got the Trade Winds but these winds will soon stop and we will have some calm days. I would like to suggest to the honourable member that I want him to do the same for St. Philip as he is going to do for St. Michael, because I know there are a great many people whose toilets were destroyed along with their homes and they cannot replace them up to now, and I hope that the Hon. Minister will come down next [VOICE: Take a drive down!] no, come down with an Order to repair the toilets in all the parishes of this Island, not in St. Michael alone. I want to say it is not good enough for the Government, especially in a year like this—election year—because all the parishes need the attention of this present Government. Send out and have a census of how many toilets were damaged in St. Philip and see that the people get them repaired. In supporting this Resolution I hope the few remarks I made will cause the honourable Introducer of this Resolution to get a move on so that the people of the island will be satisfied in the near future.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I will excuse the honourable member who has just sat down, the honourable senior member for St. John and the honourable senior member for St. Philip, because they do not know the law. I certainly could not excuse the honourable junior member for Christ Church. The Board of Health has nothing to do with toilets in any part of the Island. It is the responsibility of the Commissioners of the parish to see that these things are in order, so that any deficiency is on their part. I think, Sir, that the honourable senior member for the City can enlighten them on that, therefore, after the hurricane it was not the business of the Board of Health to see that toilets which were blown down were put back up, but it was the business of the Commissioners of

Health. I cannot tell them that I can send around anybody next week or next year for that matter, as the honourable member suggested.

As regards the point raised by the honourable junior member for St. Andrew that point is under consideration. [A VOICE: Stop considering it.] In St. Michael I believe—we will get the information from the authorities—the sufferers are old people, old age pensioners. Naturally, they deserve some sympathy, but that whole question is under consideration and when the toilets are distributed I will get in touch with the proper authorities.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to get up again. He was a Vestryman; I do not know if he was ever a Commissioner of Health. [Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I was,] It is the duty of the Commissioners of Health of my parish to administer the health laws of that parish and it is our duty to see that toilets are erected; and we can prosecute people who have not got these toilets up. That is what we can do. But in the disaster that befell Barbados on the 22nd of September, do you think that the Commissioners of Health in any parish could have started any prosecutions about toilets not being properly erected? St. Michael has not done it either. We are not financially able to put up any toilets for people especially since the disaster which befell us on 22nd September; that is Government's policy. The rehousing of people is being undertaken by the Central Government, whether they have to go to England and beg for the money to do it or take it from other sources. Toilets are no less a part of the house; and when you resort to policy, if I were running this Government, they would not have been left out. The Minister therefore is only displaying his ignorance when he says that it is the responsibility of the Commissioners to see that these toilets are in good and proper shape. All I say is we could have gone to the Courts and prosecuted them by the thousands but I do not think we would have got any convictions and the Commissioners would have got no sympathy from them.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I am sorry to rise again, but the remarks which the honourable member made are amusing. He has only put up a smoke screen to cover his ignorance. He has failed to act in this emergency as far as toilets are concerned. I repeat, the law does not say that the Minister of Health or the Board of Health are responsible for these; the law has laid down you must have a toilet and it also tells the Commissioners of Health they are to see that these are kept in healthy conditions. St. Michael saw that need for toilets and when the Inspectors went around, and did not see them, they drew it to the notice of the proper authorities. As one honourable member has said, we were lucky not to have had an outbreak of typhoid fever coming along.

The Commissioners of Health of the parish of St. Michael along with the Chief Sanitary Inspector, discussed this matter with me long before there had been any alarm; therefore, it is not true to say that we waited until a few cases of typhoid had taken place. If the honourable junior member for Christ Church does not know the law, well, let him go and look it up. Do not let him put up any smoke screen about poor people being prosecuted and things of that sort.

5.05 p.m.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, the health of the Island is in the hands of the Hon. Minister of Social Services and so we can expect the conditions which exist to-day. He does not seem to understand the position. [Laughter].

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: What the Hon. Minister has said about the Authorities in St. Michael drawing this matter to his attention long ago is correct. The matter was also drawn to the attention of the Director of Medical Services; we made the position clear then and a copy of the letter which was sent to the Hon. Minister was sent to the Director of Medical Services. It was early in November that the Minister discussed this matter with the Commissioners of Health, and he became aware of the situation. I have not risen to enter any controversy, but I have risen to say that a few days ago when we got a communication telling us that the matter was finally settled, I was very glad to see that something had been done.

There is one thing which I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister. We told him that we did not have the wherewithal to build these toilets and we gave him the history which goes back to some time. For some time now, the Commissioners of Health for the parish of St. Michael have found, as a result of the monthly reports of the Inspectors, that they were still in the parish of St. Michael, a number of people who have no latrines or superstructures at all. Actually, the law still permits that every person should find the means of the disposal of night soil. In fact, the amended Act says that any new tenantry which is to be opened up must use either the water-borne system or an earthen pit. I want to say that no assessment was taken of those persons who never had any toilets before the Hurricane, and this Resolution deals with persons who had superstructures over pits before the Hurricane, and which were destroyed as a result of the Hurricane. We were glad to see from the letter sent to us, that some effort was made in the matter and we hope that they will get on with it as quickly as possible.

As regards the point which was made by the honourable junior member for St. Andrew, one wonders what would happen if the Government or Board of Health or Director of Medical Services had the stupidity to tell me that you are giving people some small superstructure for a toilet and they must sign a document in respect of it. I would tell them to use it and send it back to them. Last year we had an amount of \$6,000 or \$7,000 in respect of the provision of these toilets, and that amount must have been substantially overspent. You have over 4,000 Old Age Pensioners in this parish. As the law stands at present, it is the duty of the Commissioners of Health to see that people have a proper place for the disposal of night soil, and we have been encouraging the erection of superstructures over pits. Every year the Inspectors would give notice to Parochial or Old Age Pensioners to erect or repair their toilets. For many years now we have decided that, in dealing with matters of health, you should not merely take toilets into consideration. As long as the Board were satisfied on the production of a Certificate to the effect that toilets are needed in 99 cases out of 100, they were Parochial or Old Age Pensioners who have been given these toilets. These toilets are given only on the certification of the Inspectors that the existing toilets are bad.

