

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1956

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 31st July, 1956.

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

Present:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*), Hon. G. H. ADAMS, C.M.G., Q.C., B.A., (*Premier*) 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*), Mr. F. C. GODDARD, (*Leader of the Opposition*), Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A., Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. E. St. A. HOLDER, Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*), Mrs. E. E. BOURNE, and Mr. J. C. TUDOR, M.A.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes for the meeting held the 24th April, 1956, have been printed and circulated and unless there be any objection these Minutes will be taken as read and confirmed.

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

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the parish of St. Andrew for the year 1955—56.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay a statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for two months ended 31.5.56.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: I am commanded to lay a reply to the question asked by the honourable junior member for St. Joseph on the 1st May, 1956, concerning Nurse Joyce Mason.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to give notice of the following Resolution.

Resolution to place the sum of \$22,776 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1956—57, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1956—57, No. 13 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I also beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

Resolution to place the sum of \$5,760 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee for the purpose of making loans to six delegates and eighteen observers of the Barbados Elementary School Teachers' Association to assist them to meet expenses of attending the Conference of the Caribbean Union of Teachers which will be held in Antigua in August, 1956.

In connection with this, I beg to give notice of my intention to ask leave of the House to suspend Rules 88 and 89 in order that this Resolution may be dealt with at today's meeting of the House as this meeting is due to take place, as far as I know, within the next ten days and is therefore a matter of urgency.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to give notice of my intention to suspend Rules 88 and 89 to deal with the Resolution for \$22,776.

The question was put and agreed to.

for the children to treat them at their school and to let them know what was going on.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, allow me to interrupt the hon. member. The first official information which was received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on this matter was on Thursday.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, surely if you look at the Addendum you will see that they decided that on the particular day when the Enabling Bill was assented to by Her Majesty the Queen, there would have been some celebration. Surely some body could have arranged this thing. You must have had in the back of your mind what you were going to do. Some schoolmasters received a letter concerning this matter on Friday, but up to today they cannot say that they can treat their schoolchildren on Federation Day because they received their letter by mail on Friday after the School was dismissed for holiday.

Let the Hon. Premier contradict the statement I made. What the Hon. Leader of the Opposition said is correct. The person who is in charge of these celebrations seems not to know what he is doing. I agree one hundred percent with your holding a General Service of Thanksgiving on the Garrison Savannah and that it is the correct service: but does the Hon. Premier appreciate that in the outlying parishes, say in the constituency of St. Joseph which he represents, not many people from that parish will be able to attend the service at the Garrison Savannah?

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: They can go to their own Church at 11 o'clock that day.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The Hon. Premier says that they can go to their own Church at 11 o'clock that day. I am telling him that they do not know anything about that; they were not informed. You have said that there will be a General Service at the Garrison Savannah but you have not said that there will be a Service of Thanksgiving in the several Churches in the various Parishes, say in the Parish Church of St. Lucy, St. Joseph and St. Andrew. On Sunday last, no notice was given out of such a Service and up to now no notice has been given out. Whose fault is it? The person who has been put in charge has not sent out such notice. It is an absolute fact that they did not send out such a notice. I realise that you did not have the information in time to pinpoint everything in detail, but you could have worked out something. You could have put in a token amount of \$1 in your Resolution to be expended on the celebrations and then come back to the House for the sum you need.

This is the most important day in the life of the West Indies within the last three hundred years. It is the most important day in the lives of West Indians, and quite rightly you say here that it should be celebrated in such a manner befitting its great significance. You say here that you are holding a Service at the Garrison Savannah. I agree with the Hon. Minister when he says that you should start off your celebrations with a Thanksgiving Service at the Churches.

4.15 p.m.

What I did hear and see is that the Hon. Premier would give a talk on the significance of the Day and what not. That is correct, but for the actual celebrating, one would have thought in a matter of this sort you would forget any Party, just for the day, and let us face it as West Indians and West Indian leaders, as Barbadians and Barbadian leaders, and forget party and party politics. One would have thought that the lamb and the Hon. would lie to-

gether on a day like Thursday. One would have thought that the hon. member for St. James and others would be able to visit the various schools on the occasion forgetting everything about party politics on that day, and explaining to the youth the significance of the day so that they would never forget why they were celebrating that day. But what do we find? The Premier would give a talk which will go to about 50,000 to 60,000 people. The Premier himself believes that information went out to the various denominations instructing them to hold these services, but I know that information has not gone out and I say something is wrong.

Now, I heard a few days ago that the Government would be treating children with sweet drinks, sweets and biscuits. No member of this House would object to that, but when I saw \$1,500 I started to figure how far this could go to serve 40,000 children. On the last occasion, we felt you had to treat those people from Private Schools like those from Elementary Schools because they were the sons and daughters of people of this colony, and when I started to think of the amount of drinks and sweets for these 40,000 children, I realised there must have been an error. Why did you not put in \$1 instead of \$1,500? I am glad to hear the Premier say that he is not thinking of children alone in treating them to remember the occasion, but is also thinking of the poor so that they would not forget. I heard him mention that he will be offering money to the almshouses in order that the poor people would be able to get something. Out of this money, \$480 is allotted for St. Michael and \$70 for St. John. Am I right in saying it is to allow people in the Institutions and poor houses to take part in the celebration of the day? Thursday is the day for celebrating and may I ask the Premier whether the people of the Island have been notified? They have not yet been notified and I say so definitely today.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member again. It is a Bank Holiday which is proclaimed in the *Official Gazette*, and it is just conceivable that the Advocate Printery may not have produced the *Official Gazette*. There should have been a proclamation on Saturday that Thursday would have been a Bank Holiday.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Of course we know it is a Bank Holiday, but for what?

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: For the celebration of Federation Day.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: What I am asking the Premier is this. He is trying to outline the position to us today, and we are allowing for the shortness of the notice. You have today for the first time allowed the public to know the reasons for changing your amount from \$1,500 to \$9,600. I suspected \$1,500 was not the real figure, and you have given information that the reason for raising the amount is because you are treating school children and allowing the various parishes an amount to help to feed the poor of the parish in order to let them recognise this day which we are celebrating. The day after tomorrow is the day and may I ask who is responsible for sending out that information? It has not yet been sent out. He said there are going to be services in many religious denominations. You said, Sir, you would be giving the various parishes an amount with which the people would be treated on this day. Let it be known that the Government subscribed money today so that the people in the Institutions should have a special diet or something special and that these are the reasons; but not one person has been notified that the Government intends to do it at all. Something has gone wrong. If you are saying that the people of the parishes of St. Andrew and St. Philip on this day are celebrating and yet you have not allow-

ed them to know, are they really joining in the celebration on this day? Why must Government be so strongheaded and not appoint a proper Committee? You could not have known the date of the celebration, but I have seen that Mr. Wiles is responsible for the organisation; and now you come and tell us you are having these services when not one word has been said about the various activities..

Now, as regards the question of fire-works, the Hon. Premier said that the senior member for the City has them all. That is not true, and the hon. member knows that, but I am still glad to hear him say that the hon. senior member for the City has fire-works for the St. Michael's parish.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: If the hon. member would give way, I know of the hon. member's activities from the Press. We discussed Federation Day some weeks ago, and we also discussed the question of fire-works and decided it was not worth while buying what was in Bridgetown because you would not see them if you put them in a barrel and set them off the Esplanade unless you were somewhere at a point like at the Princess Alice Playing Field. But the Churchwarden of St. Michael was content to buy the fireworks and that is why I said he was welcome to them.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: For the benefit of the Hon. Premier, the hon. member for the City is more active and more wide awake. Fireworks landed in Bridgetown last Friday, for your information, and I only thought they would be displayed not only at the Princess Alice Playing Field but at other spots in the islands. What has gone wrong with your Committee? Who are the members of your Committee? Why was no mention made in the Press? You make fun and say you would not buy fireworks that if displayed in Bridgetown could not be seen far off; but, for your information, the Churchwarden would not take that type of fireworks. All you wanted landed in Bridgetown last Friday. I am asking what has become of the Committee! Who is on the Committee? Mr. Wiles is on the Committee, but who else is on it? Name them! Why did you not appoint people who could tell people what was happening? While the Minister of Social Services was in part responsible for notifying the various parishes that Government would give this money to gladden the hearts of the people of the various parishes, the answer is still "No". Money will be voted to celebrate the significance of the day and somebody should speak to them on that day. Let them know that Government has given them something to celebrate the significance of the day and somebody should speak to them on that day. Let them know that Government has given them something to celebrate the day and let them know the reason. It may be interesting to note that I will speak to the people and tell them why they are celebrating this day and of the importance of it, and I plan to speak to them in the thousands. It is regrettable that we are not going to celebrate in a manner befitting its great significance. I hope that after this debate in the House this evening, at least the Committee will get a stop press or advertise in the *Advocate* and let the persons in the various parishes know what is happening, especially those people of the parishes who cannot get to Bridgetown. 4.25 p.m.

With the various Denominations in this Island, and with the Ministers of Religion, they could very well be in a position to explain to people and let them know what the true position is; but not one word has been said about the matter. It is not too late even at this moment to get what the Hon. Premier has said to us in the Press, and let it be known what the Government is doing. Just to go to the

Harrison alone, and leave the people in St. Thomas or St. George without saying one word to them is not in the best interest of the Colony. The Hon. Premier has said that a Committee has been set up to deal with this matter; but who is the Committee? I hope that from what the Hon. Premier has said today, he will be able to get something in the Press by tomorrow, so that people will see what is going to happen. At least there could be put over the service of Rediffusion, the request that Services be held on Thursday, at 11 o'clock at every nook and corner of this island. This most important day in the life of the people of this Colony has come at last; therefore, let the Churches know what is happening. Of course, I shall be going ahead with the celebration activities in this parish; I welcome that gift of \$480.00, if they will give it, to assist the people at the Almshouse.

We have requisitioned some buses to take the poor around the Island as part of the activities, and I am wondering if the Government would see that proposal through. If we have to pay for that, then we will pay for it. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, the Transport Board is a Statutory Board and not a Government concern; however, I repeat that I hope the Hon. Premier will get the information which he has given us this afternoon over the service of Rediffusion, as a request from the Government to the Heads of the various Denominations in this Colony to hold Services, and let it be known what is happening.

Mr. ALLDER: The most important event which is taking place in these Colonies since the abolition of slavery in the 1830's is this occasion of the introduction of the Federation of the Caribbean Colonies. During the abolition of slavery, it was not possible for people to celebrate their freedom as we are now going to celebrate the introduction of a new system of Government, and a certain amount of political freedom. I should like to say that the amount which the Hon. Premier has suggested cannot accommodate the entertaining Committees in the various parishes. The amount is too small, and tends more to confused thinking on that day than to bring people together in a true form to express their appreciation of having lived to see the introduction of a new system of Government in these parts. I would suggest to the Hon. Premier now, that the \$75.00 which he proposes for St. John to entertain thousands of school children and to be distributed at various schools, and with which he also proposes to make some token gift to people in the Almshouse is not sufficient; I suggest that this amount be kept for occasions when they are having big parties, and when they are giving exclusive parties and use it for that purpose.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The hon. member is now accusing the Government of providing only \$75 for the parish of St. John plus the Almshouse; where does he get that information from? The hon. member just does not care to listen; I said that provision was being made for 43,000 school children at 15c. each, plus the amount for the Almshouses.

Mr. ALLDER: That amount cannot suffice. The hon. member came back and increased the number of school children from 25,000 to 43,000.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I promise the hon. member that every time he makes reckless misstatements—sometimes they will be deliberate—I will correct him. That is how I am going to treat him. It was the hon. junior member for St. Lucy who spoke of 25,000 school children.

Mr. ALLDER: I really meant the hon. junior member for St. Lucy who said that the school num-

which the whole of Thursday is to be devoted is a national celebration, there can be no more fitting thing to be done than that the best attention be paid to the children, who are after all the backbone of this nation which is to be. When Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret visited this Island last year, of the whole sum of \$30,000, fully \$12,000—or perhaps half of that, I cannot remember, but a considerable amount—was voted for the entertainment of the children, and, of course, in their transportation to the Garrison. It is true that the whole number of elementary school children was not involved; but if, Mr. Chairman, you strike a proportion with what was spent then on the 12,000 school children with what it is proposed here and now to spend on the whole lot of elementary school children (apart from other expenses and other aspects of the celebration) you will see it is woefully short and something is terribly lacking. I want to impress upon the Government that they should not take this thing in so off-hand a fashion, that proper attention should be paid to it, and that at any rate, so long as the children are to be brought into it at all, a scale much larger and much more expensive than might possibly be the case with the small amount of money they are asking for is needed. But, Mr. Chairman, if proof were needed that this Government did not take this thing seriously at all, you have only got to search for that proof in the fact that of all the people in this whole Island, they alone thought that they could celebrate a day like this on \$1,500, and the scale of their magnificence was equal to the scale of their thinking: and they would have been the only people in this Island who would have taken the view that \$1,500 would have allowed Barbados to celebrate Federation Day in a manner befitting its great significance.

Mr. Chairman, I think they are not to be congratulated on having done anything or certainly having done very much, and I think that here again, Mr. Chairman, you can see their lackadaisical approach by the fact that although at such short notice they have jumped from \$1,500 to \$9,600, they still have not in the light of what they are doing, treated the House with the courtesy of letting it know how they propose to spend the \$9,600. They are bound to agree that so far as entertainment proper is concerned, something should be done for school children and possibly for old people; and it must cost them something, however little, to arrange the large open-air gathering which they are encouraging to meet on Thursday morning at the Garrison. But none of these things has been explained to us, and frankly I do not think that they care sufficiently about these things to tell us exactly what they are doing. I do not want to add fuel to fire; but I am a resident of the parish of St. Michael, and I got the impression that the scale of entertainment and celebration planned for this parish alone far surpasses anything I have heard the Government proposes to do for the whole Island. Now, it need not worry them because it certainly does not worry me if I had said so, but it happens to be a fact. The published plans for Federation Day in the parish of St. Michael far surpasses any I have heard as yet which is contemplated for the whole Island; and I wish to emphasise this Mr. Chairman, before I sit down, that if, as he says, something is to be done for school children, he cannot do it properly for nearly twenty-five thousand school children. My arithmetic is not very good because I did not learn much, but it would repay quite a lot of interest if the members of that Government, particularly the Ministers, would try to see how far they can entertain twenty-five thousand children on an occasion like this on less

than \$9,600, because not all of it is going to be spent on children. So like the hon. senior member for St. John, the hon. junior member for Christ Church, and I dare say, like most of the members of this House, I am anxious to know the scale of the celebration planned by Government and the precise amounts of money out of \$9,600 which are to be voted to each aspect of the celebration.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: It is surprising . . .

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Surely, I did not want the Premier to let it appear that I wanted to wait to find something to say after he had spoken, but like the previous speaker I say we would certainly like some further explanation. I am not surprised myself that the amount has been increased, because when I went through my Resolution and I saw \$1,500, I thought there was a mistake; I thought it was a question of \$15,000; but while I have not heard, and I regret I was not present when the Hon. Premier was speaking to hear his explanation, I am not surprised that there is an increase in the amount of money to \$9,600. They are those of us who when we start to speak of money think of big money, but even that seems small to me; small judging from the explanatory note which says: "the Standing Federation Committee expressed their strong hope and arrangements would be made in the several Unit Territories for the celebration of this day in a manner befitting its great significance." It strikes me that this day is not only unique for the West Indian but also unique in the history of the world. I wonder if I may stretch it so far to say that, because not only are you federating the people of the islands, but you are federating, if I am permitted to say so when you think of the background of Trinidad, people of all nationalities. 3.55 p.m.

In other words, you are trying to federate Europeans, Chinese, Indians, Negroes and Assyrians—people of all nationalities. We have quite recently seen, or at least read, that one of West Indian birth, but of Chinese origin, has been sworn in to act as Governor of Trinidad. That, in itself, is a very good sign. However, I will not say anything further on the celebration activities, as I know nothing about them; I will wait for the Hon. Premier to tell us something about them. I presume that they will be starting with the children, for indeed, this will be a day which the children should always remember and which old people will never forget. This occasion is a very important one in the lives of West Indians; this is a day which should be celebrated in a manner befitting the great dignity of the day. I shall not say anything more; I will wait to hear the Hon. Premier's explanation.

When sometime ago, we heard that this day would be celebrated, we had hoped that we would have seen a plan of the celebrations accompanying whatever Resolution would be brought before us. However, I do not think it is too late for the Hon. Premier to tell us about this matter; and I am sure he will tell us about it, because the fact that the amount of that Item of this Resolution has been changed from \$1,500 to \$9,600 does show that the activities are going to be greater than they would be under the Item for \$1,500. I shall await the Hon. Premier's explanation which has been asked for by hon. members.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, if we had put another nought at the end of this amount, we have been accused of asking for too much. I am not therefore minding that aspect of the matter. The original suggestion was, that there should be just this sort of celebrations. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I cannot hear the honourable member]. Nobody says that the honourable member should take note of the interrup-

tions; he can sit over here. To hold Church Services was the West Indian idea generally; we did not know what would have happened. The matter was going before the House of Commons, and we thought that in case we were caught, we could get something passed in the House, and later on, we could come back for an additional amount. We did not have any long notice of what was going to happen in the House of Lords, and the assent of Her Majesty the Queen to the Bill establishing the Federation; then we were warned that we were not to take it for granted that Her Majesty the Queen would assent to the Bill immediately on its being passed by the House of Lords. Therefore we thought that we should get something done, and then we could go thoroughly into the matter.