I should like to say that a toilet which is built of wood will only last for a certain time, because they are affected by termites. In many cases these toilets were not stone structures, and therefore when brought to our attention, we decided to draw the matter to the attention of the Government. Where there are approved toilets which have been partially destroyed, we have encouraged the people to repair them. Where the groundills allowed the ingress of water, we considered that that was dangerous, and where people could not find the money to put these groundills in a proper condition they ought to be assisted.

5.15 p.m.

Now, there is only one thing to say here and there is nothing to hide about it. The Commissioners for the parish of St. Michael have given the estimate of \$60 for the cost of a latrine and if the Hon. Minister of Health can remember, I drew it to his attention then that we have been paying carpenters after getting quotations, the amount of \$4.50 to build one. These latrines are built with sides out of fir board and with a galvanised roof. I also would like him to remember that we build them in two sizes. If the Hon. Minister will refer to the statistics which we have given him, he will see that the latrine of itself cost approximately \$50 but it has been our experience that when the toilet is situated on the spot that it is necessary for it to be placed on four or five stones and for that purpose we allow \$10 which includes the cost of labour by a mason. I am sure that \$60 will cover the whole thing; that amount will more than build one and site it.

A generous offer has been made by me on behalf of the Board to the Hon. Minister of Social Services. While we cannot promise to build these latrines owing to the fact that we do not have a suitable yard, we have promised that the Sanitary Inspector of the particular district will be always to hand to give the necessary information and to see that it is put up properly. [A VOICE: What about transportation?] Someone has asked who is going to pay for the transportation of these toilets. Let me say that our offer to the Hon. Minister still holds good. We said that we will transport them on the trucks of the Sanitary Department under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Let me repeat that this is not a matter of giving somebody a house; this is a matter of sanitation. Merely to build a latrine and give it to somebody to put up is not good enough. This is a matter of building it and seeing that it is put up on the correct height of ground sill. That is why we are offering the services of our sanitary inspectors because when they are supervised by the sanitary inspectors, they will be able to advise whether the latrine should be sited on a one-foot ground sill and things like that.

Mr. Chairman, the Commissioners of Health for St. Michael did not provide this information recently or since there was the notification of a rise in the incidence of typhoid fever. We provided this information since the month of November. Immediately as the matter was brought to my notice, I telephoned the Hon. Minister and sent a covering letter to him the following day as well as to the late Director of Medical Services.

I would reserve any criticism which I can make on the question of these latrines being the property of the Government after they have been sited. I would only pose this question for the benefit of the hon. junior member for St. Andrew and the Hon. Minister of Social Services. Do you not think that it will be far better to preserve the health of the colony by your spending \$50,000 on providing latrines for poor people without your drawing up some stupid agreement asking the people to sign it because some lawyer told you to do so? I would suggest to them not to sign any such agreement. Do you think that your health is safe when other people are throwing faeces all over the island? I think \$50,000 spent in this way is a bagatelle when it comes to the health of the people of this island. Who else but a born idiot would suggest that if you have 800 out of 25,000 people who cannot provide sanitary conveniences for themselves that you should not pay this amount to supply it for the 800 although you know that if you do not do that you are going to endanger the lives of the whole 25,000 people? It is fortunate for us that we have antibiotic drugs to treat people afflicted with typhoid fever but everybody knows how dreadful one feels when someone connected with you catches typhoid fever.

Now, you are spending this \$50,000 in providing toilets for certain people. The first people to qualify for this provision are the old age pensioners. Let me say that at no time do the Commissioners of Health for St. Michael give any of these conveniences to persons who have houses rented out. It is the duty of such people to provide a toilet for their tenants. Under the Act the landlord is responsible for the provision of a toilet and not the tenant. None of these toilets will be provided for such people. First to qualify will be old age pensioners, then paupers and people of that nature whose standard of living you will find, is even below that of those in the Almshouses. A man's home is his castle and it is better to provide for them at their homes however small they may be than to provide for them in the Almshouses. Within the last ten years, the Commissioners of Health for St. Michael have been laying \$1,200 annually for the purpose of repairing the houses and toilets of old age pensioners, paupers and people of that nature. That is just by the way.

I suggest to the hon. member that whatever promises I made on behalf of the Commissioners still hold good. I also suggest that he go into the figures and get these toilets built on the same style. The pits are dug to style 3 x 3 and all you would have to do then is to put down a proper ground sill. 5.25 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I just want to assure the hon. senior member for the City that the Housing Board will co-operate fully with him and the Board of Inspectors in putting back these toilets. They have been instructed to co-operate fully with your staff and the Commissioner of Health.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Does that also cover the size of the toilets?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Everything.

The question that the Resolution for \$50,000 do now pass, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1955-56, NO. 67

Harbour And Shipping

Hon. M. E. COX: This Resolution is for the sum of \$2,315. The Addendum explains it very fully and I have no intention of delaying the House. We see in the first place the need for this supplementary provision has resulted from the great increase in the volume of work in the Harbour and Shipping Office. This increase made it necessary for a complete reorganisation of the filing system, and this in turn was responsible for the replacement of the file jackets, many of which were in a very dilapidated condition. In addition, a Kalamazoo Binder had to be purchased on the instructions of the Accountant General in connection with the introduction of a new vote book.

The next is for overtime, and in the last item as you will see, Sir, there has been a considerable increase of passengers coming in and going from Seawell and as a result it is necessary to purchase a bit more toilet requisites.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

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

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS seconded by Hon. M. E. COX Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of three Resolutions in Committee, Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS seconded by Hon. M. E. COX in each, the

Resolutions were read a first time, second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
5.30 p.m..

On re-assembling,

CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) (NO. 7) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour: to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill is to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, so as to reduce the rate of duty imposed on rum imported into the island. Under this Bill, the duty on rum will be reduced to the same level as that which is placed on rum imported into Trinidad. I will tell the House that, as most honourable members will know, we carry on a big trade in rum with Trinidad. [Asides.]

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members are almost as loud in their asides as the hon. member who is addressing the House. I am hearing more than one speaker.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill is to reduce our rate of duty to the same level as that which is imposed by the Government of Trinidad, and that is being done for a very good reason. As most honourable members will know, we carry on a very big trade in rum with Trinidad. Trinidad buys an increasing quantity of Barbados rum and recently that trade has been increased to such an extent that it has alarmed certain Trinidad rum interests. It is understood that one of the arguments is that these interests, in an attempt to protect themselves from competition from Barbados, have put their rate of duty on rum imported into Trinidad smaller than the existing rate of duty on rum imported into that colony. By bringing down our rates, that would remove any apparent argument that these interests would have in trying to protect their rum interest. It is quite in order for rum interests in any one colony to try to protect themselves from competition, but we are talking about Federation and coming down to Customs Unions; and in view of the fact that we import much more from Trinidad than Trinidad imports from us, I do not think that Trinidad should begrudge us the fact that we do an increasing amount of trade in a commodity, such as rum, with people in that territory.

This exchange of duty does not involve any loss of revenue because there is very little rum imported into Barbados. The "Objects and Reasons" of this Bill clearly set out the intention of the Bill; I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. GODDARD: The Barbados exporters of rum have become very disturbed in recent months because of a rumour to the effect that on account of our great expansion in rum sales to Trinidad, business interests in that territory have approached the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Hon. Albert Gomes, with the idea of putting up higher Tariffs against

our product. Barbados rum enjoys a high reputation in that Colony, it has been so for many years and that demand has grown very rapidly. I presume they would make any excuse which they could find so as to keep out our rum. By reducing our Tariff on rum coming into Barbados, we come into line with what Trinidad is charging in respect of our rum. I do not think that there is any danger whatever in reducing this Tariff in respect of Trinidad or any other West Indian Colony, when there is a commodity which is likely to find great sales for Barbados.

We know of only one type of rum, and that is the best. [A MEMBER: J & R.] [Laughter.] It is of a light quality; it has not got that heaviness which you find in many of these other types of rum. We are thinking of Federation and therefore I do not think that we should throw aspersions on each other's products and so start a war of any kind. This reduction in Tariff will not be an intrusion into the rum trade of Barbados, but it puts us in a position to show Trinidad that we are giving them equal treatment.

Mr. LEWIS: Honestly this Bill appears to me not to be worth the paper on which it is printed. I hardly think that we could fool even a Trinidadian. This Bill is not supposed to affect the revenue of this Colony at all. If the people in Trinidad are alarmed at the fact that your rum is going there, I fail to see how this Bill will stop that. I do not know if the people who got alarmed about the amount of Barbados rum going into Trinidad have made this suggestion, but if the Hon. Minister of Trade could really get them to believe that we are on equal terms, I must offer him my sincere congratulations for having brought off this excellent deal. I hope that we will not have to come back here and raise the duty because if the people of another Colony feel that you are interfering with their trade by your rum going in there, they are going to stop it. Of course the Government will not be losing anything because they will be collecting their duty on the rum that is coming in.

The Government will be losing nothing because they will be collecting their duty on the rum that comes in and it may be more. However, the Government might have to answer the pleadings of its rum dealers when they tell you that you are putting some of their people out of work and things like that. However, if this is the cure for the situation and by your doing so you might get some more rum kept out of another island, I must offer the Government my sincere congratulations for bringing off an excellent stunt.

6.10 p.m.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I do not know what the hon. member means by "stunt" and so on. Apparently he does not realise that Federation is just around the corner and if under Customs Duties you have to eliminate tariff on some articles and offer uniformity on others, that it would be better to have uniformity now. It is very logical, if uniformity is to come, for us to say: "let us carry down the duty on the rum," and move the argument which the manufacturers have been putting up. There is a natural argument.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, I am sorry that I have to speak after the Hon. Minister has spoken for the second time, but I rise to say that I am sorry he did not carry his argument about uniformity a little past the stage he made, because apparently he is only interested in uniformity in so far as individual West Indian interests may conflict in respect of locally produced products. I hope he will go a little farther and endeavour to bring about uniformity

in other phases. The Customs Tariff in Barbados on numerous articles imported here is much higher than the tariff imposed on the same articles imported in Trinidad. In other words, in order to bring the cost of living down, I hope the Hon. Minister will extend the theory of uniformity into those phases where the reduction of Customs Tariff in Barbados will considerably reduce the cost of living.

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

On motion of Hon. R. G. MAPP, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called. It reads as follows:—

1 This Act may be cited as the Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No. 7) Act, 1955, and shall be read as one with the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the principal Act.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Isn't that title wrong? This is 1956 and if this Bill is passed this year then it should be cited as the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1956 and the number of the Bill —(No. 7) — will be wrong also.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I will assure the hon. member before this Bill goes to the Other Place that the necessary amendment will be made. I think it should be changed to (No. 2).

The question that Clause 1 as amended do now pass was put and agreed to.

Clause 2 was called. It reads as follows:—

2. The First Schedule to the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution of the figures 5.48 and 6.32 for the figures 6.96 and 7.80 respectively, appearing in the columns under the heading "Rate of Duty" against items "112-04.3 Rum not exceeding the strength of proof" and "112-04.4 Rum exceeding the strength of proof."

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I take this opportunity to let the Hon. Minister in charge of this Bill know that I quite realise all about Federation and uniformity in tariffs. All that I understand. Does the Hon. Minister really believe that if you threaten a man's trade by your charging no more duty for rum imported into the island than what is charged in the other islands that he will sit down and do nothing about it? If you can accept that I will offer you my congratulations. That was all I was saying: that does not blind me to Federation. If we were talking on uniformity, there are lots of things I could have told him on that point.