The sum of \$1,500 was intended to cover the cost of flags, and I do not know if they have yet arrived; they were to arrive by plane. If I may disclose a secret, we ordered the flags even before the House had voted any money to pay for them; I hope we will not be attacked for doing that. We wanted a flag of each West Indian Colony, just as they are in the University College of the West Indies; there, we have a flag of each West Indian Colony which has students at that College. We took the risk; and of course, if the House in a fit of madness, did not vote the money, then we would have had to pay for the flags out of our own pockets. In order that, if we were suddenly presented with the date by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, we would not be failing in some of the methods of the celebrations, we took that risk.

I have forgotten to ask whether the flags have actually arrived; they were due to arrive by plane, as I have stated. However, the proposal to use flags as a decoration on the platform at the Service at the Garrison Savannah is, as far as I know, unique in Barbados; so far as I know; the other colonies are having services in their Churches and Chapels. Here in Barbados, the Clergy of the various denominations are proposing to have services at 11 o'clock, while the general service will be held at the Garrison Savannah.

The honourable member for St. Lucy has got his facts wrong; he spoke of 25,000 school children. The honourable member was more in need of a hot meal when he was in England than the school children here.

Mr. BRANCKER: I should like to know to which honourable member the Hon. Premier is referring; both of us are in favour of a hot meal for school children. [Mr. TUDOR: And he is not].

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The honourable member is always eating hot meals. There are 43,000 school children. In connection with the Coronation the figure was worked out at 8c. or 10c., and now we have made the figure 15c. for a child; so that the honourable member with his self-confessed lack of arithmetical skill will be able to multiply 43,000 by 15c. a child and get the proper sum. We also intend to spend some money in treating persons at the Almshouses. I will give honourable members the figures. For the St. Michael's Almshouse, there is the sum of \$480.00; Christ Church \$200.00; St. Philip and St. George \$100.00 each; St. James \$80.00; St. Peter, St. Thomas, St. John and St. Joseph \$75.00 each; St. Andrew and St. Lucy \$70.00 each, amounting to \$1,400.00.

4.05 p.m.

As announced there will be a Police Band Concert at the Bay Street Esplanade and the much decried Ministerial Buildings, according to the Opposition, will be illuminated. There will also be illuminations opposite. We attempted to get fireworks and give a fireworks display but we were told that there were only feeble fireworks in Bridgetown and that there were commandeered by the Local Government of St. Michael. We were told that they would be feeble

fireworks if we set them off on the Esplanade, but, perhaps, on the Princess Alice Playing Field where a few people would be gathered around the fireworks would be able to be seen; they would not be seen if they were shown at the Bay Street Esplanade. Therefore, the honourable senior member for the City is welcome to have them. (Laughter).

I do not know if there is anything more I can add. I will venture to prophesy with the usual criticism chiefly of our own efforts that when the celebrations are over there will be no island celebrations which will surpass that of Barbados.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have listened attentively to the Hon. Premier. All I have seen in the Press that Government is doing as regards the celebrations of this day is that Mr. Wiles is responsible for the celebrations which are to take place the day after tomorrow which is Federation Day. The Hon. Premier got up in here today and said that there will be Church Services throughout the Island and every head of the various denominations was asked to hold Church Services. I say that that is not a statement of fact.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member must not misquote me. I was careful to say "not all". Some have promised. I do not want to call names but the hon. members know what I mean when I say that as regards the General Service which will be held at the Garrison Savannah you cannot get certain denominations to co-operate with certain other denominations.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: It is known that you are going to keep a General Service at the Garrison Savannah, but I take it that your celebrations are for every parish and that the Rectors of St. Andrew, St. Joseph and the other parishes would be asked to hold Thanksgiving Services as well as the heads of the Pilgrim Holiness Churches and the head of the Methodist Churches. If I may refer to James Street Methodist Church specifically I take it that the Hon. H. A. Cuke was asked; but I am saying that no one was asked. Something has broken down.

Weeks ago, I heard that part of the programme of the celebrations of Federation Day would be a General Service at the Garrison Savannah and that there will be a Thanksgiving Service at every Church and every denomination would be asked to give thanks to Almighty God for this occasion. Now the Hon. Premier says you cannot get every denomination to co-operate. I presume he means the Roman Catholic body.

One must bear in mind that the day after tomorrow is Federation Day when you will be having these celebrations. One would have thought that if you had decided to celebrate the occasion in this way, you would have notified all the heads of the various denominations. I am not thinking of any Anglican Ministers, I am thinking of the Baptist Churches, the Pilgrim Holiness and all such Churches. Why I say so is because we want everybody to share in these celebrations, and share alike. I was at a loss to know why no announcement was made as to whether Government wanted the various denominations to give Services in their Churches to celebrate this occasion. Nothing has been said. I am not accusing the Hon. Premier, I am accusing the member of his Government who has been in charge of this affair.

Let me say that on Friday afternoon after the elementary schools were dismissed for holiday the postmen then carried letters to the Headmasters and Headmistresses of those Schools. Up to yesterday morning some of those Headteachers had not received their letters to let them know to send

QUESTIONS

Mr. GODDARD: To enquire of the Honourable Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:—

Is Government aware that there is grave dissatisfaction existing among many owners of houses which were damaged by Hurricane "Janet" on the 22nd September, 1955?

2. Is Government aware (a) that the Housing Authorities at the time promised to return to complete repairs which they had partially undertaken, (b) that the Housing Authorities have failed to carry out such promises?

3. Is it true (a) that Government promised assistance to house owners who carried out their own repairs and incurred debts in so doing? (b) if so, has Government carried out their promises and to what extent?

4. Will Government send down a Resolution for a sum to be used in completing the repairs to houses damaged by the Hurricane and to render assistance to those who carried out their own repairs?

SUSPENSION OF RULES

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to suspend Rules 88 and 89 to deal with the Resolution for the sum of \$22,776 of which notice has just been given.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to suspend Rules 88 and 89 in order to deal with \$22,776 of which notice has just been given and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted the Hon. Minister.

There being no objection leave was granted.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday last, a Resolution was introduced for \$1,500 for the purpose of celebrating Federation Day. The Government has increased that amount and we are asking leave to withdraw the Resolution for \$14,670 and to substitute the Resolution for \$22,776. Whether we will do it now in the House or in Committee, Your Honour will decide.

3.25 p.m.

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

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

The question was put and agreed to.

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

FEDERATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I propose to deal firstly with the Resolution for \$22,776. I am told that cyclo-styled copies of this Resolution have been circulated. Hon. members had been presented with a Resolution for a lesser amount last week, and it will be unnecessary for me to do more than say that when we sent down that Resolution for \$1,500, it was quite uncertain as to the date on which Her Majesty the Queen would have assented to the Enabling Bill, and we wanted to get something be-

fore the House quickly. We have now considered what we think should be done, but it is unfortunate that we should have read about what Jamaica and Trinidad propose to do before announcing what Barbados proposes to do. However, I should like to say that Barbados had decided, before knowing of what any other Colonies had decided, to have Church Services including a sort of comprehensive service at the Garrison Savannah in addition to the services in the separate Churches and Chapels.

I say that lest it be thought that we are merely copying from Jamaica or Trinidad. I do not think that anybody who really knows the West Indian scene, and who has got before his eyes the possible siting of the Federal Capital, would accuse Barbados of following any other Colony with regard to celebrations of this sort. I think it is only fair to the Administration that it should be made quite clear that our plans for the celebration of Federation Day were going ahead at the same time as other people's plans had been going ahead, and it is only a question of getting Estimates as to bringing the school children into these celebrations that we rushed down with the original plans. The difference in the amount of this Resolution is largely due to our having accurate figures now supplied as to what it would cost to give the school children the sort of treat which it is customary to give to school children on occasions of this sort, and the cost of a more spectacular show which it is proposed to give on Thursday afternoon.

As hon. members will see from the notes, the largest amount of this Resolution is the amount of \$11,424 which is the share which Barbados has to pay for the initial expenditure on Federation. Hon. members are aware that it was agreed in February this year that a Commissioner should come down to examine the whole question of Trade and Tariffs in order that we may be able at an early date to introduce a Customs Union in the West Indian Colonies. I shall not say anything more today about the position of this Government than to say that it is inconceivable that you can have a Federation without having a Customs Union. Whatever may have happened to cause Barbados to be placid about the postponement of an immediate Customs Union, the position of the Government remains unchanged; that is to say, that it considers a Customs Union to be a necessary concomitant of a plan for Federation. This Commissioner is coming soon. Already, a very distinguished person has been appointed as Commissioner and our portion of the expense is \$1,752.

The sum of \$9,600 takes the place of \$1,500 which was not intended to be the complete sum which we are spending in connection with the Federation Celebrations, and I am therefore asking the Committee to agree to this Resolution for \$22,776 under these three Heads. If we may be permitted to insert a new Head in the Estimates, we are inserting this new Head—Head XVIII, Caribbean Federation—in the Estimates and these three sub-Heads, all being new, will appear, namely, Pre-Federal Contribution, \$11,424; Trade and Tariffs Commission, \$1,752 and Federation Celebrations, \$9,600. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, the Government seems not to know what it intends to do in this matter. I have received a Resolution during the last week-end; and now that I have come here, I have been presented with a change in that Resolution. I have not had any time to study the contents of this Resolution. What I am trying to say is that this Government should have been able to

know how elaborate they intended these celebrations to be, so that they could arrive at a definite figure. In that way, they would not have had to send down one Resolution containing a certain amount of money, and then when we come here, at the last moment to present us with a Resolution for a different amount of money. I notice that the amount of \$9,600 is now to be spent on the Federation celebrations, whereas the original figure was \$1,500.

I appreciate the expenditure of that sum and I will go further and say I regret inasmuch as we had spent \$30,000 to entertain Princess Margaret, on this very unique occasion in the West Indies which introduces a new era—Federation of the West Indies—that these more elaborate preparations and decisions were not arrived at in sufficient time to permit all the sections of the community to prepare themselves for the celebration of such an occasion in the manner in which it deserves. I would like the Hon. Premier to let us know what are the proposals for the spending of the sum of \$9,600. What are the things you are going to do and the things you are not going to do?

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, if the Government were conscious that criticisms would have been levelled at them, not only some but all the plans they have in mind would have been told to this Committee. When the Hon. Premier got up and told us that the \$1,500 was a token sum and that it could be amended now to \$9,600, one expected that he would have been ready to put before the Committee what plans he had for the celebrations. Up to now he had not spoken of any plans. He says that it was agreed between the various unit Governments at the last Conference, which is well over five weeks ago, that we should celebrate the day. That shows that they had this celebration in mind then; and they knew of the progress of the Bill through the House of Commons, and had an indication of when the instrument would be signed by Her Majesty the Queen. Even if they did not know the exact date when Her Majesty would sign the instrument, they knew that it was coming. They knew that the school children would be going on vacation at this time, and after they had gone home it would be almost an impossible task to get them out under their teachers. It is no use just 'phoning mothers. That would not lead to the success of any celebrations. Preparations are more important; and to ask teachers at this stage to summons school children at the Garrison Savannah is not good enough. I do not know what means there are to get them here. On the last occasion, the occasion of the visit of Princess Margaret—when they were asked to assemble at the Garrison Savannah, they were given transport. What form will it take now? What other entertainments have Government in mind? To my mind, it is so late now that whatever is done is going to appear a most half-hearted thing. I do know that some of the firms in Bridgetown will decorate their buildings but others will not. One week is absolutely inadequate to make preparations for illuminations. If we did not have any warning of what was taking place there might be an excuse; but there is no excuse for this. When the Hon. Premier gets up again, I would be grateful if he would tell us, apart from the service which is to take place at the Garrison Savannah, what are the other arrangements. Whoever is responsible for the arrangements has fallen down on the job. I do not know who it is, but whoever is responsible has fallen down. There is so much "we do not know", it will

be impossible for us to celebrate the date in a befitting manner.

Mr. TUDOR: Quite obviously, Mr. Chairman, there can be no quarrel with the first part of this Resolution. All the members of this Committee know that some obligation will have to be met by this island with respect to the contribution it has made in regard to the federal arrangements which are to come. Any of us who have been following the Conference closely would know that we would be called upon from time to time to meet our share of whatever the cost is. It is only with this matter which arises out of Federation Day Celebrations which causes some concern and some bewilderment.

I think the Honourable Premier said that the school children (at any rate, the elementary school children) will be taken into account to a large extent in the celebrations which will be taking place on Thursday. I have heard, at least in my own constituency, that arrangements have been made to summons school children from their homes to the school to which they go on that day and to be treated there. It can scarcely be that such arrangement would be confined to one or two parishes and would not be of general application, so I take it that all the elementary school children are to be brought from their homes, or summoned from their homes to their school to partake of the treat which is proposed to offer them.

According to the latest figures, there are about 25,000 children on the attendance registers in the elementary schools. Of course, probably not more than 22,000 attend school regularly but 25,000 go. Their names are on the books. I am wondering therefore if, as the Government wants to make us believe, it has taken into account the large number of elementary school children who certainly ought to be treated, and if therefore it imagines that the sum of \$9,600 is enough to cover the cost of entertaining possibly 25,000 children; for it is certain Mr. Chairman, that even those children who have not been attending school in the last weeks of the term will, unless they are ill, certainly go out to school on Thursday if they received a summons from their respective Head teachers.

I do not think it is so much lack of foresight as perhaps lack of interest in this matter which has prompted this carelessness and obvious oversight in arranging these things properly. No one of course could have foretold the day when Her Majesty would have assented to the instrument, at least on this side of the Atlantic; but the principle holds good that as long as you knew everyone of these territories was looking forward towards the celebration of this day, it was just a matter of one getting down to business to see that the inhabitants of the colony celebrate the day in a befitting manner and getting together with one another to hammer out plans and schemes so that the manner in which one should celebrate the day would bear some relation to the importance of it.

I do not think truthfully to speak, that anything that was said or done in the other islands had any effect on us and our preparations. To that extent I can agree with the Hon. Premier: but it does appear from the preparations going on in the other Islands that they had this day long in mind although they did not know the date.

3.45 p.m.

There seems to be a thoroughness certainly in Trinidad and Jamaica which is entirely lacking in our approach towards it; and furthermore, Mr. Chairman, when you reflect that this celebration to

lation is 25,000, but the Hon. Premier made the figure greater; he says that there are 43,000 school children. I gather that out of that number the hon. member has got this amount of \$2,150 for this purpose, but it is not sufficient. The hon. member must consider the cost of the distribution of whatever he intends the school children to get, and that would reduce the amount which a child should be given. I should like to ask why has the hon. member not stated the amount to be given to the Parochial Authorities? What I am trying to say is that on many occasions, the hon. member talks about what is to be given to the people, and then when you go to the various parishes and see the distribution, there is confusion from top to bottom and those whose responsibility it is to see that the distribution is made, are met with a lot of abuse, because the people say "The Government gave you so much and so much to give us, and where is it?" You want to spend a little on an occasion such as this; you want to be parsimonious on this occasion, and then when there is another occasion which is not so important, the hon. member tries to spend the Treasury!

4.35 p.m.

The hon. member seems to be thinking too little of this occasion; and I must say that if you are not going to do anything in a proper manner you had better do nothing at all. What is the sense of your allotting only \$75 to St. John? The people are looking for gifts and will be running around looking for those gifts which will not be given them. As a matter of fact, some individuals are going to put this amount in their pockets and celebrate the occasion with it along with their friends. The Hon. Premier should be proud to make an occasion like this an important occasion which not even his greatest opponents should forget. He is talking about giving a big parish like St. John only \$75 to celebrate the occasion. That will only create a lot of confusion.

I do not know what kind of advice and what sort of Committee this Government has to advise them on this matter. They must be a lot of small minded, petty thinking people because the results which come from their counsel show that there is some prejudice or some limitation of thought.

What I would suggest if I were a member of Government is (1) that all church bells must be rung at 12 o'clock (midnight) on Wednesday night to usher in the day. Another thing which I would do is to see to it that every possible old person in a destitute position gets some definite gift from Government—and I do not mean an extra orange or an extra banana—but some tangible gift which that old man or woman on their Almshouse cot could keep under his or her pillow and would be able to say "I have lived to see the day when we have a new system of Government in these parts and we, descendants of former slaves have been able to run the West Indies as we should have been doing long ago." We should give those old people going around on crutches something which they can hold in their hands so that they can say "yes, this is my Government which I have supported for the past ten to fourteen years." It should not be a situation where some will have to be sitting down watching a few enjoying themselves. It is so little an amount which the Government is providing for these celebrations that it is bound to create a certain amount of dissatisfaction. Those people in the Institutions are going to feel that they are as much entitled to what Government is giving as others because it is those people who have contributed to the wealth of the colony.

I feel, Sir, that this sum is not sufficient. Along with the various things which some hon. members have mentioned, I feel that the purchasing of flags for decoration is appropriate. We should have flags representing all the West Indian Colonies. The Hon. Premier said that they were building a platform to put on the Garrison Savannah. I will not be surprised if the cost of building that platform does not take up the whole amount of money voted.

Mr. Chairman, I am not at all satisfied with this provision which Government has made. It is too small an amount and because of that it will not bring about the feeling which an occasion like this deserves.

There is no use my suggesting any change in the arrangements because this Government is one which is not amenable to suggestions, even if they are constructive suggestions and are well meant. What I feel, if it were possible, is that a greater provision should be made so that more people would be prompted to join in the celebrations so to speak, especially, those who cannot provide such entertainment for themselves.

I can see even faults lying in the participation of Local Government bodies in these celebrations. It is true that there was no certainty as to when Her Majesty the Queen would assent to the Enabling Bill to bring about the federal structure; and as such, those who formulated the idea of Federation, if they are as much interested in it as they are pretending to be, should have seen to it that the celebrations which they hoped to keep would be of such that it would definitely cause West Indians to be proud. They would have thought that it might not be necessary to hold celebrations on the exact day that Her Majesty the Queen would be assenting to the Enabling Bill. Why I say that is because there are many occasions when we celebrate certain days not on the particular date when the particular thing actually happened, but on a day afterwards. It is always taken as understood that such-and-such an occasion came about on a particular date, although you might not be celebrating the particular occasion on the exact date. Therefore, there should have been the possibility if you do not have time enough to prepare your celebrations for this particular occasion to hold them some days afterwards. Certainly it does not matter. The idea behind the celebrations would be understood even though they would not fall on the particular day. To do it in this haphazard manner would aggravate the situation, and things would not be done in the manner in which they should be done.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask Government again if they say that the Churchwardens of the various parishes received from the Government a letter in respect of the concise statement which the Premier has stated. I think I have answered it for them. They have not. During the interval, I took occasion to phone Mr. Brandford, who is Churchwarden of Christ Church and who, I know, was making preparations for some celebrations at the Christ Church Almshouse. He told me that he has not received any notification from the Government of a gift for that purpose; therefore I take it that that gift has not been sent; or if it has been sent, it is on its way now. Knowing the urgency of this matter, there is no time for writing letters; there should be telephone messages that should be sent; and I am going to say to the Government that the Hon. Premier should ask one of his Ministers to leave his chair and go to the telephone and direct someone

to go and telephone the Churchwardens of the various parishes and tell them what they can expect.
4.45 p.m.

But I am only making clear the lack of preparation that has so far been made. When you are making gifts of this nature to the various almshouses or to the Parochial authorities for that purpose, I agree with the honourable senior member for St. John it should be on a population basis. If you are going to have fireworks, have a good display or nothing at all, but \$75 to have a firework display and food for the inmates would be inadequate. You should work it on some other basis. Seventy-five dollars would only make a small show because every parish should have a celebration and a similar one: but there should be a minimum. Now to get back to the church services, that is the best form of thanks-giving; it is a very memorable day in the lives of all West Indians. This is an occasion when special stamps are struck. I am not saying it could be done overnight; but I am sure when it comes into being, new stamps, new coins—and when I say coins I mean you should strike a certain number of them—and new medals should be struck. They should have taken this opportunity of letting the people know what Federation should mean to them. So far we have told them very little indeed; no political party has told them anything at all. This should have been the occasion, and it should not be a party matter; no party business should have been brought in. A Committee should have been formed here in Barbados and this is what we have to say. If you had told us two weeks ago you were forming a Committee and had asked me to appoint someone from our party to sit on your Committee, it would be on a broader basis and we would not have been discussing this matter in this light today. I will again reiterate they have fallen down somewhere and I regret it because I do not wish the other West Indians islands to feel that we are not particularly interested in Federation; that is not so. We are going forward and it is not too late to instruct the Churchwardens of each parish what to expect. Ask someone to instruct the Churches to give a memorial service [A VOICE: Memorial?] a Thanksgiving service on that day. Do not catch at a word?

Mr. ALLDER: I am asking the Committee's permission to correct a mistake which I made when making my speech. I was trying to point out the cost at fifteen cents of 43,000 children and I said the amount was \$2,150. Instead, the amount should have been \$6,450,000. I just wanted to correct the amount.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, it matters not what is said by the Government or what anybody is prepared to say or even feel, but \$9,600 divided among the eleven parishes is certainly inadequate for an occasion like this. It is unfortunate because I can appreciate Government would have to rely on the Committee which was selected to handle the planning for this occasion; but the grave and major mistake was the selection of that Committee. Some of them are possibly great men in their respective fields, but there are totally unaware and incapable of feeling the significance of Federation to the West Indian and particularly to the Barbadian—to say nothing of what we owe to our forebears and who saw and felt the need for Federation and the society which we are planning. It is for these reasons that I believe the Government should have exercised more particular care in the selection of a Committee which is expected to plan for this affair. I ask you, Sir, to examine the old hackneyed, worn-out technique in celebration for children in schools today of a "bun and mauby": and I think a simple coin

as referred to by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition or some other coins would have a real bearing to the significance and importance of the day to Barbadians in particular and West Indians as a whole. It is very unfortunate; and what I must say is that Government is always bound to the experts of the various committees on these occasions, and unfortunately the men selected to handle the planning were incapable totally of feeling what Federation would mean, and for that reason the whole idea was thrown out of focus. It is very unfortunate, and I believe the responsible members of Government as time goes on will have reasons to regret what is an unfortunate episode in the history of the island.

Mr. Chairman, I feel it, I believe, as much as any other member of this Chamber, and I feel this is something you owe to the people, this is not a casual change by an improved constitution or what you have from time to time, but a hope and salvation by this Federation of the people of this area which has brought to them the relief they deserve. It is unfortunate, and I say with some measure of feeling and grief that the Committee selected to plan this have the feeling and know the significance of Federation to Barbados particularly.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The hon. member has told us that the Committee was incapable of planning celebration on Federation Day. One hon. member said the members of the Committee were an incompetent lot who could not think of what to do. I am sorry he sat down so soon, but he may have left his extra handkerchief at home. I am really sorry because he could have struck a pathetic note today. I am referring to the senior partner of Miller Bros. and his fantastic tales in considering a quarter million people; and according to the hon. senior member for St. John who said that the people should have something more tangible than an orange to put under their pillow.

Mr. ALLDER: On a point of order. When I referred to putting an orange under the pillow, I meant they should have been given an opportunity of putting something more tangible. They should be given something by Government for them to keep as a token of an important epoch in the history of their race.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: If the hon. member is referring to something more tangible than an orange he means something to put under their bed. I have often thought of the hon. junior member for Christ Church as being what you might call, above the political gutter. Once or twice he has shown he is not, and this afternoon is an occasion. Whenever I say anything about fireworks, and \$75 is too little! He must look rather to his immediate right or perhaps I should say to his immediate right but one, rather than to the hon. senior member for St. John if he wants to follow anybody in Opposition tactics. The whole idea through the colonies is that people should have a chance through a Bank Holiday of enjoying themselves, taking care that they celebrate the coming, and it is only the beginning of the coming, because the constitution is still to be drafted but this is only making it impossible for anybody to back out; that is all the Bill means.

5.55 p.m.

It is true that we have agreed generally to what the Constitution is to be, but some of the Constitution has to be amended if we are selecting the Federal Site. Of the hon. junior member for Christ Church, it used to be thought that he had brought back into the House something of the ig-

nity of criticism without abuse, and when every Barbadian is fighting as hard as he can to get the Federal Capital here, how could any human being in the West Indies assume that we are not interested in Federation? [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: It is the people outside]. Some of the people outside are as clever as Barbadians are, but they are not so foolish. How can the people here be disinterested in Federation when they are telling the world that Barbados is the place for the Federal Capital? So much for that argument.

Everybody is being given a chance by the proclamation of a Bank Holiday to celebrate the Federation, and in a Christian community it is the most natural thing in the world that you should make this day a day of Thanksgiving. You have Governmental appreciation of what the community should do, and having got that, you say to people: "This day is a Bank Holiday; celebrate it, be free from your labours and have a good time." For those people, like the inmates of the Almshouses, who are unable to spend any money in celebrating this day, you naturally give them a treat so that they will remember the occasion, such as Emancipation Day, Coronation Day, Empire Day or whatever you like. We have done that, and we have done what this community or any other community would do on an occasion of this sort.

The Coronation celebrations admit of more pageantry than any other celebrations, and therefore you would not expect that the celebrations of the Federation of the West Indies would be on quite such an elaborate scale [Mr. TUDOR: why not?] Whatever may be one's views of celebrating this occasion or that occasion, I am merely saying that these things happen. You celebrate Waterloo Day just in a mild way; you make the British feel that although we are celebrating, yet the occasion is not as important as the celebrations of the Coronation of a Queen or of a King. Whatever one may say, comparative values remain.

We are saying what is reasonable to be done on an occasion like this. What is happening is that the Queen will be signing the Bill establishing the Federation whereby—I need not call any names—no West Indian Colony can now back down. The Celebration Day is properly the 23rd February next year, but we feel that there should be some sort of celebration this year. As between the date on which the Constitution was enacted or re-enacted in the various Colonies, and the date on which the enabling Bill is assented to, we should choose as being more important, the date on which the enabling Bill receives the assent of Her Majesty the Queen. I repeat that no Colony is going to have anything more spectacular or anything better than in Barbados, or better than what Barbados is doing. It was not unnaturally felt that the religious aspect of this matter should be predominant, and therefore every Colony would have a religious Service of some sort it being left to the separate Colonies to work that out. Although you have a Protestant community in Barbados, a Roman Catholic community in St. Lucia and so on, we did not think it was right that we should attempt to have a sort of uniform method of celebration where the Churches were concerned. I can only give the information which has been given to me as recently as yesterday afternoon. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Given by whom?] The hon. junior member for St. Lucy has a crude, offensive style of pointing at people; he points at you, Mr. Chairman, and therefore he will point at anybody.

Mr. TUDOR: I point so as to distinguish him because he is not distinguished otherwise.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am not making any statements which I want to take back; I am telling the hon. member that if he can produce proof as to what he has said, I will resign my seat in this House of Assembly to-morrow. I am telling the hon. member this now; I took the opportunity of making the position sure by asking the Minister of Religion in here whether he has received any information about this matter. I felt that it would have been the attitude of the Government to confer with the Ministers of the various Churches in connection with conducting Services on this day; I would like to see everybody going to a place of worship on this day to rejoice on this most auspicious occasion. I say that no mention was made of this matter to one Minister of any Church in this Island, and for the Hon. Premier to say that he had been told something as recently as yesterday afternoon, and refuses to say who gave him the information, is not playing the game. Not one soul has been told anything about this matter. I am suggesting that it is not too late to request that these Services be held; the best way of celebrating this occasion, is by conducting religious services, and up to now they have not done anything about it. Let the Hon. Premier ask the members of his own Party in this Chamber whether they have heard anything about this matter; I repeat: I have asked the Minister of Religion in here about the matter, and he has not received any information about it at all. Somebody has let down the Hon. Premier so as to make it appear that, from the way in which he has approached these Federation celebrations, they have not got the interest in Federation which they should have or intended to have. We are not saying so; that is what is said by people outside. From the things which they on that side have done two days before the celebrations, it would appear to people outside that they are not as interested in Federation as they should be.

The persons who do not want to have anything to do with the Churches are the atheists; only such people want to go to the Garrison. That is a fact.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what part of my speech was abusive. I criticise the Government for what I consider to be inadequate measures being taken for the celebration of the Federation. I do not know the occasion on which I have been abusive.

5.05 p.m.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I was really speaking generally. I do not know of one occasion on which the hon. member has abused anybody; I was speaking in general terms and referring to the members of the Opposition substituting abuse for criticism. So far as I know, the hon. member has not abused anybody in the general sense of the word "abuse."

I said that I was glad when he came into this House that the Opposition's approach of opposing the Government was not that of descending to abuse. If I have given the slightest impression of abusing the Hon. Leader of the Opposition by what I have said, I completely withdraw any phrase to that effect. Let me say that if the Government took some statements of the Opposition seriously, members of the Government would get as indignant as members of the Opposition appear to be because we do not think they are indignant on occasions when they flare up.

Do some members of the Opposition think that the Government on occasion of this sort, which is I admit very important, would not think of everything, would not think of making this occasion as public as possible? We went so far as to calculate all the things we could do. We did not know if we could

get fireworks, I am speaking of the \$1,500. If we could get fireworks, it would be more than that. I can only say in repetition my information is that the usual practice which obtains on official occasions of this sort has been followed. We really have not asked the Church of the New Creation of which the hon. junior member for St. Lucy is a distinguished ornament as to whether he is going to hold a Service.

Mr. TUDOR: Why, Mr. Chairman, is the hon. member referring to me? I am no atheist as he is.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: We have asked Christian Churches, not semi-political tabernacles. I am instructed officially that the usual practice of dropping hints that we intend to do so-and-so, provided the money is passed, have been sent out. As to the notification of the churches about this celebration, the heads of these churches have been approached and they have assured the Governor that in addition to the eight o'clock service at the Garrison, they are going to have services in their several churches and chapels. I took pains to correct myself of what I said at first that every Church had promised to do it. I corrected myself by saying that the majority of the churches and chapels had promised to do it. I used that expression.

When the hon. senior member for the City talks of schoolmasters, it is no compliment that some of us have been asked to appear at the Schools in the parish we represent. Of course, schoolmasters are supposed to tell children what Federation means; but I hope schoolmasters everywhere would ask some representative, provided he understands the meaning of Federation, to say something about it (or perhaps if he does not know very much about it he can give a little study to it). I do not know that some members of the Government Party have been asked to speak at schools by some schoolmasters; and I take it that other schoolmasters will in the course of time, if they have not done it already, ask other hon. members to come down on Federation Day and talk to the children. [A VOICE: They should.] The Government should not make it a party issue. What party issue is the hon. member talking about?

The Government went so far as to say that the Other Place should remain sitting so as to pass this Resolution to-day, but anticipating that we would get a lot of froth, we told them to meet to-morrow. All these things have been gone into. There was an absolutely thorough investigation of what we should do and at the same time that we should do it in a constitutional way. The only risk we took before informing this House was in the ordering of flags. We said that if this House did not agree to the payment for the flags members of the Executive Committee will have to pay for them. We said that we were coming down for \$100 for flags and we put through the order for them then so as to get them in time with the full risk that we would have to pay for them if the House did not agree to it, because we knew we could not put through the order until the money was passed by this House. However, we do not think anybody would really object to the money for the flags.

To say that we did not think of this, that and the other is sheer nonsense. The hon. junior member for St. Lucy talks of treating 25,000 school children and only 5,000 will be treated. That is sheer nonsense. We are following the traditional method of giving school children a treat. What is wrong with following the traditional method and not doing less than what we should do?

I hope what I am saying now will not be taken in the wrong light. I would say that on the 23rd February next year—the anniversary of the coming

into being of Federation—there should be a real letting go of yourself, so to speak, more so than the celebration of the day when Her Majesty the Queen assents to the Enabling Bill. The real date that West Indians should celebrate is the day when you got the West Indian leaders to agree, and not a formal routine attachment of Her Majesty's signature to the Enabling Bill.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Premier has really answered the question I asked him but he is really under the misapprehension that I have actually criticised him for not remembering to do something. We are saying that something has gone wrong with the preparations. That is all we have said. The Hon. Premier has got up and said that the procedure which Government has thought of mainly is to celebrate the day with a religious Service and that seems to be the right way. We say: "Yes, we agree." What we said was that you said that all the churches were notified; but although you have said so, I challenge you to say that that has been done. The Hon. Premier said that he has been informed that that has been done. I challenge him and say that this is not a statement of fact: not that he has not been informed but the person who informed him that they have done something, has not spoken the truth.

5.15 p.m.