You are saying in the Objects and Reasons that you can afford to do this because you are not losing anything; or if you are losing something it is so infinitesimal that you cannot see it. I would not like too much debate on this because I would not like the Trinidadians to read it.

The question that Clause 2 stand part was put and agreed to.

On motion of Hon. R. G. MAPP, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. R. G. MAPP seconded by Hon. M. E. COX in each case the Bill was read a third time and passed.

6.20 p.m.

CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Social Services to deal with the second reading of a Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Order No. 3, is a similar Order to the previous Customs Tariff Bill. This is really to give to the St. John's Ambulance Organisation the authority to receive free customs duties articles from the British Red Cross Society. We have not got an active branch of the Red Cross Society here, so our nearest equivalent is the St. John's Ambulance and in order that the Red Cross people on the one hand might be able to send equipment and things of that sort to Barbados, it has to come through the St. John Ambulance, and this has for its object the amendment of the Customs Tariff Act so that these people may receive goods from the Red Cross Society.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I do not remember receiving a copy of the Bill so I want to know whether it was circulated.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee.

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill Mr. SMITH in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called. It reads as follows:

"This Act may be cited as the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1956 and shall be read as one with the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the principal Act."

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Sir, I am asking leave to insert after the word "amendment" the figure "No. 3".

With that amendment, I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part.

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

The question that Clause 1 as amended stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, we heard that we did not have a branch of the British Red Cross Society here, and it is strange that I find provision being made for the Secretary of that Organisation to give a certificate. At present there is no such thing in existence in the island. When it comes to the St. John's Ambulance Brigade I should imagine that is where the Secretary should be requested to give a certificate and I do not see it here. "All articles uniform and equipment" and things to that effect need a certificate, but when it comes to the British Red Cross Society . . . Mr. Chairman, although I had a little legal advice, I am not satisfied because I see capital letters here, and it says "the said Society", so perhaps the certificate is to refer to both societies or brigades. However, sir, if the lawyers say it is right, it is right; but with the type of legislation the courts have to deal with coming from the Legislature, you can get a lot of adverse comment. I should imagine all articles of equipment for the St. John's Ambulance would need some certificate and

it says so, but the St. John's Ambulance did not say they should give a certificate. However, I only said that because I would not like a small Bill like this to come back down.

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

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS seconded by Hon. M. E. COX Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee, Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

GUARDIANS; EXECUTORS; ADMINISTRATORS AND TRUSTEES BILL, 1955

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take Order No. 5 as the next Order of the Day, and also to take charge of this Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that Order No. 5 standing in the name of the Hon. Premier be the next Order of the Day, and that Hon. Minister of Social Services take charge in his absence, and unless there be any objection it will be taken as the next Order of the Day.

There being no objection Order No. 5 was taken as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Minister of Social Services for the Premier; to deal with the "Second reading of a Bill to amend the Guardians, Executors, Administrators and Trustees Act, 1891."

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Sir, this Bill is one referring to the Guardians, Executors, Administrators and Trustees Act, 1891. The object of this amendment is to bring the Act up to the standard of the custom or practice of the English Act. In the Objects and Reasons you will see, "Under the English law (Trustee Act, 1925, ss. 37 (a) and 39) trustees may resign or be discharged from a trust provided there are at least two remaining trustees, or the sole remaining trustee is a trust corporation. In Barbados they must always be two trustees remaining, even if the sole remaining trustee would be a trust corporation.

In England there is also power for a trustee, on leaving the country for a period longer than one month, to appoint by power of attorney, any person to exercise his powers during his absence (Trustee Act, 1925, s. 25). There is no such provision in the Act 1891—23."

That is the object of this Bill, I cannot say anything more about it as it is explained in the Objects and Reasons, and the legal technicality makes provision for the same easy administration of Trust Estates.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

6.30 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I should just like to ask one question. While this Amendment seeks to bring the law up-to-date with the English Act, can the honourable member tell me how it applies to the Public Trustee? Is this supposed to be a Corporation? [Asides]. If no allowance is made for the Public Trustee, I would be somewhat worried. I am assured, Mr. Speaker, that that point has been considered in relation to a Corporation, and that the sole remaining trustee would be alright.

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

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. LEWIS: I think the year will have to be changed.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: That will be done.

The question that Clause 1 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 2 to 4 inclusive were called and passed

Clause 5 was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of my colleague who I know has read this Bill because it deals with property, money transfers and so on, I will point out that a part of this Clause reads as follows:—

“For the purposes of this Act the expression ‘trust corporation’ means the Public Trustee or a body corporate either appointed by the Court in any particular case to be a trustee, or any banking or insurance company or other body corporate entitled under the provisions of sub-section (3) of section six of the Public Trustee Act, 1936 to act as a custodian trustee.”

The question that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Social Services:—to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Juvenile Offenders Act, 1932.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, on the 19th September, 1953, which was a Saturday, a young fellow 12 years of age was arrested and carried to the Charge Room at a Police Station. The business of the Court was over and there was nobody available to grant this young fellow a bail and therefore he had to remain in the Charge Room at the Police Station until the following Monday morning. He could not be taken to Dodds, because the Superintendent of that Institution would only admit a Juvenile on a warrant issued by a Police Magistrate. No Police Magistrate was available, and as I have already said, this little fellow had to remain in the Charge Room until Monday morning. The matter was brought to the attention of the Probation Officer, it was investigated and this Amendment was recommended.