If he says he has not been informed that could be a statement of fact but if the person informed him they did something that is not a statement of fact because it has not been done. We agree that the best form of recognising this day in Barbados like in the other islands would be to have religious services, and we agree to that; but you should have services not only in the established churches but in all the other churches, because they are churches also. But what I am saying is that not one notice has appeared in the *Advocate* nor has it been advertised over Radiofusion; and no notice has been sent to the Ministers of Religion asking them to celebrate this day in the fashion you are suggesting it should be celebrated. If you can prove to me this information I have given is wrong I will resign. I ask you if you have asked the Chaplain of this House. I am telling the hon. member it should take the first and foremost place in your island. Ask the hon. member for St. James if he has been informed and he will say "no". Go and phone and find out if they have been informed. I have asked you this question and you have hedged all round in a circle and have not answered. We ask you further who comprise the Committee. I agree with the hon. junior member for St. George and I will say this: he has the ability to organise. Fool not yourself that this is not a very important day to the people of this colony: you must therefore rope everybody in. I take it if the member for St. George was on the Committee—it is not a question of spending money, it is a question of organising. That is one point not answered yet, and no attempt has been made to answer it. You say you got the information that these religious denominations were notified. This is the first way of recognising this day, but I repeat I would have been the first to give the necessary assistance to see everybody went to the churches to praise God that we have come such a long way, but the Premier has said that he has been informed that the people were notified. Notified by whom? The House has been informed and the House has been informed that you have been informed and no one Minister can say by whom you have been informed! Since I have been asking, I have heard that Mr. Wiles in charge and that the parish Rectors have

been notified, but I am saying everybody else should be notified. Phone the Minister of the Pilgrim Holiness; that is a big gathering and when Brother Wickham starts in Carrington Village you are bringing in a lot of people. But you are carrying the people to the Garrison who are atheists and people who do not want to go into a church. I am telling you that they are strong atheists who when the Bishop wish them a happy holiday and God's blessing, say I wish the happy holiday but I do not want your wish of God's blessing. That is the sort of thing you have. I challenge you to get up and make me out to be lying. I agree with the hon. junior member for Christ Church. If on Thursday morning you start off getting the fireworks and treating school children, we criticise you by saying: that you got the information on Thursday and on Friday you sent out letters to their school masters, some of whom got them last Friday after the schools closed which is all well and good and we agree with you for doing that): but we criticise you because you knew when you came back that these celebrations would take place; and if you had a forcible strong farseeing Committee you would have better plans. I agree with the hon. member who said the children should be given some sort of emblem which they could keep to show to posterity. After the 1914 War some token for four million returned soldiers was given to show whether you came back—even with one leg. This is a day most important in the lives of West Indians in the last 300 years, and I say if you had people like the hon. junior member for St. George on your Committee, he would have realised this. He can still think sometimes although he would not join the right ranks. An emblem should be kept to show, say, that I was a schoolboy on that day. We criticise you for that, and that is the criticism you must expect from the Opposition. Whenever we see something about which to criticise, it is our duty to do that. Having failed to do that, you should have sent to the various parishes saying that you would give some assistance with treating the old people that they too might appreciate this day. Since I have been talking the hon. junior member for Christ Church has gone and telephoned and not one authority in the parish has been notified. If they have not been notified, and tomorrow is Wednesday, how are they going to get the information? Every human being in this country except those who are atheists associated with Government would feel the appropriate way of celebrating this day would be with religious services whether at Anglican, Roman Catholic or other churches, but the Premier can come in here one day before the celebrations and tell us he has been informed only yesterday evening that these instructions have gone out. I say that if you had notified the Ministers of the various parishes that there would be a service at 11 o'clock on Thursday, I am sure the Ministers would have announced it in Church on Sunday; but the Premier says today that he has information that such requests have been sent out! I am telling him no information has gone out, and I challenge him to deny it. You are not late; there is still time and I appeal to you to put a stop press in the *Advocate*, ask them to do it and appeal to them through Rediffusion, and I am sure the Ministers of Religion would not feel disappointed if you sent to them now. You can also get it over Rediffusion and I urge you to send to the Rectors and Superintendents in charge of the other branches.

5.25 p.m.

I say this: if you fail to have this occasion observed in all the Churches Chapels and Meeting Rooms of this Island, you are failing to see that the occasion is observed, and you are not doing your duty to posterity, to this community or to yourself. Tell us now who gave you that information; you may laugh or sneer or do what you like, but the statement which you made in here is untrue and unfounded, unless you can say whence you got that information. Get up and say that the person in charge of the Roman Catholic Church or the person in charge of the Methodist Church has given you that information. I am at one with you that the Federation should be celebrated in this way.

As to the method of treating the school children, I do not believe that you can spend a tremendous lot of money. It would mean much to the men and women of tomorrow for them to be able to say at what age they were when there was the assent of Her Majesty the Queen to the Bill establishing the Federation. They on that side would be able to say: "When the Hon. Premier was running the Country, we were able to do this," but they did not think of that. I say now: let them get on to Mr. Wiles or whoever is responsible in the matter, and let it be said that it is the wish of the Government that the Ministers of the various denominations in this island bring their flock together and celebrate this occasion with thanksgiving.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, if I live to be as old as Methuselah, I will not be bullied into coming in here and saying that Mr. So-and-So gave me information. The appropriate Government Official gave me some information as to the position and to what I could say in the House tomorrow. [A MEMBER: Write that down]. And the honourable member can also check up with the Reporter when he is finished. I am not saying that Mr. So and So told me so and so. The appropriate Government Official has given me the information that in addition to the Service which is to take place at the Garrison Savannah arrangements are being made for Churches and Chapels to have services at 11 o'clock. The Government cannot force the Churches to do anything; you can only ask them to do such and such a thing.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: It is not fair to say that the Government cannot force the Church to do anything; you can ask them to co-operate. All we are saying is that Authority has misled the Hon. Premier. If that Authority has told you so—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is making a speech.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: What I am entitled to make?

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I have not yet finished speaking.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I thought the hon. member had sat down, but do not let the Chairman tell me that I am making a speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: If a Government Official makes a statement to me as to what is to be said in here, I am not questioning his veracity. Nobody can bully the Church any more than the Government can bully anybody who is the Chairman of a Hurricane Committee when a hurricane comes. On an occasion of this sort, you can ask people to have religious services and there are some organisations or organised Churches as distinct from the corner Tabernacles. [Mr. TUDOR: That worries you.] It worries me to think that a lot of hypocrisy can be prac-

ticed in these religious organisations, just as there are people who like to stir up strife, including strife at Glendairy Prison. The Government is not asleep, and if anything worries me, I will say that it worries me. It worries anybody who cares for law and order to see that you have the beginning of the Jagan methods or movement encroaching into law and order; and religion is a good cloak for such a thing.

I have got these facts; I, personally, have not been asked to go to the schools, but must hon. members say that it is not true if I get up here and said that Schoolmasters are being asked to see about these things? Similarly, if I am told that the Churches are having services at 11 o'clock, the fact that somebody has not heard about it does not prove that the statement given to me is not true. It may be that some Ministers of religion have not got their invitation yet; but why should the hon. member make all this hullabaloo because some Clergymen may not have been told by the Heads of the religious community that they are expected to have services at 11 o'clock? When the hon. member uses that as an argument for saying that I have been told something untrue, I do not accept that. It may be well that some clergymen have not been told about the matter, but others have been told about it.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: The Hon. Premier has a nice way of twisting things. We are agreed on every point except the religious way of celebrating the Federation on Thursday. I am granting him this, that the Government of this Country has actually written letters to Schoolmasters asking them to do certain things, but what I am still saying is true, and let the hon. member deny it; the appropriate Government Authority has been misleading the hon. member. If the Hon. Premier is saying that some particular Ministers have been informed—well, I am making a broad statement; I will say that it is not only Ministers of the Anglican persuasion, but Ministers of other religious persuasions have not been told one word.

5.35 p.m.

The Hon. Premier took refuge by saying that they have not yet been told. If they have not yet been told, how are they going to tell their congregation? The Hon. Premier said that Government got the information on Thursday last. Let me repeat that I have never seen the name of one member of the Committee mentioned except the name of Mr. Wiles whom the *Advocate* newspaper stated would be responsible for the preparation of the celebrations. If nothing has been said to the religious community, when and how do you expect them to celebrate? As far as honourable members on this side are concerned, we are saying that it is a misleading statement to him when he was told that those people have been notified. We are not saying that what he says is misleading; that would be incorrect. What we did tell the Hon. Premier is this, and we are bearing it out with facts.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: If the honourable member will give way, I would like to say that I will not only enquire into the matter but I will report this particular Officer has told you that all arrangements Governor if he has misled us. I do not think that will arise but I give that definite assurance to the honourable member. I am referring to the particular officer saying something is a fact and which was not a fact.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I do not want you to do that at all. Do this. Find out if what I am saying is correct. You are not questioning his veracity. The particular Officer has told you that all arrangements are made with all the various heads of the religious denominations. [Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Not all.] Which then? The Anglican or the Moravian? I am

telling you that not only some of the Anglicans but the Moravians and some of the Methodist have not been notified. We are not dealing with those Ministers who are taking part in the service at the Garrison Savannah. Those Ministers have been asked. We are dealing with those who should be asked to hold Thanksgiving Services at 11 o'clock in their churches. We are not dealing with those in St. Michael; we are dealing with those in, say, St. Joseph, St. Andrew and St. Peter. We are saying that none of those people have been asked. He is saying that the officer in charge said that they have been told. Will you find out? In fairness, what you should do is to ask His Lordship the Bishop to notify all the Rectors. I am going to say again that no such step was taken.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I shall like permission to endeavour to direct the intention of the Committee to the issue before us in a more comprehensive manner. I agree most wholeheartedly that it is important that the Churches should be asked to participate in the celebrations and invoke the blessing of God Almighty on the inauguration of Federation on Thursday; but apparently, in the minds of honourable members, that is the beginning and the end in their opinion of the form this celebration should take.

Last Tuesday, the 24th July, this Resolution was given notice of in the Assembly by the honourable senior member for St. Joseph, and it asked for the sum of \$1,500 for the celebrations to take place on Federation Day. The four Ministers of the Government and the Hon. Premier sat on the Executive Committee and similarly decided that to celebrate the inauguration of Federation in the West Indies the sum of \$1,500 was sufficient to be expended in Barbados and they proposed to expend it in Barbados by treating inmates of the Alms houses. Have you heard anything more ludicrous in all your lives? The Resolution when brought to the House only asked for \$1,500. That is all. Those intelligent Ministers on that side of the Table representing Barbadian public opinion, representing a nation on the verge of self-government, think that to celebrate the day rightly is to spend \$1,500 in treating people in the Alms houses who are dying or who will soon be dead and to whom Federation has no significance at all.

Now, I say, Mr. Chairman, we should hang our heads in shame at the state of affairs in Barbados. We should be ashamed to think that we have people of such mentality at the head of affairs. I suppose that they read in the newspapers, like everybody else, what Jamaica and the other islands are doing; and the idea that something should be done about the school children then crept into their minds. After all, the school children are the coming generation. It is to them that federation should make an appeal. It is they who have to work it. Federation would be a far more interesting factor in their generation than in ours. After hearing and reading what those islands are doing, our Ministers suddenly decided to increase the vote to \$9,000 odd. They say that \$6,000 would be spent in giving a sweet drink and a bun to the school children. That is the extent of their imagination and it represents what federation means to them. To get a sweet drink factory in which the Government must have had shares (because every now and then it spends thousands of dollars buying Spur Cola or a Canada Dry drink to give school children) is the extent of their imagination of what federation means to them.

5.45 p.m.

As a matter of fact, every time there is a celebration like this, all the Government can do is to give Coca-Cola money; even for this, only Coca-Colas have been ordered; so I have come to the con-

clusion that the Coca-Cola Factory has been nationalised and the Government has snares in it. That is the extent of their imagination, a bun and a Coca-Cola for school children. We have been living in the West Indies for years and have seen Empire Day celebrated on a most lavish scale. For years the Imperial Government saw fit to impress upon the minds of the youths of the British Caribbean the importance of Empire Day with extravagant spending in the British Caribbean and the British Empire: now, the leaders of the West Indies who are on the verge of governing themselves, with their petty minds can only give the inmates of the almshouses a small treat. It is not surprising, Mr. Chairman, that, as I am told, the Premier said in his speech that Coronation Day is of greater importance or calls for a greater celebration than Emancipation Day or Federation Day. I am not surprised because he has not emancipated. He still has the slavish mentality of the old Colonial who believes that Great Britain is the beginning and end of his existence, and cannot begin to appreciate what it means to have a chance of governing yourself. Can you imagine any African Leader like Nkrumah or Asa-kinì getting up in an African Legislature and telling other colonials like themselves that Coronation Day is of more significance or is deserving of more extravagance in celebrating than Federation Day? That is one of the reasons why the British Government asked him to go to the United Nations and try to paint a picture of the Colonial Empire entirely different from what it was, because he is the only colonial who would do it; and we ought to be ashamed in Barbados in 1956 under his leadership (happily growing to a close), to find ourselves thinking in terms of celebrating Federation Day in this manner. As far as I am concerned, I think it is an absolute waste of money to give these children a bun and Coca-Cola. It means nothing at all to them; they go in the broiling hot sun at the utmost inconvenience for this stupidity of sharing out and then going back home. I would prefer to see the money spent in a more tangible manner. You cannot imagine this is the same Government that picked up \$75,000 and spent it on the Coronation not so long ago. Last year when a relative of the Queen came here, we spent \$30,000 on her; and \$1,500 is sufficient in their minds to be spent on Federation Day! Have you ever seen, Mr. Chairman, such slavish subservience such as this exhibited by a people approaching nationhood as demonstrated by what is proposed to be done here today and what was done in the past to which I have made reference? Can you conceive of it being possible, Mr. Chairman? At the time of the Coronation and at the time of the visit of Princess Margaret, the sums of money spent then amounting to over \$100,000 would have been better spent in some monument to commemorate that would have been of lasting utility to the people of Barbados; and I am absolutely opposed to throwing away \$7,000 today in this fashion and in this manner. I would not object to \$70,000 for Federation if spent in some practical and advantageous manner. Are the children of this country not worth more than buns and Coca-Cola? They want more educational facilities. The \$7,000 they are going to spend on this, if voted every year over a number of years, would give us our T.B. Sanitorium. We are no longer celebrating Empire Day, and if we are it should stop. Empire Day should mean nothing at all to us approaching self-government: and any expenditure occurring in the past under Empire Day Celebrations should more properly now be added to

what we would spend to celebrate Federation Day, and these two amounts should be spent in a manner of some lasting benefit to the community. I am amazed that hon. members should spend the whole afternoon debating whether churches have been asked to join in celebrating the day. I am not for a moment underestimating or decrying the idea, Mr. Chairman, of having some form of religious worship on the day in question, but, after all, church services is not the beginning and end of everything: and hon. members should not by their vote go on to condone this extravagant waste of public funds in this manner whenever there is a occasion of this sort or some other occasion. I am not voting for the \$6,000 for Coca-Colas and buns for school children, because it means nothing at all to them and is a sheer waste of public funds, and a matter for the puny minds of the members on the Other Side of the Table who cannot rise above this sugar-and-water business whenever we have to celebrate an occasion. [A VOICE: What else would you give them?] If the Minister of Social Services was minding his business there would not have been the riot at Glendairy. There has been none before, but he is more interested in "Dodds" and "Dodds boys." The members of this Committee, Sir, should express their down right opposition to the manner in which we are going to officially celebrate Federation Day. I should like to see this country voting a proper sum of money for something worthwhile — something that will be of significance to the present generation and to — future generations—something that could be seen by generations to come as having been put there by the Government in power in the inauguration of West Indian Federation and to which we could point with eyes with pride with the Federal Government in the days to come adding more importance and political significance to the people of the British West Indies.

6.55 p.m.

This effort is entirely unworthy of people who are approaching self-government; if this is all they can have, then this colony is neither fit nor ripe for self-government. We should be the darkest and most backward colonials in history. To begin with, if we cannot appreciate the difference between the importance of Federation and the relative unimportance of occasions like the Coronation and the visit of Royalty, then I say we deserve to have the most reactionary form of Crown Colony Government; we have no right asking for or expecting to be given, a greater say in the direction of our own affairs.

The Hon. Premier has his mind's eye on the Federal Parliament, but for what reason? To make the Federation and the West Indian nation the laughing-stock of the world? Do you think that in Nigeria or the Gold Coast where self-government has just been given, they would celebrate the occasion in the manner in which we are going to celebrate this occasion in Barbados? Do you think that anybody else is so dead or so oblivious of what it means, as to think in terms of celebrating the inauguration of political autonomy in the manner in which it is suggested by this Government, and in which we are being asked to celebrate it today? Certainly, the people outside must, and will marvel at our aspirations to self-government and what not, when our approach to it is in this unenlightened and reactionary manner. It is a matter of the utmost regret that the Government of Barbados which feels that it may on one day give the lead to the rest of the West Indies, should fail so lamentably on this occasion.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative.

A division was taken as follows:

Ayes: Hon. G. H. ADAMS, Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. M. E. COX, Mrs. BOURNE, Messrs. HOLDER, VAUGHAN, MILLER, BRANCKER, ALLDER, HAYNES; E. K. WALCOTT and GODDARD.—13.

Noes: Messrs. TUDOR and CRAWFORD—2.

The Resolution was then passed.

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

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

The motion was put and agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The question that this House do now adjourn for half an hour was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

6.05 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

On re-assembling;

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

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

Loan to Elementary Teachers Association

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I propose to deal with the second of the Resolutions of which notice was given today and of which we have asked leave to proceed.