Under this Amendment, if no Police Magistrate is available, a Police Officer will be able to grant bail or to sign a warrant whereby a Juvenile will be accepted at Dodds. That covers the history of the case; I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clause 2 was called. It reads as follows:

2. Section 4 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (i) by renumbering it as “4 (i)” and by inserting immediately before the word “court” appearing in line three thereof the word “juvenile”;
- (ii) by adding the following subsection to be numbered “(ii)” therein—

“(ii) Where a person apparently under the age of sixteen years, having been apprehended, is not so released as aforesaid, the officer of police shall cause him to be detained at a Government Reformatory until he can be brought before a juvenile court, unless the officer certifies—

- (a) that it is impracticable to do so; or
- (b) that he is of so unruly a character that he cannot safely be so detained; or
- (c) that by reason of his state of health or of his mental condition it is inadvisable so to detain him;

and the certificate shall be produced to the court before which he is brought.”

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, I have no objection at all to this amending Clause but I would like to suggest for the consideration of the appropriate Minister that the corresponding section of the Act be further amended to ensure when statements are taken from the juveniles by the Police that they are not taken unless the Probation Officer, Counsel or the parent or guardian of the child is there. I know of cases in which statements were taken from juveniles by the Police without anyone being present with the juvenile except the Police, and obviously those statements could not be regarded seriously: because you can well imagine how a juvenile will feel alone in the presence of Police upstairs of the C.I.D. and also seeing one or two bull-pizzles there.

I commend to the appropriate Minister that this Act should be further amended so that no statement should be taken for breaches of the law from juveniles in the absence of the Probation Officer. Let me say that the Probation Officers of this colony are doing a first class job. There is not one of them who is inefficient. In the administration of justice this amendment to the existing law is also necessary.

Mr. LEWIS: If the Hon. Minister in charge of this Bill feels keenly about the proposed amendment by the honourable senior member for St. Lucy, I am wondering whether it will not be worthwhile not to bring in a new Bill so as not to have our Statute Book cluttered up with Acts and let us postpone this Bill so as to make provision for that amendment. Does the honourable member feel that there is danger in doing that? It does sound over-powering to me to have a youngster in a place where he has not been before and seeing an array of uniforms denoting authority. I am sure the Minister in charge of this Bill would be willing to consider an amendment for such

a purpose and to put it before our Crown Law Officers and if there is not something which has been overlooked in the Statute Book making provision for it, then we can get it done. I do not like the idea of having a number of Acts amending an Act and it appears to me that this is a glorious opportunity of making provision for such an amendment.

The question that Clause 2 stand part was put and agreed to.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 12 ORDER, 1955"

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of Order No. 7 which stands in the name of the Hon. PREMIER. . . .

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 7 now stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Social Services to move the passing of the following Resolution. Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 12 Order, 1955."

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, Order No. 7 deals with the Civil Establishment Act, and has as its objects the increasing of the Staff of the Income Tax and Death Duties Department by the addition of one Assessment Officer, three Long Grade Clerks and one Stenographer-Typist. One of the things quoted in the Addendum is that the number of assessments has increased from 9,920 in 1953 to 11,773 in 1954, so on those figures it does seem that that office stands in need of the additional Assessment Officer.

The Income Tax and Death Duties Department is a very important Office and one from which we get considerable revenue and the additional staff should be granted. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether this is the first time this thing has happened, but I am merely drawing it to the attention of the House that we are passing this Order in 1956 which is regarded as No. 12 Order of 1955. I do not suppose that the numbering of this Order as well as the change in the date can be changed although I do not see anything wrong in changing it. I feel that it is a change which should be permissible even though it is said—

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of Order. I would like to inform the Hon. Junior member for the City that the Order was made in 1955: so it cannot be changed.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I know very well that these are things which we cannot interfere with at all but I would like to remind this House that changes were made before with Messages from His Excellency the Governor and honestly, this is a change which is necessary. At present, I do not think anybody knows what is the strength of the Civil Establishment by way of the various Orders which were made from time to time. We are now approving one that was made in 1955 in 1956.

However, this Order is to come into force on January, 1956 and I suppose having an operative

Clause it might be alright. For chronological sequence and for people who will be looking up the history of the island it must cause confusion when an Order made in 1955 and numbered that way is approved in 1956 and allowed to remain numbered and dated as it was. If you know it is not going to be approved before 1956 why not date it that way?
6.50 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I know the honourable member has also been asking for a consolidated Order. There is something here, sir, up to the end of October—a consolidated form which could be distributed to the House, and we are hoping that by April we will have fully consolidated Orders.

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

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 13 ORDER, 1955

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Social Services for the Premier. To move the passing of the following Resolution: "Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 13 Order, 1955."

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This is also a Civil Establishment Order, but this one is for the Post Office. I think it is fully realised that the Post Office is doing a lot of business. The need for additional staff has arisen and it is proposed to increase it by an Assistant Postmaster General, who will be in charge of certain Departments, a Supervisor, five Long Grade Clerks and six additional postmen. It is proposed that the Assistant Postmaster General should take certain duties, chiefly personnel and public relations, and assist the Postmaster General in other aspects of the administration of the Department. The expenditure for the first year on emoluments for the additional staff, and uniform and bicycle allowances for the postmen is estimated at approximately \$8,200.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, on this matter, I would like to draw a very serious matter to the attention of the Minister of Communications. It was my intention to draw it to the attention of the Postmaster General today. I wish the Minister would treat this statement with the courtesy it deserves, because it is a matter concerning his Department.

Mr. Speaker, I was going to draw this to the attention of the Postmaster General today, but it was only a matter of time that prevented me from doing so. I was in New York last week and it was drawn to my attention that a number of Barbadians sent letters here—some of them registered—with money for their families and that no statement can be made regarding these letters. It went so far that one of the people who sent a letter showed me a copy of a letter which he addressed to the Postmaster General—he happens to be my host when I go to New York. [A VOICE: One of them, you mean.] Yes, one of my hosts; and he made it clear that he, as a Barbadian, felt very perturbed about it, because in this case he did not have money in the letter, but a draft from the Royal Bank of Canada. He received the slip and the person to whom he sent the money has not received it. I told him he should not have addressed the letter to the Postmaster General as there is a new system in Barbados and there is no point writing to the Postmaster General only, but

that he should address the letter to the Minister of Communications. I said that because so far as I know the feelings of these Barbadians sending money through the Post Office to people here are becoming very diffident. They say they are sending money back to Barbados, and at the Post Office the money is being stolen. I asked him why he did not write me, because I would have drawn it to the attention of the Minister in the House. It is a very serious state of affairs that the point of view of Americans in sending money back here is that it is being stolen in the Post Office. I do not know if it is occurring in this Post Office or at the New York end. At New York some of the letters sent to Barbados are registered and the people receive the registration slips which the Post Office sends to them. I have a letter at home now and it is part and parcel of what has been said, and what I am saying can be substantiated by other members of this Chamber who have had dealings with people in the United States. I am glad to see the increase in the Post Office staff but I hope—and this is not a statement I am making from the point of view of alarming the public; it is one I am making to allay the fears of friends and families in the United States so that they would not feel that we are indifferent to these things. I hope the matter will receive the attention it deserves and that the good name of Barbados will be restored, so that the people would not feel they are taking too much of a chance in sending mail here.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I am really very sorry that the honourable member did not have time to discuss it with the Postmaster General because I suppose there should be an explanation. I have heard of similar instances where there is the absence of the contents and I think I remember that in some instances it was traced that the letter did not arrive in this island with the contents and things of that sort, but when you come to the point where you have a registered receipt signed for it, I think, Sir, some investigation will have to be made. I sincerely hope that that will be cleared up.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as you know I am always pointing out that with regard to these money Resolutions the House should have an opportunity of considering it in Committee of Supply. I am not pressing that tonight because I will get no assistance, but I would just like to say that we have just had an example of two amendments of the Customs Tariff Act. Can you imagine two Bills passing this House the same evening amending the Customs Tariff Act? I think it is unnecessary.

7.00 p.m.

I do not care what type of Ministerial system you have, there should be some co-ordination. We have just passed two Bills and the Order which we are considering now, was made on the 22nd December, and the one which we have just passed was made on the 15th December. In one week somebody puts up a claim in respect of the Income Tax and Death Duties Department, and in the next week somebody puts up a claim in respect of the Post Office. We have now passed what can be regarded as an anomaly; we have passed two things which contradict each other. We have here "Head XXVII, General Service, 213 Clerks" and before that leaves this Chamber to go anywhere else, we have made it 218 Clerks. One part is unnecessary and both of these Orders are to come into effect on the 1st January, 1956. That is ridiculous. There must be some other means of doing this business. We have a Head "General Service, 213 Clerks" and we have another Head saying that the number should not be 213 but 218. We are really saying "Yes" and "No" at the same time, and our

Rules do not permit us to do that in the same session. In order to try to rob the House of the opportunity of bringing in an amendment to the Act, we have hit around something which is really anomalous and it does not make any sense to me.

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

MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing: to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937.

Hon. M. E. COX: As honourable members will see, Mr. Speaker, from the "Objects and Reasons" of this Bill, a difficulty has been experienced in determining what is a plantation cart from a trailer. As a result of discussions with plantation owners, we have decided to amend the particular section of the Act in order to delete "plantation carts" completely and allow the word "trailer" to remain. Under the Act honourable members will see that there is a difference in so far as taxes are concerned. The Bill also has the object of giving some legal status; as you will remember, some time ago the Automobile Association appealed to the Government to have the Association come under the 1949 Convention in relation to Road Traffic. The Government agreed with that proposal and the opportunity is now taken to amend the Act so that the Convention will apply to Barbados. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has already agreed that the Convention should apply to this Colony.

I think that the "Objects and Reasons" of the Bill explain the position quite clearly. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to second that.

Mr. LEWIS: I should just like to make the observation that although I notice that this is a question of complying with certain International Agreements, I sincerely hope that we will not get too slack in accepting people to drive on our streets. It means that the standard of tests elsewhere is our own, and if they are slack, well, we are in trouble. In any case, if anybody is coming to drive in a new country, it is a dangerous thing not to give him some "trying-out" and familiarisation with its streets. Our streets are becoming very difficult where traffic is concerned. I quite understand this relaxation, but familiarisation with the particular streets is essential. I do not think that that was guaranteed on the last occasion. I sincerely hope that we are not permitting any slackness in not demanding a high standard, because our streets are becoming very dangerous every day both for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

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

On the motion of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded by Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

The five Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded by Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

LEAVE TO TAKE CHARGE OF ORDERS

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to take charge of Orders Nos. 10 and 11 standing in the name of the Hon. Premier.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 2 ORDER

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day now stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Social Services: to move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 2 Order, 1956.

7.10 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This is another of these Civil Establishment Orders which come before this House from time to time. A few moments ago the honourable junior member for the City made some remarks about the frequency with which these Orders come before the House, and that before you have finished with one Order you get another. Well, I should just like to tell this House that the Executive Committee is very much perturbed over this matter, but what can we do when somebody says: "We want more staff because things are not going on as they should go on," and they put up a strong case? We might tell them to allow things to remain over, but we have to put those things right. We try to resist it but when we find strong convincing argument, there can be no resistance. We do not like it ourselves; as a matter of fact, we do not know where we are heading when that is done. However I think honourable members will remember that recently we passed a Bill having as its object the appointment of a Director of Training. I think when we get such an officer he will be able to assist and look into the requirements of Staff for the various Departments. We are also hoping that things will be clarified and stabilised with that appointment and that these frequent Civil Establishment Orders will cease.

Anyway, this particular Resolution is for the purpose of establishing a second post of Executive Engineer and the reduction in the number of posts of Assistant Engineer from 2 to 1, and the increase in the number of Assistant Foremen from 3 to 7 and the creation of the post of Telephone Operator.