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution for the sum of \$5,760 is for the purpose of making loans to six delegates and eighteen observers of the Barbados Elementary Teachers' Association to assist them to meet expenses of attending the Conference of the Caribbean Union of Teachers which will be held in a short time—I believe next week.

The teachers of the Caribbean area have got together to a great extent within recent years in the holding of these conferences and I have no doubt that it does a great deal of good, even to the Barbados school-teachers. Apart from what is said in the Press and even on the floor of this House, I have never met a teacher outside of Barbados who did not pay great tribute to the system of education in Barbados. Of course, although our school teachers and our educational system are held up as a pattern to others, our teachers, too, can learn a lot by going to these conferences.

This Committee will remember that teachers approached us on the occasion of the last conference.

The Legislature then voted only \$150 to lend them of the \$240 they were requesting; the Legislature voted as well for only five out of the six teachers that were going. On this occasion, the Department of Education feels that those who are going as observers also ought to be helped and Government has decided to grant their request.

The usual agreement which public officers sign is to have the loan deducted in monthly instalments from their salary and it is proposed to follow that principle on this occasion. I beg to move that this

Resolution for the sum of \$5,760 be advanced from the Public Treasury for the purpose mentioned.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is—

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$5,760. Alright, Sir, I will withhold my comment on it until another time.

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

Supplementary Estimates, 1956—57, No. 12 Lecture Room Equipment Mental Hospital

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The next Resolution, Sir, is for the sum of \$16,166—a supplementary Resolution covering expenditure dealing with the Mental Hospital, Subsidies and Grants, and Miscellaneous Services. The notes to the items are fully explanatory. If there is anything extra that hon. members need to know, the Hon. Minister of Social Services will give the necessary information. I beg to move that the resolution do now pass.

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: In seconding that, I would say offhand that in connection with the Mental Hospital, recently we have got down a Sister Tutor to teach the staff mental nursing, and a lecture room has been built for this purpose. As you see in the note to the item, the equipment is to furnish the lecture room so that the Sister Tutor can go ahead and teach the staff mental nursing. This expenditure comes under Head XXIII—Medical (3) Mental Hospital.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXIII—Medical (3) Mental Hospital, stand part.

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

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

Head XXVIII—Subsidies and Grants

Head XXVIII — Subsidies and Grants, was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move that Head XXVIII do now pass.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: In seconding that, Mr. Chairman, I wish to say that it is known that we send two sanitary inspectors and two Health Nurses to Jamaica to be trained in public health. We have been doing that for a good many years. It is a very good course and very intensive from which those people profit much. The cost has gone up in Jamaica, consequently our contribution must increase.

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

Miscellaneous Services

Head XXIX — Miscellaneous Services was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: In regard to Head XXIX perhaps an explanation will be necessary. The amount of money spent on Leave Passages fluctuate considerably. In 1952 to 1953 we voted \$80,000 but we spent only \$19,000. In 1953-54, we voted \$50,000 and we spent \$34,463. In 1954-55 we voted \$40,000 and we spent \$24,390. Last year we made provision for \$40,000 and spent \$30,664. This year of our provision of \$40,000 to meet this expenditure our already known commitments exceed that of \$40,000 by roughly \$6,000 and it is thought that another \$9,000 may have to be spent in the present

financial year. We therefore are asking for \$15,000 to supplement the \$40,000 in the Estimates. I beg to move that Head XXIX stand part.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, before you put the principle of Leave Passages and I moreover cannot accept with equanimity the prospect of spending \$55,000 in a single financial year in this direction. While it may be true to say that the annual expenditure fluctuates, yet still the figures for the last three years reveal that there is a steady increase in the amount being spent. In the first year, only the amount of \$19,000 was spent and one can well understand for various reasons why only that amount was spent but as the idea of the availability leave passages began to seep into the minds of Civil Servants and they began to utilise the opportunity offered, the expenditure began to show a proportionate increase. Three years ago, it was \$24,000. Last year it increased to \$39,000. That is \$15,000 more. Now this year the estimated expenditure is \$55,000, an increase by \$15,000. It may well be that by the next financial year you will be spending between \$65,000 and \$70,000 alone on Leave Passages.

Now, it is a very small fraction of the Public Service to which this principle applies. These people, by and large, are already in receipt of reasonably good salaries and they also expect an increase in remuneration in the near future. Mr. Chairman, I think a different House will have as a result to address itself to the question whether or not we can carry on this expenditure.

6.45 p.m.

Whether it is a Government concern or not, it is a matter to which succeeding Governments will have to pay attention to. None of us would agree with the manner in which the Government was endeavouring a few months ago to curtail this expenditure, because it was an attempt to deny deserving people leave passages who were entitled to it just as much as those to whom Government wanted to give it. I believe that the warnings given Government about the amount which this thing would entail are now being realised. We told them when it was introduced that the amount they were estimating for then would in a few years fall far short of the amount which would be needed. It must be a matter of concern to thinking people whether or not we can spend \$40,000 every year on a handful of Government servants and their wives. The money should be spent to a far better advantage to the community generally and those of us who were never in favour of this imposition cannot but seriously consider the way we are heading in this matter. Why should we for the last five years find ourselves compelled by law to undertake an expenditure which other preceding Barbados Governments have resisted? I am of the opinion, Sir, that the Committee should express its protest to the increasing expenditure under this Head by a token reduction in the amount asked for, and therefore I am going to move that the amount be reduced by \$2.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is completely mistaken. I shuddered when this came up to me. I agree and I mean every word I said when it came up a few days ago. I agree it is almost fantastic if we are going to spend all this money, but the Act is there and therefore it provides for it; and as long as it provides for it, and an officer has spent three and a half years and is tired

and asks for leave, I do not see that you can tell him "no." That is what is happening: and recently we transferred officers like Dr. Lloyd-Still and Miss Smith the radiologist from contract to the Permanent Establishment and that would help to increase the commitments for leave passages. I really shuddered when I saw this and wondered whither are we going. But it is an Act which is on the Statute Book and we cannot get away from it. I am glad to hear that expression of opinion from members of the Opposition. I do not want when we come down with drastic changes to be criticised for giving people in the past and not to others. I entirely agree they may be able to link up the salaries in the Civil Service of those who are at present getting reasonably good salaries

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of correction, I said, that people to whom leave passages were given were those in the higher brackets but I did not mean the whole Civil Service is getting good salaries.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Anybody getting \$2,280 a year is entitled to leave passage. If the hon. member said that, then Mr. Godsall can go back home. It may be with the reasonable increase on the advice of Mr. Godsall you can cut down on leave passages for Civil Servants; and I must repeat while we do feel it is reasonable to give Civil Servants these increases, it was not done as a result of any great rise in the cost of living but with the object of trying to keep the flow out of Barbados at a very low ebb rather than have what is happening at present. I was astonished when the Police Magistrate told me he has to enter up the Order Book himself because the people in his office who should do it are greenhorns, his staff having left to join the Bahamas Police Force although they were clerks in his office. That sort of thing means that a Civil Servant (who is on the first rung of the ladder by being a Magistrate's clerk) who would leave to join the Bahamas Police Force would feel he has more prospects there; and it is for reasons like that that you had to have the Salaries' Commissioner and have a revision. But you cannot talk about a new Hospital or salaries' revision for which there is no provision in the amount of money voted under the Five Year Plan. We cannot go on spending money without realising that there is a limit to the Public Treasury of Barbados, and I am glad to think the Opposition is not just saying something that annoys Government, but is seeing the danger which will arise unless you keep a very careful eye on expenditure here in Barbados. I mentioned the Hospital and salaries revision but I have not even mentioned Federation. That is extra money which we have not budgeted for, and I am sure if I suggest to the hon. junior member for St. Andrew that the way to get money is to increase income tax in the higher brackets he would shudder. I do hope other members of the Opposition will see with the Government when they come down with any scheme for reducing leave passages and not accuse us of letting our friends in the past get leave passages but stopping others in the future. You will realise we cannot go on adding to the expenditure of the Island when we are dependent mainly on sugar to give us our revenue.

6.55 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, it is difficult to understand the argument of the last speaker. He is talking as if leave passages were imposed by some supernatural authority over the Government. It was no supernatural authority which imposed leave passages on us; he imposed them. His Government brought

down legislation to this Chamber imposing upon the State, the responsibility for spending this money in this manner. We opposed it strongly and bitterly because we did not have to be wise after the event to realise that the Country could not afford the payment of leave passages. We told them in 1952, that we could not afford to do that; therefore, I do not understand what the Hon. Premier means when he says that he welcomes the statement from this side of the Chamber that we are alarmed over the expenditure. We did not want it at all. If it were left to us, not one single cent would have been spent from the Treasury on leave passages. That is the naked truth; therefore the Government, when it imposed leave passages, knew what it knows now, that any attempt to stop expenditure in this direction must receive the support of this side of the Chamber.

The Government allowed Mr. Turner, the Chief Secretary, to bamboozle it in to paying leave passages to these Civil Servants, and as a Salaries Commissioner, he had a free hand to do as he liked with the Treasury. When Sir Errol Dos Santos came here to investigate the salaries of the lesser brackets, the report was made that the Government said: "We can only spend so much money." Sir Errol was given a ceiling; his terms of reference were to revise the salaries and conditions of work in the lower brackets and they would spend so much money on that. Sir Errol had to award the increases according to the amount of ceiling he was given, but Mr. Turner had a free hand to do as he liked. He increased the salaries in the higher brackets as high as he liked and then he imposed leave passages without any consideration for the taxpayers of this colony. It is an open secret that we never agreed with leave passages.

It therefore sounds like child's play for the Government to say that they have to pay leave passages because the Act is there. We know that the Act is there; they put it there, and therefore they can repeal the Act. We are not a Crown Colony; in the days when the Colonial Office had a more direct say in the running of the Government of Barbados, even in those days, the Government refused to put leave passages on the Statute Book. On every occasion that the Secretary of State for the Colonies suggested to Barbados that we should fall in line with some African Colony and pay leave passages, the Government of this Colony refused to do so on the ground that Uganda, British Honduras or British Guiana, being comparatively unhealthy countries, should be made to pay leave passages, so as to enable Civil Servants to leave these unhealthy climates and go elsewhere after a four-year term of duty; but we, with our healthy climate, did not have to do that. It is not once or twice that the Colonial Office wanted us to pay leave passage, but this Government did what in the last 100 years, every Colony refused to do; and now we are asked: "What can we do when the law is there?" The payment of leave passages was, not anything which was ordered by Divine Authority or by the Medes and Persians; and therefore the onus falls on the Government; if it has realised the error of its ways at long last and its unwisdom in imposing this expenditure on the Country, to undo its sin of the past by repealing the law and relieving the State of this unnecessary and increasingly extravagant burden.

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

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that a Resolution for the sum of \$16,166 do now pass.

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

The motion was put and agreed to.

Hurricane Rehabilitation Sanitary Conveniences

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is for the sum of \$11,898. As Hon. members are aware, this is just a re-vote to meet the cost of restoring latrines in St. Michael which were destroyed by the hurricane. As Hon. members will remember, after the hurricane last year, the Government sent down a Resolution for the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of building latrines for the parish of St. Michael for those destitute people who could not provide latrines for themselves. By the end of March, the whole amount was not spent; there was a balance of \$11,898, and in order to continue the construction of these latrines, a re-vote of this amount is being asked for. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, when I received this Resolution, I was very surprised to see that the only place that needed sanitation or sanitary conveniences was the parish of St. Michael. I am wondering what has happened to the other parishes; I vividly remember when this vote was passed, that the Hon. Minister of Social Services told the Committee, particularly the hon. junior member for Christ Church, that if the other parishes had asked for aid in replacing their latrines which were damaged by "Janet", they too would get assistance. However, they did not do that; only the parish of St. Michael did it; and therefore nothing was done in respect of the other parishes.

As far as I am told, the parish of Christ Church wrote to the Government about the matter and the parish of St. Andrew did the same thing; but to our amazement, we in St. Andrew have not even received any answer to the letter which we wrote. It is a long time since the letter was written and not a single word in reply has been received; not even the usual card was received acknowledging receipt of the letter. You would have at least expected to receive that card, but we have not received it. One wonders how these things are being done; if St. Michael is the only favoured parish in the whole of this Island, the people are lucky; but the Hon. Minister of Social Services with his knowledge, will know that if an epidemic breaks out in one of these other parishes, it will cost the parishes just as much money as they could want to spend. It is of no use relieving one parish and not the others; any of the other ten parishes would be a similar breeding ground for fly-borne diseases as the parish of St. Michael.

7.05 p.m.
These diseases will fly in St. Michael from the rural parishes; similarly they will fly out of St. Michael into the rural parishes. I feel that this matter has been very badly handled, and I am hoping that the Hon. Minister of Social Services will give an answer as to the reason why after giving his promise on the floor of the House to help the outer parishes, he has not kept his request.

Another matter which I would like to draw to your attention is one on which I have already spoken in this House and it is with regard to some wooden latrines which were built by the Board of Health and loaned to people in the various parishes. I know

that the parties concerned had to sign a letter to the effect that the latrine loaned them was Government property. They could not move it from the spot and it was taken for granted that that would not happen. Those latrines are not many. They are probably 15, 20 or so in the parish of St. Andrew but they are dropping to pieces to-day because there is nothing in that Clause to say who should repair them.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: If the hon. member would not mind, will he speak a little louder? I cannot hear him from over here.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I was saying that there were some wooden latrines which were built by the Board of Health and loaned to people in the various parishes—they were not given to them. I happen to know that on one occasion one person to whom one was loaned moved to St. Michael and moved the latrine along with his house; he was asked to move the Government's latrine back to St. Andrew. He had to sign a letter before he got it, that it was the property of the Government of Barbados. Now a peculiar position has arisen as a result of the loaning of those latrines, so to speak, because they are allowed to drop to pieces.

As I have said, on the first occasion when we were dealing with a Resolution for federation, the general community of Barbados is going to suffer for all the comforts they should get as a result of federation. I would say it now, and all the time that unless some economy is practised in other directions it will never advance in the right direction.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister of Social Services sometime in February of this year came down with a Resolution for the sum of \$50,000 to construct sanitary conveniences for people in the parish of St. Michael as a result of damage in the Island. We on this side of the Table wondered why St. Michael was singled out for assistance in this respect and Christ Church and St. Philip had been left out. The Hon. Minister informed the Committee then that St. Michael had made requests and not the other parishes.

I remember asking the question that surely if St. Michael had made that request, was it at all necessary that the other parishes should make a similar request? I said so because the Hon. Minister of Social Services, as Minister of Health was Minister of Health for Barbados and not St. Michael alone. Well, the following week I took the matter up at a meeting of the Sanitary Commissioners for Christ Church and I was assured by them that a letter had been written to the Minister of Social Services concerning the same matter a week before the Resolution came down. That letter was written on the 30th January, 1956. The Commissioners of Health for Christ Church pointed out to him the conditions that were existing in that parish as a result of the hurricane, and that persons so affected were unable for financial reasons to replace their latrines. However, after he told me that he did not receive the letter, the Commissioners of Health for Christ Church sent a second letter on the 13th February: a week after he told us that similar treatment would be made to other parishes and to-day I have enquired about the matter and I can tell you that we have not even got a reply to any one of those letters.

Now, it is always common courtesy, if the Hon. Minister of Social Services is busy, for his Permanent Secretary or one of his Assistant Secretaries to answer formally a letter coming to his office. I would like to know (and will ask him to make a note of it) what has become of those letters, whether they have been

answered and what is the result. I would like him to get up as soon as I sit down and tell us what is the decision reached in respect of those letters with regard to the latrines that were destroyed in the other parishes. Disease is no respecter of persons.

I will state now that the number of latrines which were destroyed by "Janet" in Christ Church is 1,198. We also told the Hon. Minister of Social Services that there were 1,488 people who had no latrines even before "Janet" stepped in; they had to resort to other means. We also drew to his attention the sanitary conditions existing at that date. I would ask the Hon. Minister of Social Services to make note of that again and pay attention to it. However, I must ask him again: why come down for this small sum just to build a few more latrines for the parish of St. Michael?

7.15 p.m.