The Addendum to the Resolution states that the work of the Public Works Department has expanded to such an extent that it is necessary to re-organise the Department on the basis of having two Executive Engineer and the reduction in the number of posts in accordance respectively. Four additional Assistant Foremen are essential to enable the Department to cope with the additional recurrent maintenance which we will require in the future after the heavy building programme is completed and to take care of the new commitments in respect of secondary schools and the work for Vestries.

Well, Sir, we know that the work of the Public Works Department has expanded within the last three years. Buildings are going up everywhere and I think it is only fair that we should give them this additional staff for which they have asked: and not because they have asked for it but because we are

convinced that this Department wants this Staff. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. M. E. COX: In seconding this motion, Mr. Speaker, I should like to tell honourable members that hitherto Government Aided Schools were maintained by private contract and in 1954 the Government decided that that should no longer exist except for very minor repairs. We stipulated that all other repairs should be done by the Public Works Department. In that case, the Government Aided Schools has thrown additional work on the Department and it necessitates that Department having to divide that work between an Executive man and a maintenance man. It is for that reason that we come to create the post of an Executive Engineer.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that I can quite understand the difficulty which Government is up against when each Head is going to press for some change in his Department. However, after all, there was an attempt made once, for instance, to bring down Money Resolutions quarterly, and except in cases, say like a hurricane, omnibus Resolutions were brought down every quarter for the accumulated requirements of every Department. Now, you are getting a Money Resolution or two every Tuesday and it is a fact that you get discussion on them which takes up a great deal of time.

I think it is in your own interest not to have this type of thing occurring in respect of Civil Establishment Orders as well as regards Money Resolutions. I do not think that the House should pass Annual Estimates and then be asked every week to come and pass Money Resolutions. For this Financial Year the Money Resolutions for Supplementary Estimates number 68 already. I repeat, it is in your own interest to cut that down. For instance, some Departments come for what is regarded in some private businesses as Capital Expenditure in these Money Resolutions. I would discipline them if I had anything to do with it so as to let them pay more attention to budgeting. I sympathise with the Government because I know what it is to have a Head of Department nagging at you.

I must draw to the Hon. Minister's attention that these two Orders which we are now considering (I think the other one will be considered in a short while) are to come into operation on the 1st April, 1956. I believe that the reason why they are being considered now is because, if passed, they can be included in the Annual Estimates and I congratulate the Government for that. It will be remembered that in the last Annual Estimates there were sums of money included for various things for which the Orders were passed sometime afterwards.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 3 ORDER 1956"

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of which the Hon. Minister of Social Services has been granted leave to take charge is the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 3 Order, 1956

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this is the last Resolution of its kind. It is for the purpose of approving "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 3 Order, 1956" and it applies to the Police Department. That Department has asked for an increase in the number of Writ Servers

and on the figures which have been put up I think they have a claim.

It has also been stated that the present number of Writ Servers can no longer keep pace with the work, with the result that each month the number of warrants and summonses remaining unexecuted and unserved is steadily mounting to the great detriment of justice. It is therefore proposed to employ an additional ten Writ Servers to strengthen the Writ Servers section. The cost for the first year is estimated at approximately \$8,580. The proposal is supported by the Police Board.

The figures put are as follows:—

	1946	1953	1954
Number of warrants issued	3,867	16,126	18,766
Number of summonses issued	66,068	85,751	90,919
Amount of money collected by Writ Servers	\$21,193.29	\$72,799	\$77,543

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if in connection with this Resolution for the increase in the number of Writ Servers by ten, whether that number was all that was asked for. Why I wonder that is because from my everyday experience I think that number is inadequate. There is no denying that that branch of the Police Department is probably the most under-staffed Department of the Government and consequently, the present Writ Servers are more than overworked.

I wonder if hon. members realise that Writ Servers are required to work in the Courts of the Island. Some of these Courts even sit earlier than 10 o'clock a.m.; beginning to sit at 8.30 o'clock and so successfully has been the experiment that to-morrow morning one of those Courts will begin from 8.15 o'clock and carry on until 4 o'clock, p.m., which will be the very earliest time it will rise despite its starting at 8.15 o'clock. The Writ Server who acts as Court Crier in that Court is also required to carry around summonses which I consider is something very unfair and unjust.

7.20 p.m.

When a person is elected to the position as a Writ Server, that person should not have any summonses to serve at all. You will see what it means: he has to wake up at 4.00 a.m. go around and serve summonses, go back home and take some tea or breakfast and go to the Courts and wait until whatever hour the particular magistrate feels like adjourning; then he has to run and get his lunch and come back to carry on again until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. So I am very doubtful whether this amount of ten can be adequate and I am wondering whether the Minister responsible can assure us that the amount by which they are proposing to increase the Writ Department is the amount which was asked for or whether it has been whittled down, because it seems to me that ten will not be enough unless it is proposed to make further encroachment on the uniformed members as is being done in many cases. But the reason why it is still done by the Writ Department is that we still have a dismissal without prejudice and when a case is so dismissed and it is a private case, it is seldom brought again. Nowadays it is the practice of the Police Department, when cases are brought by them and dismissed without prejudice, to pursue the matter further and the person is put in peril for a second time. It is known that certainly with the present administration of the Police Force, almost invariably when a case is dismissed without prejudice, the matter is pursued further for a second time by the Police Department.