When I say that Christ Church has got none, I will qualify it with this. These pre-fab houses that were given to Christ Church were also given latrines; all have not got yet, but naturally the persons who were given pre-fab houses and moved into them were given latrines. I am asking for a Resolution to come down for those persons whose toilets were destroyed and those who have not had, who were unable to provide theirs in the past, to build and establish on these sites the 2,000 and odd toilets required. It is more important than many of the other things done to-day and I would like to know your reason for only assisting St. Michael and entirely leaving out the other parishes.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, —

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I will answer your question the same time; I know what you want to say. Well, Sir, the position is this. I do not know anything about the first letter which the hon. member referred to as having been sent to the Ministry. I did not see that, but I did see the second letter which was rather vague. You will notice that in St. Michael mainly old age pensioners and parochial pensioners who were unable to provide one for themselves were helped. The Christ Church application gave no figures and I referred it back asking them to send me particulars about these toilets but I have not heard of it since. [A VOICE: The information was sent.] Well I am very sorry, but I am sure I never got the information from Christ Church. I am sure the hon. member does not expect me as soon as Christ Church says that 2,000 toilets were destroyed, to say, "Here is the money." I must be satisfied that there are people unable to provide one for themselves. I sent an answer to that effect and I told you I have not heard anything more about it. To answer the hon. junior member for St. Andrew who is not in his seat will also answer the hon. senior member for St. John. I have not seen any letter from St. Andrew up to now. I made a note of them here and will enquire, but he referred to some latrines that were loaned to the parochial authorities at St. Andrew by the Government, and these were loaned to the parochial authorities with the understanding that they would keep them in repair. That is one of the conditions on which they were loaned to the authorities; that answers the question in St. Andrew. St. John's position is a similar one. They wrote telling me that these toilets were not destroyed but damaged by the hurricane. That was the position in St. John and the same answer to the effect that the latrines were loaned to the parochial authorities with the understanding that they would be kept in a condition of repair, applies in that case: so, Sir,

that answers the enquiries asked by members on the Other Side.

Mr. ALLDER: The Minister of Social Services certainly cannot read my mind. However, what I wanted to know is if these latrines were such a necessity, why have so many been allowed to remain at the Pine for so many weeks, apparently finished, without being delivered? Certainly if they are for the purpose of accommodating these people who had lost theirs since last year, then the delivery would have been done more expeditiously. What has happened is, for weeks—and many weeks too—when one passes that way, you could see and can still see several of these latrines up there being weather beaten; and if the necessity was as great as we were caused to feel, I am sure that before one was completed, arrangements would have been made for its delivery. There must be some short-sightedness on the part of those whose business it was to make and to deliver them. This is true not only in the case of these latrines, Sir, but even with the prefab-houses which were to be delivered to those who have been promised them. The people are still waiting for some months since last year, and many of them have already started to pay the Department allotments for them and yet cannot get delivery. The whole thing, Mr. Chairman, is being bungled. It is not only to do good but to do it quickly, and I am sure that when these latrines are removed from the spot on which they are, they may not be in a sufficiently good order to make the people feel that they are good enough for their service, because as far as I can see, some of the people would privately construct a better type of latrine than what I see up there. I do not know what the cost of the latrines are but they certainly do look like a shabby job.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I still do not understand the Minister of Social Services. I would like to know what information he wants from Christ Church that he apparently got from St. Michael. We have stated the number of latrines that were destroyed. Did he have some other information from St. Michael which prompted him to take the action which he did? There is only one thing which they did not do that St. Michael did, and that was the report in the Daily Advocate in big headlines that they were so many latrines destroyed and that they were also great chances of an epidemic of Typhoid breaking out, and that brought the Minister of Social Services and his staff into action. That is what caused him to come down with a Resolution for \$50,000 to build those latrines. If that is not so, would you tell me what information the Sanitary Commissioners of St. Michael gave you which we have not given? That is what I want to know because I want to give it to you. If there is any other information you want, do let me know. I am telling you now, as I told you by letter on the 13th February, that 1,198 latrines were destroyed by hurricane "Janet" on the 22nd September. Do you wish to know how badly destroyed they were or damaged, because I said destroyed. There is no wood left to put them back at all. Investigation has taken place by the Sanitary Authorities of Christ Church and this is the number reported. Every house is recorded, as they have had to bring in books to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and he can give you name for name; but you certainly do not want that. There are 1,198 latrines destroyed and 1,488 homes that never had at all. That is the information in our books and we would be grateful for any assistance

you can render, but if I do not understand what information you want, please get up and tell me.

7.25 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, listening to these speeches I am reminded of a remark by Sir Edward Stubbs at the time the Royal Commission came here in 1938—39 that Barbados had to thank God for itself and not its Medical Services. I can imagine if he came here now he would say, "Thank God, I am not the Minister for Medical Services."

The hurricane occurred since last September, it is now almost a year since then, and these latrines which have been destroyed have not yet been restored. The next thing is this; would you believe, Mr. Chairman, that out of the new latrines which have been built, only 88 have been sited? The parish of St. Michael was supposed to get 825 latrines; up to the end of March this year, 495 had been constructed and only 88 of these have been sited! We are now told that the sum of \$38,102 has been spent including the cost of materials to construct the remaining 330 latrines. If these 495 latrines have been constructed, why is it that they have not been sited? What is the cause of the delay in this matter? Surely, in a matter of this sort, haste is of the essence. What are the people using now. It is not a matter of a kitchen or a shed-roof, it is a latrine; and certainly the entire affair is characteristic of the indifference or laziness (or both) of the Ministry of Social Services.

Do you mean to say that it takes over a year to restore 825 latrines—you have only sited 88—and the construction has been so long delayed that you have to come here in July, and ask for a revote of money which has been voted in the last financial year? Is this the way in which the Ministry of Social Services approaches important questions of health? And why is there this discrimination in favour of St. Michael as against the other parishes? The cost of these latrines is being borne by the Public Treasury, and certainly, the taxpayers in St. Philip and Christ Church—the two parishes which have been the most hard hit by the hurricane—make their proportionate contribution to the Treasury. However, it is only in St. Michael that the Government finds it necessary to give some financial assistance to people in the restoration of those latrines which have been destroyed.

I doubt very much that you could find a thing like this duplicated in any other part of the West Indies. There may be some delay in the construction of houses, but there could be no excuse for either the delay or the indifference with which this matter has been approached by the Ministry concerned. As fast as these latrines were completed, they should have been sited. Either these latrines are required, or they are not required. You either build them and site them immediately, or you do not build them at all. There could not be any excuse for our having to re-vote in July money which has been previously voted for conveniences of this sort. Certainly, if the Government had appreciated the vital importance of health and sanitation to this Country, the money would have been expended before the financial year had expired, and the latrines would have been sited on the respective spots long before the 31st March this year. What are they being kept for at the Pine? For an exhibition? They are of no use to the people there; the place for these latrines is the place for which they were built.

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

Supplementary Estimate General Hospital

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman is for the sum of \$37,779, to provide training for 35 addition Student Nurses at the General Hospital. The position with regard to the Nurses at the General Hospital is somewhat critical. Between now and the end of the year, there are 36 Nurses who, as they have intimated, will be leaving the Hospital and we cannot wait until these Nurses have left to start training Nurses to take their places. This training scheme is to be started in September and recruitment will be done in batches of 12 persons. The recruiting for the first 12 persons should take place early, so that in September when the school is ready to be opened these Nurses will be selected.

This Resolution in its Schedule gives in detail the expenditure in connection with the training of these Nurses. As hon. members will see the items are: Living-out Allowance, Ration Allowance, Cost of Living Allowance, Provisions, Furniture Equipment, Clothing and Uniforms, Cleaning, Laundry and Water, Printing, Stationery, Telephone and Advertising. Even although this money will be spent in the training of new Nurses, yet when the Senior Nurses have left the Hospital, naturally their salaries will be saved. When a Senior Nurse leaves the Institution, the amount of her salary remains in the Treasury, and, as I have already said, this \$37,779 is for the purpose of the training of these Nurses.

There are some other proposals which will come before the House shortly with the object of trying to encourage our Nurses to remain here instead of going abroad. With these proposals it might be very difficult to attract these Nurses because of the attraction abroad plus the spirit of adventure in desiring to see somewhere else; nevertheless, we have to try to do everything at our disposal to get these Nurses to remain here after they have been trained. The position is all set out in detail in the Addendum to this Resolution; I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Social Services if he would consider the advisability of reducing the qualification for Student Nurses who apply for posts at the General Hospital. What has been observed is that there are many young ladies who would be glad to become Student Nurses, but it is demanded of them that they be in possession of School Certificates or some similar qualifications, and many of them who are not in possession of such qualifications are refused admission to the Hospital. The Hon. Minister would know, as others do know, that there are some young ladies who would make very efficient Nurses, but they are not given the opportunity to do so. I would like the Hon. Minister to say whether the Hospital Authorities would consider reducing the qualifications required for these student Nurses.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: We have reduced the qualification to a certain extent, but it is all bound up with the matter of reciprocity as regards our nurses trained here if they go to England; and secondly, we have to conform to English standards and requirements. The English standards for nurses is a School Certificate or its equivalent. I may say that they should be told that there are girls leaving here with qualifications lower than that of a School Certificate who are doing nursing in hospitals in England but in the English hospitals they are, at least two classes of nurses. There is what

is called the State-aided Assistant Nurse. That is lower status; so that while it may appear, as I have been told, that girls who were refused at our Hospital have gone to England and have got trained as nurses, yet they do not get the R.S.N. They are trained as Assistant Nurses but they cannot go further. Of course, they do examinations and if they improve they may go up and enter the ranks of full nurses; but at the moment, at those Hospitals which require them, they go on as Assistant Nurses.

I may say that we are quite willing to do it. As a matter of fact, we have been considering it. For the purpose of reciprocity, a School Certificate is one of the things they require to be a full nurse. The girls must have a good educational background to become a full nurse.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, I want to ask if we cannot please ourselves. Do you have to exchange nurses with those in England and they exchange with us? Is that what you mean?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: No. There are a few nurses who leave here to qualify and who go away for higher training to come back as Departmental Sisters. A School Certificate is the background they must have to become a Departmental Sister. While it is true that we please ourselves, if we want our girls to be properly trained, we must see to it that they are up to the required standard.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, there is nothing to prevent us from having two streams of nurses. Because of our adaptability, and also the fact that many of our nurses in the past have become efficient nurses, there is no reason why we cannot create a system where you will have two streams of nurses one stream in which you will have the type of nurse to meet the requirements overseas, while the other stream could be of the type which would assist us locally in the running of our Hospital. There is a definite need to make provision in the nursing profession for some of our girls who may not have gone to a second grade school or who were not successful in getting a School Certificate. That does not mean that their intelligence is lower than those who get a School Certificate.

What is more, our provision for them in this service would assist a lot of them in getting employment and training. Many of them run around saying that they hear that we have abandoned the School Certificate as a means of entry into the nursing profession and because of that, they ask if they can get a recommendation to assist them. When they make such an attempt they are told "No, that is not sufficient; you must have a School Certificate." The Hon. Minister of Social Services knows that most of the best nurses that were at the General Hospital have never had any more educational training than what they received at an Elementary School. I am sure the Hon. Minister can remember old Nurse Forde and others who gave yeoman service in all the Departments of that Institution; and I am sure that his recommendation of such a system as I have been suggesting would bear some weight in making things easier not only for some of the young ladies who want to get into the Hospital as nurses, but for the patients also. It is a fact that certificated nurses as soon as they get a year or so of training, are certainly going to leave us and go overseas for higher training, so we may as well start and permit girls who are not certificated to go there and get the training so that when the others decide to go overseas we can have them to help us.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. junior member for St. Thomas would spend a little

less time in chasing round the parish of St. George and wasting gasoline and would devote that time on the affairs at the General Hospital, he will realise the reason for the exodus of nurses from the Barbados General Hospital is mainly due to the maladministration under which they unfortunately find themselves at this stage. Despite the efforts of the Medical Officers to improve the lot of the nurses, you get a situation in which an imported matron of the Hospital is allowed, after this House voted money under Head XXIII — Medical (2) General Hospital, Items 36 and 37 to pay Staff Nurses and Ward Nurses, to fill five vacancies out of 45 under the grade of Staff Nurses and Ward Nurses. A lot of the nurses who have left the Barbados General Hospital have done so because of the hon. junior for St. Thomas who is supposed to be a member of the medical profession and who has been a man fulminating for years in the opposition against the administration at the General Hospital. Now, he has actually got a Matron of the General Hospital to keep out Barbadian girls from the higher ranks of the nursing profession.

It is an absolute disgrace that only five appointments should have been made in the past year out of forty-five vacancies in these two grades. I counsel the Hon. Minister of Social Services that Monday night is not the time to spend in St. George; he should be devoting himself to his files. If you are paid to do a ministerial job, you should come into the House after having very carefully scrutinised the work done by your subordinates. You should study your brief, learn your lesson and at least be able to give some coherent and lucid explanation as to the reason why this House should vote these sums.

If the hon. junior member for St. Thomas looks carefully at the Resolution he would see under Head XXIII — Medical (2) General Hospital, 40 (a) (New) Student Nurses Class "D", that that is on new item at all because under the Annual Estimates for the year you will see that Student Nurses, Class "D" has already been an enumerated class. Therefore, it is quite wrong to say that Item 40 (a) is a new item.

7.45 p.m.

Of course, these little details are matters which the junior member for St. Thomas considers beneath his notice, but there are other things which are obviously above his head, and with the improper administration at the Barbados General Hospital with two and three people in one bed, if I were a doctor, I would be ashamed of the conditions especially with the power and support of this Chamber — and try to remedy the unfortunate conditions at the Hospital.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if the member for St. Thomas, as he said in his explanatory remarks, wants to stop the exodus of trained nurses from the Barbados General Hospital, I counsel him to do two things apart from minding his own business: firstly improve the conditions under which the nurses have to live, and secondly, give them promotion when there are vacancies open at the Barbados General Hospital for nurses in the higher branches of the nursing service. Do not keep forty vacancies for two and three years on the staff of Ward Nurse Grades. As a matter of fact, I checked with the Barbados General Hospital at six o'clock this evening and he does not know the first thing that goes on at the Hospital. He did not know whether there was a toy-magnet at the Hospital, but he sent a man to Trinidad to get a piece of wood taken out of his eye.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Steel! it was a piece of steel.

Mr. BARROW: He sent a man to get a piece w-o-o-d taken out of his eye; it was clammycherry wood and you can ask the member from St. Thomas and that wood is still in the man's eye. [A MEMBER: Shame!] I do not think that people should go about masquerading as social reformers or any other reformer, social or other wise or as a person who is supposed to be doing good for the community and using his knowledge for the benefit of suffering man-kind when he is only a sheep in wolf's clothing.

Hon. M. E. COX: Order!

Mr. BARROW: In distinction of course, to the member who shouted "order" who is a wolf in sheep's clothing. I would like the member for St. Thomas when he comes in here at least to say something that ordinary intelligent human beings can understand, and not the bunch of mambo jambo which is spouted out here today; because up to now nobody who hasn't a Resolution in front of him is able to understand head or tail the *raison d'être* of the Resolution or the reason why the member for St. Thomas should be speaking on it at all. In short it would appear as if he considers that the solution to the problem of retaining trained nurses at the Barbados General Hospital is to ask the House for money to train not fifteen more students nurses Class "D" as in 1955-56, but to train 35 student nurses in the last class of probation nurses at the Barbados General Hospital. The only nurses who are remaining at the Hospital are those who have rheumatism and who are too old to attempt the rigours of the Canadian climate, the ones who are overweight, and those who have such strong family ties in Barbados that they are reluctant to leave home; but any intelligent young girl as soon as she qualifies at the Barbados General Hospital shakes the dust of that institution off her feet, and no wonder. Under the present administration, such a state of affairs should occur day after day. I hope that there will be a re-orientation in the outlook of the member for St. Thomas. Perhaps he needs a refresher course in administration or medicine and perhaps, he needs to go into something better than the St. Thomas Almshouse and see how it is run. Perhaps, on his frequent visits to the United Kingdom he might devote some time and thought to the workings of Hospitals like St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas' or other well recognised teaching Hospitals, and not only look around them but ask a few questions and get them to write in words of one syllable so that he can understand.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I was amazed to hear the Minister of Social Services admit that there are two types of nurses in the United Kingdom, that the first grade nurse is a girl who has a school certificate, and the nurse who is without that basic qualification can become as Assistant State Nurse. As a matter of fact, he even went further and admitted that sometimes those girls without school certificates began as Assistant State Nurses and ended up as qualified State Nurses. If that be the case, Sir, why is the Selection Committee under his direction giving young girls who are endeavouring to get to England to study nursing so much trouble? The Government Scheme for girls to go to England to study nursing refuses to admit them, for unless you have a school certificate you are not selected by the Committee.

7.55 p.m.

I go further, Mr. Chairman, It is a well-known fact that Mr. Louis Lynch of the Modern High School has been selecting Hospitals in Great Britain which would accept young girls without School Certificates for training to be qualified as Assistant State

Nurses. What has happened is that the Government, the Minister and Selection Committee have done everything possible to prevent the recruitment of these girls who have not got the School Certificate. [Mr. TUDOR: Shame!] [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: That is not true.] When the girls go before the Selection committee, they are asked all sorts of questions. The Committee wants to know if they can speak Welsh, why they want to go to the Hospitals and all sorts of irrelevant, absurd and impertinent questions are asked. The Committee wants to know if the parents of these girls are alive, if the girls have Hospital equipment, by whom they were trained, and every single obstacle has been placed in the way of these girls going to Great Britain for the simple reason that the Government does not want the continued exodus of these girls to Great Britain because it shows them up.