You will see then that the Writ Servers have to serve the summons a second time and have to put in just as much work in respect of the new summonses. It is proposed to do away with the dismissal without prejudice, but we are not sure about what to do with dismissal on merit because a compromise might displease either side. Anyhow that is one reason why there are so many cases today which are dismissed without prejudice and which are relogged by the Police Department, as private individuals seldom bring back up a case that is so dismissed. Summonses for arrears to persons who have been ordered by the Court to support their wives or their bastard children are issued by the Writ Department and there are a vast number. They represent a tremendous amount of summonses and I understand that there are certain cases to tell you that matter is not one for the Police Department at all or the Writ Department. These summonses are effected otherwise. But you can see from the hundreds if not thousands of persons, of fathers of illegitimate children or husbands who are finding their children or wives and children through the Courts, how much work it is. Every four weeks they are served with what is called an execution. The mother or wife executes the man. People coming to Barbados are puzzled to hear that either a married lady or a single lady has executed her husband or the father of a bastard child. It is a very great strain on the force of the Writ Department and whilst I commend this Resolution I must express the view that ten seems to me, from my practical knowledge, to be an inadequate amount, because Writ Servers tell me that in order to get a particular man — he might be a fisherman — he has to get up at one or two o'clock in the morning and all sorts of ridiculous hours; otherwise the man could get him into hot water and the Commissioner of Police can call on the Writ Server and ask why he did not serve the summons on this man. Ten are not enough and I would be interested as I said earlier to hear if ten are all that were asked for or proposed by the Police Department, because that in my view is too small and too slight to cope with the tremendous increase of work and the difficulty they have in doing the work. In the Assistant Court of Appeal a Writ Server has to be there from 9 a.m. to as late as 4.30 and 5.00 p.m. and is required to issue summonses in the Charge Room just like a person who has not got a whole time job. So, Sir, I trust that this number is appropriate and that the Government will not be cheese-paring or reluctant to come to the Legislature and ask for a further increase.

Mr. LEWIS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I have been throwing out a suggestion here from time to time that we cut down the reasons and the number of cases that are held in the Court by making it impossible for people to recover money for goods and services of a certain nature. I have never heard of it being taken up, but I think, Sir, that it is something I have heard of in another colony. There are certain things that people can contract debt for, like taking a drive in a motor car or alcohol not used for medicinal purposes and I understand that in one colony around here it is not possible to sue people for that kind of debt, and it means that you discourage people from contracting it. This vast amount of work done by the Courts for these petty debts would be cut down if this suggestion were taken up. It will stop people from wasting their money and people will see that if you trust a man with goods to feed his children or his family that should be a recoverable debt, but if you trust him with rum to drink, it should be a matter between yourself and him and not the Courts. Some-

thing of that sort should be investigated and I believe it would be worthwhile for us to have to provide Courts and Magistrate, Writ-Servers and all that. However, Mr. Speaker, I have two points to make. I would like the Minister of this Government to tell Civil Servants to be reasonably disposed towards the Legislature, and to do everything in their power to facilitate the work of the Legislature.

Now, sir, we have the last paragraph of the Addendum to this Resolution reading thus: "The present number of Writ Servers."

Now I would like to know what right any Civil Servant had putting that in there, and when it comes to the third last line he puts down "an additional ten." Now what is the additional ten to? Is it ten to a thousand or ten to thirty? And if even I look at the Schedule I have been given it is Item 17 and not 18. Is it really Item 17 or 18?
7.30 p.m.

Is this Item 17 or Item 18? Has there been an Amendment recently? However, that is by the way. I think a Civil Servant should be able to realise that no member of the House, in a little matter like this, should have to look up the Estimates, just for the sake of their not adding the number "30," which would not cost anything more for printing. Hon. members would be able to see that you are adding 10 to a particular number. The remarks of the honourable senior member for St. Lucy are something to which attention should be paid, something to be listened to. There should be an addition to a particular number, but you cannot see that from what is written here. If we can get that little courtesy done, it would help honourable members of this House.

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

PETTY DEBT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, the last Order with which we intend to deal is Order No. 16 on the Order Paper. I am asking leave to deal with that Order as the next Order of the Day, and also to take charge of it. This Order stands in the name of the Hon. Premier.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, as is set out in the "Objects and Reasons" of this Bill, in recent years on account of the increase in the number of suitors, the Clerk of the Petty Debt Court is called upon to keep money, the amount of which is thought to be considerable. Under the present law this money cannot be banked; it has to be kept in hand to be paid to judgment creditors, or in the case of unclaimed money, pending payment into the Treasury at the end of three months. It is considered, as in the case of the Clerk of the Assistant Court of Appeal, that the Clerk should be allowed to bank this money. The Clerk of the Petty Debt Court has not got that authority whereas the Clerk of the Assistant Court of Appeal has it. The object of this Bill is therefore to amend the Act so as to allow the Clerk of the Petty Debt Court to bank this money instead of having it in hand. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. LEWIS: I am sorry to keep you back, Mr. Speaker, but I feel that this money should be

paid over to the Accountant General and let him give a receipt for it. You can say "I have paid out so much money, and the remainder is there." I do not see why this money should be taken and placed in a Commercial Bank; the Accountant General's Office would be open long after a Commercial Bank would have been closed. I repeat: let the money be paid into the Accountant General, and let him give a receipt for it. Do you mean to tell me that the Accountant General has not got any means of keeping an account showing that so much was paid in today, so much yesterday, and there is so much more for squaring off the transactions? I feel that the Accountant General should receive the money which is there and the Auditor General could go at any time and see that the amount is paid in. [Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This is money which belongs to people]. Then you will have to pay it out by voucher.

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

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I ask leave to amend this Clause by changing the year "1955" to "1956".

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

Clause 1 as amended was passed.

Clause 2 was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. LEWIS: It seems to me as if you are making an arrangement whereby we will be getting some money which people have left after six years. It is alright to leave it for three months, but not after six years.

The question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title agreed to.

7.40 p.m.

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 21st February, 1956, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: In seconding that motion, Mr. Speaker, I crave this opportunity to tell the hon. junior member for St. Peter who raised the question about people here not receiving registered letters from people in the United States of America that

the fault was not with the Post Office here but with the authorities in the United States of America. The lady to whom the hon. member referred was informed that it would take a little time before a settlement could take place and the matter which was gone into thoroughly has been reported to the Postmaster General. I am sure the hon. junior member for St. Peter will appreciate that I had already seconded the motion and therefore lost the right to speak

again on the particular measure under which he raised this matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I thank the Hon. Minister very much for the explanation.

The question that the House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday 21st February, 1956 at 3 o'clock p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

7.45 p.m.