Nearly 2,000 girls have gone to U.K. Hospitals, and only about 300 have sponsored by the Government; the proportion of girls going to England under Government auspices and otherwise, is 6 to 1 against the Government. Through the Selection Committee, they have deliberately placed obstacles in the way of a further large-scale recruitment of people, who have not got School Certificates, going to England, although the Hon. Minister has confessed that girls can go to England and qualify as Assistant State Nurses and in some cases they can qualify as State Nurses. It is a shame that the Government and the Hon. Minister should do nothing to extend these avenues of employment, but rather hinder people from going to England when on their own admission, people can find employment and qualify for filling positions in the Nursing role. They are not interested or energetic themselves to get more places for Nurses, and they oppose in principle the attempts which are being made by well-meaning people in the community to find work outside the Colony for these girls.

Ask them, Mr. Chairman, how is it that of the 1,700 girls who have left this Country, most of them without School Certificates and most of them without any help from the Government, and with all the machinery at their disposal, they can only find places in Great Britain for 300? With all the millions in the Treasury put there by the people of this Country, those who want to get money to go abroad can only number 300 who are qualified for assistance, and the other 1,700 found money to do so. Their parents had to borrow money and sell what they had, because the Government had insisted that it can only assist girls who possess School Certificates; yet the Hon. Minister admits here that girls can go to England without School Certificates and qualify as State Nurses. The time must come when the people must be told how they have been penalised and kept down; every single Minister is a square peg in a round hole. Instead of helping to find work for people—well, I personally was of the opinion that the Hon. Minister was completely ignorant of the situation in Great Britain; it never occurred to me that he or his Government really knew that girls leaving here without School Certificates would be accepted in a British Hospital and could qualify to fill a position in it after a while. You ask the thousands of relatives of young girls: they have been besieged by the girls asking for loans; unless their parents are representatives in this House, the Selection Committee refused to give them assistance unless they have School Certificates.

From the time of the operation of the Scheme they have refused to assist the girl who wants to go

abroad unless she has a School Certificate. with the increase in unemployment in this Country, and 20 months after the Scheme is in operation, there is a scheme which debar every girl from going to Great Britain unless she has a School Certificate. And now the Hon. Minister of Social Services is telling us tonight that a girl can go to Great Britain without having a School Certificate, and qualify as an Assistant State Nurse, and that if she is bright she can qualify as a State Nurse! From the Hon. Minister's admission here tonight, he is not qualified for the post of Messenger in the Ministry [Laughter]. I do not know what to call it; the girls who are leaving the St. Michael's Girls' School, Queen's College and all the State-aided Schools, cannot find any work in Bridgetown, and the hand-picked Committee says: "If you have a School Certificate, we will help you," otherwise these girls cannot go abroad. I repeat: 300 out of nearly 2,000 who have gone abroad have been sponsored by the Government! A Minister who is interested in the welfare of the people and in his Ministry would have about 5,000 girls in England, because the need for them is there. Everybody cannot be an ordinary Nurse; they can be State Nurses as well. In the same way as they wanted Hotel workers in England, they want other people as well.

Even if the Government extends its policy and embark on large-scale recruitment of girls who have not got School Certificates that is no excuse for the experience of the last 20 months.

I will tell you something else Mr. Chairman; people have been going to the Labour Department and trying to get loans to go to Great Britain and do you know what they have been doing? They began by writing to Mr. Lynch and asking him for a list of those Hospitals to which he was sending Nurses. Mr. Lynch clearly suspected something, and he sent them a list of Hospitals which refused to accept Nurses. [Laughter]. It appears from what they have been doing, that every time a girl goes in, they check the name of the Hospital which will take a girl who has not got a School Certificate. I do not know whether they circularised those Hospitals or what.

8.05 p.m.

Nobody knows what happened but the fact remained that there is a tendency on the part of those hospitals not to take any more. The impression we have Mr. Chairman, is either that the Government is at long last very ashamed of the success of private effort in getting girls into hospitals in England or it is seeing to it that its indifference and neglect would not be shown up by these abnormal proportions on the part of these who are going privately and those whom they are sending.

Now, Sir, whether the report be correct or not the Minister and the Government stand condemned because the Minister has admitted that without a School Certificate you cannot go up and become trained as a nurse. Whether or not that has been the case, the Government owes an explanation to the public for its policy over the past 20 months in knowing what the position is and still refusing to recruit and get people abroad unless they have a School Certificate.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have a few questions to ask the Hon. Minister. I expected that this Resolution would come to the House, because I think we all know that these Nurses at the General Hospital are really seeking greater opportunities in life by going to England. I would like the Hon. Minister of Social Services to pay a little attention to a suggestion which I am going to make

I have discussed the matter with many nurses who left for England. What I would like to find out from the Hon. Minister is if anything can be done to attract these nurses to stay in Barbados. Is it not possible to have something done as regards to the qualification of nurses, so that those trained at the General Hospital will get similar recognition outside of Barbados as nurses similarly qualified? From the nurses' point of view, Barbados is a superior country to live in when compared with England, and in all respects — health and many other things. Can the Government do something to see that nurses who are qualified here will receive a Certificate of similar standard as that which nurses who are similarly qualified receive in England? That in itself would be an attraction for them to remain here.

My second suggestion is that the time has come when you will have to increase the remuneration of nurses at the General Hospital. I am going to make a statement of fact to which I hope the Hon. Minister will give an answer. Is it a fact that within the last three months 29 nurses were recruited at the General Hospital and for the first month which they all worked, only nine of them were paid and at the end of the second month that nine again were paid and at the end of the third month they paid a few more and the others left in the fourth month; which means that about 19 of those nurses were not in receipt of any money at all? By what yardstick have you measured those whom you have paid against those whom you have not paid? I would like the Hon. Minister to give an answer to that question if he can.

I have criticised on the floor of this House the General Hospital and the people who handle the nurses. I have had to criticise on the floor of this House the rudeness of some of the Matrons and imported officials at the General Hospital and after some time it ceased; I heard no more of it. The Hon. Minister of Health knows well enough that some of the criticisms when investigated were found to be absolutely correct. Now, I have observed that some of the girls who had requested letters of recommendation from the Matron and other such persons at the Hospital were spoken to very rudely. I am saying this because I would like it to be known that when officials are imported they are still servants of the people, and while we should not encourage nurses to be rude to the Sisters and what not, we are not prepared to condone with any Sister or any such type of person to be using any insulting language to any of our girls. That sort of thing has been reported to me. When our girls make such applications, they are told that they are not needed in England and what not.

I do not appreciate the reason why they do not want our girls to go to England and why they put on so much airs when they see them going. They come here feeling they are supreme; so they hate to see our girls go to this country to see the conditions under which they live. I want this to be borne in mind, Mr. Chairman. My criticism is not confined to European heads only, because what the honourable senior member for St. Philip said was also brought to my notice.

8.15 p.m.

I understand now that Government has appointed a Selection Committee comprising of certain local people. Now, I want to draw this to the Minister's attention: it is infinitely better to have people who are white on the Selection Committee than to have black ones who feel they are white, because in so doing you select the worst type for the Committee — some who have come from absolutely down to bottom

and who are more likely to insult the girls than the white ones on the Committee. I will repeat: it is better to put white people on the Committee than to put black ones who have been dragging up, and I detest them more than the white ones. When we are therefore looking for people to put on the Selection Committee, let them remember they are by the grace of God more fortunate, and who if they did not have a School certificate or a job would find themselves before the Committee. But one wonders whether instructions have been given to them to do this. What the hon. member said is true; there is no white person who would ask a girl if she can speak Welsh, but some black Hottentot. Can you imagine a person looking at a girl who may have got superannuated from a school and asking her if she can speak Welsh purely because she has no School Certificate? This is piercing to me when I think of it. We have got to get up in this House and criticise some of the people for the attitude they have adopted, but I do appreciate Government's attitude in getting people who would know more than they, but they unfortunately got middle-class Barbadian women of whom it is typical to skin up their noses at every little black girl in the place because they do not want them to get too near to them. It is a most ridiculous state of affairs that you should have to put them on the Committee, and the same girls come back complaining for them and the attitude they are adopting. I do not want to go into the question of the Hospital tonight, but I just want the Minister to answer the questions I have asked as he is fully conscious that when I make a statement on the floor of this House I can back it up with proof. If it is a fact that these people are putting obstacles in their way by asking embarrassing, stupid questions, it would appear therefore, that they were sent there to prevent the girls from going or from even getting an opportunity to go. I would like you to speak to them and let them know they should not try to stop people from going out of the country, because if it appears you are attempting to put people there who are not allowing them to go out, we are bound to get on a public platform and let people know now how we feel about it. Would the Minister say what he knows about the twenty-nine girls who have been employed up there and who have not been paid and why they were treated so?

One last point: it is commonplace at the Hospital to take these girls on and after working them for three months — would the Minister listen, because you have to answer me? — you look at them and say, "well, you just have not got through and not another word." You may not have liked the looks of the girls; but if they work for three months and do not get through, you should still give them something for the three months they have worked. I would like to know something about that because the last person this morning who came to me about this matter did not know this was going to be discussed but he was very indignant about the treatment of his daughter. She may not have got through her exams, her head might be too high or you may have said she might be civil but not servile. The honourable member might say that I am a member of the Hospital Advisory Committee, but let me tell you this: I personally care very little about that Committee. The duty of the Advisory Committee is not to call meetings to say you are going to give out tenders.

I have too much work to do if that is all the Committee is there for. If you ask me to come and give my advice on how to do some particular thing,

I would say "yes"; but if after two years you have a tender for meat or fish, the Hon. Minister knows well enough that I would not attend a meeting for that purpose. If as a member of the Advisory Committee I ask anything about the work at the Hospital, I would be told that is a matter of administration and is nothing to do with me. I hope you will be able to tell me as I think you must have had it on the file because you anticipated there is more to be said on the question of emigration. I want therefore, Sir, the Minister to tell us why they work some of these girls and after three months dismiss them and pay them nothing. If I took anybody in my office and worked them for three months and then told him: "I have tried you out and you would not do," you would see the attitude they would take. They would condemn me before the public; so if you employ them for three months, at least you should pay them for that time. You would condemn any store in Bridgetown. It was an old system here in Swah Street for people to employ a person for three months, and send them away afterwards: at the end of the year they hired nobody at all. You cannot do that because it is not fair to them. Why are you keeping these girls and have only paid nine or ten of them and have not paid the other eighteen? 8.25 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the political indecency which masquerades for Government in this island is now reaping its own rich rewards, and the absence of the constitutional conventions which ought to guide this island is now working the hardships which we will know would come.

We were not supposed to have a practising Physician as Minister of Health: there is nothing written in any Constitution which stated that. But because of the low level to which our politics have been brought, it appeared to those who are responsible for giving us Ministerial Government that because one of their number happens to be a Doctor, he was more suited to be Minister of Health. It is just as they argue that because one of their number has had some experience in Primary, Secondary and Higher Education, therefore, he should have the portfolio for Education. But in neither case did they consider first the needs of the people of the Island which they would administer. Therefore, the chickens have some home to roost in almost every Department in the administration of this Island, but in none more so than the Departments of Health and Education. Of the hash which has been made of Trade, Industry and Commerce, there is no time to speak tonight, or of that nonsense which has been going on in the Ministry of Communication, Works and Housing.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would like to find out from the hon. member on what item he is speaking?

Mr. TUDOR: I am glad, Mr. Chairman, that you have reminded me of your own duties; I cannot make a speech unless I am in full command of the matter on which I am speaking. All that goes to show that there is something radically wrong not necessarily with them, but with us because the fundamental principles of Democratic Government must be that no Government can really be more foolish than the people who put it in power. We are now drawing the attention of this Chamber to the 101 things which are wrong with the Hospital and with the administration of Public Health generally in this Island. It is a long, sickening and sorry tale of mismanagement and neglect; but if, Mr. Chairman, there was one influential voice in this Island with a sense of responsibility to question the

propriety of the Minister of Health who happens to be a practising Physician—

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: On a point of Order. Are we considering this Resolution in respect of the training of these additional Nurses?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Then, will the hon. member confine himself to the Resolution which is before him?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The honourable member may proceed.

Mr. TUDOR: I was justifying my statement that the Minister of Health is a practising physician, and it is because he is a practising physician that he has no time to attend to the poor people in the Institution. If there was one responsible person in this island who could enforce the working of the Hospital, and the functions which should go with Ministerial Government, he would not be telling us now by implication of the neglect for which he is responsible. He presided over a Ministry which is, perhaps, the most vital one in the island, and yet from week to week, if not in here, somewhere else, his attention is continually being drawn to what happens at the Hospital; he is now going to pretend to us that he is only now but he is now going to pretend to us that he has only now discovered (or, only in recent weeks) that he needs more nurses. It is that he needs more of everything connected with the administration of his Ministry; he is only sitting in his Ministry tomfooling and doing nothing with the portfolio which he has to administer.

Anybody would be surprised to hear of neglect in the Hospital when it occurs to him that a Doctor is the Head of that Ministry. I have stood in this House before, and challenged him on an appointment made at the Hospital in the Department of Medical Services — an appointment which I thought at that time was not in the best interest of this Colony.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I was waiting on the hon. member to make his point but it does not seem to me as if he is going to make it; I am therefore asking him now to keep to this Resolution. This Resolution is a Resolution for \$37,779 to be granted from the Public Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimate 1956—57, Part 1 — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1956—1957, No. 14, which forms the Schedule to this Resolution. The Addendum to this Resolution says this: "To provide for the training of thirty-five (35) additional Student Nurses in consequence of the heavy loss of the trained Nursing Staff and in anticipation of further resignations." I am quite willing to hear the hon. member on that.

Mr. TUDOR: Are you finished Sir?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. TUDOR: I was saying that that Officer who happens to be the Medical Superintendent of the very Hospital whose Nurses you are inviting me to discuss is, I think, the saving factor of what would otherwise be a disastrous situation, and although I criticised him on the working of the Hospital then, I wish to say on the floor of this House now that I take back everything I have said about him, because in making contact with him in the actual atmosphere of the Hospital, I find that he is not only a tower of strength, but he appears to have an uphill task in running the Institution of which he is the Medical Superintendent. I wish to pay him public tribute for the work which he is doing because I know what he is up against.

It is alright for people when they are considering the Hospital to talk as if it is being admin-

istered from the very top with the utmost care and attention; but that is not the case. The situation which has developed now with respect to the Nurses is a situation which everybody except the Minister of Health had foreseen. He knows (who better than he?) that there is, and has been for some time, a shortage of nurses. He knows of the disgust which has motivated a lot of them in leaving the Hospital, of the frustration which faces those that do remain, and of the utter lack of the prospect which was expected of the nurses when they most deserved it. If he knows that and does nothing about it, then he does not deserve to be the Minister of Health; and if he does not know it, then he is not deserving of a seat in this Assembly along with the rest of us who know it.

The Nurses feel that, first of all, they are not convinced that their conditions of service while they are being trained are the most ideal. They are convinced that their superiors the Matron and the people immediately under her, look upon the Barbadian girls as being inferior to them. These girls pass as their personal servants and, as it were, as intruders who are impertinent enough as to want to go abroad to be trained as Nurses.
8.35 p.m.

As if that honourable profession should be denied Barbadian girls! It is largely due to the mounting unemployment in this Island, and nothing other than that, which has turned the attention of so large a number of our girls to the profession of nursing. It is not so much that the majority of them feel that they had a call to be a nurse but because, like any other profession, it can bring in money; and money is what they need in these hard times which they experience. The story told of their neglect, in some cases to discourage the going out of girls to be trained, is too well known to be repeated, but it has to be emphasised because it is that, and nothing else, which has caused us to be in the position which we find ourselves.

It is curious that these nurses whom the Minister wants trained and for whom he is now making provision—he does not want them to be trained as midwives; but, perhaps, there is nothing in that because they may feel that there is no necessity to train those girls as midwives as the work done by midwives is becoming less and less.

However, so far as the General Hospital is concerned, there are a lot of things to which they should pay particular attention. First of all, every encouragement should be given to the Barbadian girls whom they are training to rise on the staff of the degree that there merits and talents permit; and secondly, that those circumstances which make for happy, contented and efficient nurses should be encouraged. One such circumstance is, of course, the food and nourishment which they are given. [A VOICE: They get good food.] Yes, I do know that they get good food but it is not cooked properly. The one such circumstance which stands out among all others and which should be drawn to the Hon. Minister of Health is that the nurses are required to do strenuous and exacting work on very little or poorly cooked food. You spend almost \$300,000 on provisions. You have the opportunity, Mr. Chairman, of purchasing the best food that there is, and you also have the opportunity of cooking it properly, because there is the possibility of employing the best cooks, chefs, and cooking experts. So there is no excuse that patients or nurses should be deprived of that nourishment which is necessary for the restoration of health in the case of the patients; and the completion of their duties in the case of the nurses.

Another thing, is this, Mr. Chairman. If Barbadian nurses are made to feel that there is something radically wrong with their wanting to go further in their profession, and every obstacle is put in their way and every discouragement is shown to them, merely because they may want to be the best type of nurse that they can be, you will be fostering a feeling among them that you are only employing them at the General Hospital on precisely the same basis on which you employ janitors and janitresses in the schools; that is just to do a job of work, the intrinsic value of which does not concern you; and therefore, you are giving as little encouragement as you can. The fear and the suspicion which some nurses have, namely that for some particular reason or the other, they will not be allowed to qualify in their profession, is the one thing which you must remove: and the quicker, the better.

Things like living-out allowances and ration allowances are administrative provisions: and it should not take a lot of energy on the part of the Hon. Minister and his subordinates to work out a suitable arrangement with the nurses and the people concerned in those matters. It is silly to have people complaining that something is wrong with their laundry and ration allowances. That is something which can be settled by agreement, just by hearing what people have to say on the matter and what you have in mind to meet their requirement and striking a balance between the two. There are complaints which arise out of the fact that these matters are not satisfactorily settled.

There is even a more important aspect to this matter. If these Barbadian girls who either work at the General Hospital or abroad and have left, or who have never been to the Hospital and have been now trained can be convinced by you that there is a future for them in your local Hospital and in your health services generally, their patriotism will cause them to return home so as to take their place in the ranks of the Public Service of this island. It is sheer necessity which is preventing them. Where they are trained, quite naturally, as well trained nurses, they will take every opportunity to set out further for better prospects rather than to return. If the Hon. Minister of Health would rise to the occasion, and show by actual deeds the policy that he has, and that his Government is really interested in providing efficient hospital services, and if he can communicate that conviction to those girls who are abroad, he might succeed in getting a number of them to come back and take up positions which they should take.

But they cannot be blamed if they do not see in such evidence a change of heart or a change of policy, and you cannot expect nurses, Mr. Chairman, who have had to leave their own hospital—and with such difficulty—to seek further training in the United Kingdom or Canada, to consider lightly the question of returning to the set of conditions from which they have so happily escaped. It is therefore most important that the policy of the hospital should be constantly under review, that the Minister of Health, if he can spare the time away from his own private practice, might pay a little more attention to what is his first and foremost duty, so that the hospital for which he is responsible may receive a little of the attention that it deserves and that the people who work there should give of their best to their fellow countrymen.
8.45 p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, there is an aspect of this matter that should be drawn to the notice of this House and public. You may not be aware of it, but in Barbados a strange occurrence has taken place; that is, these student nurses or

any one employed by this Government today are debarred from joining a Trade Union. It would be strange to know that the Government has stated that it is illegal for the workers who are employed with the Highways and Transport to be members of the Trade Union; therefore, it is also illegal for these student nurses to be members. The hospital now is using money out of Colonial Development and Welfare Funds; and one of the things which the Colonial Welfare Act has indicated is that no funds should be paid out in any territory in which a Trade Union cannot function; and the very Government of this Island is debarring these people from becoming members of the Union. I can say here that Mr. Matthews from I.L.O. and his labour code which is to be produced to the Union is going to be make a settlement for them; but I hope when I come to deal with the Trade Union Act, and the amendment that stands in my name, I will be able to have the matter settled. It is a disgrace that Barbados which boasts of the best constitution in the West Indies, should not have this, while next door in Trinidad and in British Guiana these people can be members of a Trade Union of their choice. The Barbados Government says it is illegal for these people to become members of a Trade Union and they have not even given a reason why it is illegal. I say that you are sleeping on these important democratic rights of the people who have to vote, and that you should attempt to ameliorate them and put them in order; but in 1956 with Government using millions of dollars to renovate the Hospital, they are saying that these nurses cannot join a Trade Union and we feel the Salaries' Commissioner will have to speak for these people. Are you going to ask the Minister to speak for them, or should they have their own representative? I draw it to the notice of the public so that those of us who feel strongly about aspects of public life would take it up

Hon G. H. ADAMS: I would like to reply to that remark. The Government of Barbados has said nothing of the sort, let alone any Act saying that. The Civil Service Regulations says a person must belong to his own Association and through the Association he can bring up any complaints or grievances. That has nothing to do with the Government; and even if it did, I would support it. We have a Civil Service, with divisions suitable to the different ranks of the Civil Service, with their own officers and Presidents, and they can put up every conceivable grievance. If they have not got the guts to do it, that is a matter for them. Many Government institutions like the Police have their own Association, and I repeat it has nothing to do with the Government of Barbados. I knew about this night before last from reading a copy of the Report which the Trade Union is going to make, but for the hon. member to get up and make an accusation against the Government of Barbados when some of us have known only since he knew and his statement about the Highways and Transport employees gives a completely wrong impression of what this Government has had to do with the matter.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I repeat, whether it is a wrong impression or not it is his feeling since 1925 of what a Trade Union should be. Even today he feels that the Trade Union should not strike or should only do so after they have received his approbation, but the Government states it is illegal for members of Highways and Transport to be members of the Trade Union. He wants to divide the Government so that when there is something good, Government will get the praise, but when there is something

adverse, there are like Jekyll and Hyde especially when they feel we are masters of this place. We are not masters. When we can see in Trinidad, Jamaica, British Guiana, these people are members of the Trade Union and that the Police Force is not debarred, what monumental nonsense is he telling us here tonight. Nurses who are members of a Trade Union have nothing to do with the Association; an Association is not a Trade Union. A Trade Union has to be registered under the Act; you can join an Association but not a Trade Union because you are not registered under the Trade Union Act. He would like to keep them out of a Trade Union, but I say if that is his theme he is living in a Fool's Paradise; and if he is not going to allow them to join a Trade Union he would see he would have to send for troops as they had to in Cyprus.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I have no desire whatever to anticipate what is going to happen in the future. When the appropriate time comes for the honourable member to continue as he is continuing, the people of this Island do not have to hear me say it but there are others who will know that the honourable member is repeating an accusation wholly untrue. I have heard members on my left express surprise at what the honourable member said to-day that the Civil Service and Civil Servants are responsible for conditions to the Head of the Government. You have a Public Service Commission and you also have Colonial Office Regulations and as Civil Servants you come under them. I was not saying that the same things that apply to the Executive grade of the Civil Service apply in its entirety to the Policemen. I merely said it was a practice of many Governments and in many countries for Civil Servants and Police to have their own associations rather than join the ordinary Trade Union.

I do not mind what the honourable member says about me or about this Government; he will have to run back to this Government for protection and safety as he did in the *Advocate* strike.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I will not have that. When you find a coward like him in a debate like this talking about running for safety, when he wanted to tell us at the meeting that there was an illegal strike, I challenge him to come over to the Union on Sunday and see if the people do not throw him down the stairs. He is a villain.

[Asides.]

Mr. BARROW: *Rose to speak.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the honourable member take his seat for a moment? I am drawing to the attention of the hon. junior member for St. Peter that he has disobeyed the gavel of the Chair; I want to draw the hon. member's attention to the fact that he is breaking the Rules of the House by disobeying the Chair.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am very sorry, Mr. Chairman, but you will remember the remark which was made by the Hon. Premier.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must take his seat.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Do you want an apology, Mr. Chairman? I am pointing out that that remark made by the Hon. Premier is the type of remark which you will get in an alley or a rum shop. I am very sorry for that, but he will get his true deserts.

Mr. BARROW: I deplore the turn which the debate has taken especially when the hon. senior member for St. Joseph was so ill advised to raise the question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member is going to speak, let him speak on this Resolution. I am not

entertaining anything other than that; this Resolution is in respect of the training of Nurses.

Mr. BARROW: Precisely, Mr. Chairman, but arising out of these Nurses are the remarks which have been made by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. I am really on a point of information. I understood the hon. member to say vis-a-vis the status of the Nurses and everybody else, that the Civil Service is a Civil Service and the Government is the Government.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am nothing to do with that [ASIDES]. The hon. junior member for St. Lucy has had his time to speak. I am asking the hon. senior member for St. George to deal with this Resolution; I am nothing to do with the Civil Service.

Mr. BARROW: This is a Resolution for the Civil Service, and arising out of the Resolution, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has said that the Civil Servants should have an Association. I only want to know what the Auditor General was doing at his meeting earlier in the month.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: You cannot have any pontifical statement being made by anyone so as to throw salt in the eyes of the Legislature, that these people cannot join a Trade Union unless it is an Association of themselves alone. That is not true. In Antigua these people are members of the Trade Union; in Trinidad, you have Civil Servants belonging to the Federated Workers' Union, and are you telling us in Barbados now that you would not allow these people, or are you going to tell these people even if they want to join a Trade Union which is not a Civil Service Trade Union, that they have no right to join it? That is one of the main charters for which we fought at the I.L.O.; are you saying that people like these should not be entitled to be members of a Trade Union? If it is illegal, how does it become illegal? Does the Trade Union Act deprive these people from being members of a Trade Union?

Over ten years ago, the Colonial Office gave people the right to join Trade Unions; the Teachers have a Union and they are registered. In Trinidad the Teachers' Union is affiliated with the Trinidad & Tobago Union, and you have the Federated Workers' Trade Union represented by workers in Trinidad. The Transport Workers' Union in British Guiana is the most powerful organisation in B.G.. Do you want to tell me that because these people are drawing their salaries from the Government that they cannot be members of a Trade Union? I say that if these people want to be members of a Trade Union, they must have the right to be such, and nobody can debar them.

Imagine the Hon. Premier saying that if these people want to be members of a Trade Union he would not support that, and that if they have an Association let them be members of that Association! That is just like our passing a Law saying that if you want to be a member of a Union, you must be a member of the Barbados Workers' Union, because that is the only Trade Union. The Government did not reply to that letter and say that they feel that this Union does not represent the majority of people, therefore they are not recognising it; they said it is illegal. When the Hon. Premier gets 76 or 86 years old, I will be his age; if any of the Ministers of the Government feels today that in any industrial matter in which the Government has to intervene, that somebody has to run to them, then I say that they are living in a fool's paradise.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking to the hon. junior member for St. Peter. The hon. member is straying from this Resolution; he should not allow his temper to overrule him.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am endeavouring to point out —

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will warn the hon. member. Let me read this to him:

A standing order passed on 28 February, 1880, and amended on 22 November, 1882, provided that when a Member is named by the Speaker for grossly disorderly conduct, disregarding the authority of the Chair or abusing the rules of the House by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the House or otherwise, a motion may be made "That such Member be suspended from the service of the House," upon which the Speaker forthwith puts the question, no amendment, adjournment or debate being allowed.

When a Member is named by the Chairman to a Committee of the whole House, the Chairman forthwith suspends the proceedings of the Committee and reports the circumstances to the House."

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to disregard your ruling. You sat and heard the remarks which were only a reply to what I said originally. What I was at pains to point out was that in so far as those student nurses are concerned, there should be no illegality so far as their having the right to join a Trade Union and there should be no question that in any group of workers joining a Trade Union and any dislocation taking place and Government having to intervene, that somebody will get up and say "you had to run to the Government." You do not talk of conventions of Government in a boastful manner. When you get them cutting across this. They are trying to show you when you have an industrial dislocation that the Government has nothing to do with it. You can clearly understand from the present motor car industry and steel strikes which have taken place in Great Britain and the United States of America respectively why both Governments had to intervene. Do you think in having said "you had to run to me and you had to save our souls" that you have done something which you should not have done? Any Trade Union would be very discourteous if the Government intervenes in a dispute and the Union says that it is not meeting the Government.

I was drawing to your attention and to the public that nurses or any Public Servants have a right and should be given the right to join a Trade Union and that there is nothing illegal for them to join a Trade Union.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I say again that this Resolution is to provide for the training of 35 additional Student Nurses. I take it that these nurses are to be recruited and that they are not working yet.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: They should be entitled to join any Trade Union of their choice; because they are working people.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I think I should make my position clear. The hon. junior member for St. Peter said that the Government passed some law to prevent Government Servants from joining a Trade Union.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I never said that the Government passed any law; I said that the Premier was wrong.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: As far as this Resolution is concerned, there is nothing about the Highways and Transport Board and I am not entertaining it any more.

The question is that this Resolution—

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: You cannot put the question yet, Sir. I asked some questions.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for the City did ask some

questions. One was as regards some nurse recently employed at the General Hospital who have not been paid. He asked if I heard that some of them were not paid. Well, as far as that is concerned, I know nothing about it. [A VOICE: He never knows anything.]

The other question was in connection with the recruitment of nurses for overseas.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, if I may remind the hon. member, what I did tell the Hon. Minister was that 29 nurses were recently taken on at the General Hospital, and of that number they paid nine for the first month, and nine for the second month and at the end of three months there were some who were not paid anything at all. The next question was as regards to the policy of recruiting them in the Hospital for a period of three months and then saying to them that they have not qualified or that you are not satisfied with their work, therefore they can go. If that is so, I am asking the Hon. Minister to say something.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I do not see how that can be so because from the time girls enter the Hospital to be trained as nurses, they are paid.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I see the hon. member's position. Mr. Chairman, I never make any statement unless it is a statement of fact. These nurses were just not paid. I will ask the Hon. Minister to do this for me. If he finds that any of the nurses are not paid, will he promise me that they be called back and be paid? I am saying again that they were just not paid. It is not fair to work them as probationers and not to pay them.

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

Supplementary Estimate No. 15 Police: Furniture for Caribbean Federation

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is for the sum of \$5,695 to supplement the Current Estimates. It is comprised of two amounts.

As regards the first, Head XV — POLICE, Furniture and Office Equipment, the Note to it says that of the provision of \$50,000 in the 1955-56 Capital Estimates for the erection of a new Police Station at Hastings, an amount of \$1,440 was allocated for the purchase of furniture. This allocation has proved inadequate and an amount of \$695 is necessary to complete the furnishing of this station.

As regards the second—Head XVIII, Caribbean Federation that is also for furniture. According to the Note, the Government has recently been approached to supply on a rental basis the furniture needed for the Pre-Federal Staff during the time when the temporary Headquarters which have been made available for the "Key" Officers of the Federal Government at the new Bay School Building are being used. This Resolution seeks to provide the sum of \$5,000 which is the estimated cost of the furniture required.

We have been asked if we can supply the furniture for the use of the Pre-Federal Staff at a rental basis. We said that we would do so subject to the Legislature voting the money. They will be renting it from the Government of Barbados.

If of course the Federal Capital comes here it is reasonable for us to expect them to ask us to sell it to them, but for the time being it will only be rented

I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$5,695 do now pass.
9.15 p.m.

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. G. H. ADAMS Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of six Resolutions in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

BARBADOS LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY

Hon. M. E. COX: Sir, as I hinted to Your Honour this afternoon you will remember on Tuesday last the hon. senior member for St. George made a statement that the Government had or rather the Barbados Light and Power Co. Ltd had already begun to lay down pipe lines for the purpose of pumping water from the sea and so on, and that we were just wasting time coming to the House with this Resolution. I tried to make a statement at the time but the House adjourned before I had the opportunity. I went into the matter very carefully and there is no foundation of fact in the statement whatever. All that has happened is that pipes have been dropped up there, but no excavation or work of any sort has been carried out. As a matter of fact, the Company could not have carried out any work until such time as Legislative approval was given to the Resolution, so as I said there is absolutely no truth in what the hon. senior member for St. George said.

The Order Paper having been fixed —

TRADE UNION BILL

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Since Government Business is finished, before I left here I started to deal with No. 1 of Private Members' Business standing in my name; but since that date, I have not received any information whatever in relation to this matter. With regards to the remarks made by the Premier I cannot accept his statement in good faith that he has any intention of carrying out what he said.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The hon. member said that he cannot accept in good faith any statement made by me. I cannot allow that to pass. I object to that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member...

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am expressing my opinion because what he has...

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will allow me to speak. The hon. junior member for St. Peter has simply said that he no longer believes in the assurances given by the Premier. I would not consider the words he used referring to his no longer having good faith in such assurances as being unparliamentary; that is just his mode of thinking.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, this Bill is a Bill to amend the Trade Union Act to provide for peaceful picketing whether it is at a man's home or at his place of business. It does not matter who votes or who does not vote. The reason for this amendment is that a similar Bill exists not only in England but in other parts of the Caribbean because it is regarded that if an employer can send to home with a private motor car and bring an employee to work, the workers have as much right to go to that man's home and persuade him not to come out

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member intend to proceed with this?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Yes.

Mr. SMITH: If the hon. member intends to proceed with this, I feel it is time that the House should adjourn for dinner and then come back. It is twenty minutes to ten now and I was in the Chair all afternoon and I feel if the member wants to carry on, the House should adjourn or I will have to leave, because after all my stomach is not like an ostrich's.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I have not the slightest intention of depriving the hon. member of his dinner, and if it is his wish that the adjournment takes precedence I would be prepared to do so; but it is my intention if they have come to the end of Government Business to proceed with this

matter; because after the delay that has taken place, I am satisfied we might not see this amendment in this Session at least. I am here for this Session and I have to see it through; and after I have got it through this Session, anybody may amend it or repeal it.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week Tuesday, 7th August, 1956, at three o'clock p.m.

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.