

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1955—56

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, June 19, 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*); Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*); Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A.; Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY, Mr. E. St. A. HOLDER, Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN and Mrs. E. E. BOURNE.

Prayers were read.

Messrs. MILLER and ALLDER entered the House and took their seats.

REPLY TO H.E. SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk has received the following letter from the Acting Chief Secretary:—

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor will receive the Reply from the Honourable House of Assembly to His Excellency's Speech in the Legislative Council Chamber at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 19th June. I should be grateful if you would inform His Honour the Speaker accordingly.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

G. BARTON,

Acting Chief Secretary.

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk has received the following letter:—

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th instant enclosing Resolution of sympathy passed by the House of Assembly at a meeting held on Tuesday, 8th May, 1956 concerning the death of my husband, and I shall be obliged if you will convey

to the Speaker and members, my sincere thanks and appreciation.

Yours faithfully,
M. WINIFRED SEALY.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform the House that I have received the following document:—

Statement of Accounts from the Highway Commissioners of the parish of St. Peter for the half year ended 31st March, 1956.

Messrs. GODDARD and F. L. WALCOTT entered the House and took their seats.

PAPERS LAID

By command of His Excellency the Governor, Papers were laid as follows:

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) No. 2 Order, 1956.

The Date of Publication of the Register of Electors Order, 1956.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I shall ask the leave of the House to deal with the latter item later in the day, in view of the urgency of the matter.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The Exportation (Draw-back of Duties on Cylinders containing Locally Manufactured Gases) Regulations 1955.

Reply to Question asked by the hon. junior member for St. Michael, Mr. T. O. BRYAN, on 8th May, 1956, in connection with the provision of shelters at the Baggage Warehouse for hawkers.

Hon. R. G. MAPP (on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries): Reply to Question asked by the hon. senior member for St. Philip, Mr. CRAWFORD, on 1st May, 1956, regarding investment of sugar industry funds and the price paid for peasants' canes.

Hon. M. E. COX: Reply to Question asked by the hon. senior member for St. John, Mr. O. T. ALLDER, on 15th May, 1956, in connection with the purchase of land from Colleton Plantation, St. John.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. M. E. COX: Resolution to place the sums of \$121,790 and \$100,500 (to be subsequently repaid from Loan Funds) at the disposal of the

Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1956-57, Part I—Current and Part II—Capital — A — Loan Funds, respectively, as shown in Supplementary Estimate 1956—57, No. 9 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) No 2 Order, 1956"

Resolution to approve the "Date of Publication of the Register of Electors Order, 1956"

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting, in order to consider the money Resolution of which notice has just been given.

QUESTION

Mr. L. E. SMITH:

To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:—

How many houses have been reported damaged by the high winds last Friday, 15th June, 1956?

2. And what steps, if any, are being taken to help these sufferers?

3. If the answer to the above questions is in the affirmative, will Government, without any further delay, proceed to help the same sufferers?
3.25 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "DATE OF PUBLICATION OF REGISTER OF ELECTORS"

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker. I prove the Order: Date of Publication of the Register asking leave to deal with the Resolution to approve of Electors Order, 1956.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the day now stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: Resolution to approve the Date of Publication of the Register of Electors Order, 1956.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if hon. members will look at the copy of the Order which they have before them, they will see that because of the urgency of the matter it is necessary to deal with it today. The Addendum to the Resolution gives the reason. Some people, almost at the last moment, were reminded to go and look at the List of Electors to see if their names were on it. Very many who did so found that their names were not on it; and plus the strike which took place at the *Advocate*, it has been found difficult to get the Register printed in time. It was to be completed and published by 30th June, 1956 as required by Section 8 (3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1955. Up to now, I am informed that the complete register has not yet been typed. It is therefore necessary to extend the date of publication.

It is necessary for the two Houses of Legislature to approve of this Resolution so as to extend the date of publication of the Register to the end of July owing to its being impossible to complete it within the time stipulated in the Act. I may say that members of the Other Place were also asked to stand by and do this Resolution today, owing to the urgency of the matter. I beg to move that this that.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I think this extension is a good step; only I regret very much that the Government did not see fit for the Officers who went around registering the people to go back a second time. The reason why I say so is because I have noticed that many people who should be registered

have not been able to do so due to the fact that some teachers who were appointed to register such persons went around at their convenience. In many cases, workers who had not returned home yet, were not registered; and along with that things were, in a way, done by guess work.

I would wish that at the same time Government is extending this period that they suggest that those registering officers who went around to take down the names, go back again and make sure that none of the people is left out. In many cases many of them do not know where they can go to get their names taken down, and some of them who do know, find it difficult to reach the registering officer who has been appointed to take charge of such registration in the respective parishes.

I do not know if it is too late; but the suggestion can be made that meanwhile during the extension of the time that such registering officers be asked to go around and complete the registration of all those persons who are desirous of becoming registered and who have not been able to meet such officers when a visit was made to their homes.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the authorities and the Government are going to be very much surprised when the elections are going to be held at the number of people who have not been registered; therefore I would really ask the Government if it would not be possible to give some public notice during this period so that many people who have not been registered, or who do not know whether they are registered or not, will be able to get registered. I am sure that a big surprise is going to come to politicians about this Register. When registering officers went around, many people were away from home and it appears to me as if only those who were at home were registered. I am sure that many working people who live about the villages of this City and work beyond the confines have not been registered.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to stop any other hon. member from speaking but I want to say that all this has occurred to the Government, and to me; but I wish hon. members to see that frankly it is the fault of all of us in not letting all the people in the particular parishes we represent know the last date that registration should take place and to get behind them to go and get registered.

Personally, I too have received many telephone calls from people about this matter: but, I repeat, frankly it is the fault of all of us. We should have got behind the people to go and get registered. It is quite impossible, unless the Government wants to give opportunity to its enemies, to postpone the publication of this Register for one second longer. As I have said, in the first instance, the *Advocate* strike was largely responsible for not getting the Register printed in time. Obviously, it would benefit members of the Government to get a couple of hundreds more of our sympathisers registered.

REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH PRESENTED

At this stage, 3.35 p.m., Mr. Speaker received a Message from the Sergeant-at-Arms that His Excellency the Governor was awaiting the House in the Council Chamber to present their Address in Reply to the Speech which he delivered at the opening of the Legislative session.

3.35 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER and the House, preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace, proceeded to the Council Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER read and presented to His Excellency the following Address which was passed by the House in reply to His Speech:—

**THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
TO
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR**

The House of Assembly desire to thank Your Excellency for the Speech delivered on the occasion of the re-opening of the Legislature for the Legislative Session 1956.

The House have noted with satisfaction the financial condition of the Island, and other matters referred to in Your Excellency's Address, and beg to assure Your Excellency that these and all other matters submitted to them will be given their earnest attention and support during the Session.

15th May, 1956.

KENMORE N. R. HUSBANDS,
Speaker.

His Excellency delivered a Rejoinder.

Mr. SPEAKER and the House returned to the Assembly Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that when we attended His Excellency the Governor in the Council Chamber and delivered our Reply to His Speech at the opening of the Legislative Session, His Excellency was pleased to make the following Rejoinder:

Mr. President and Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly.

I thank you for your respective Addresses in reply to the Speech which I delivered on the occasion April, 1956, and for your respective assurances that all matters submitted to you will, as heretofore, be given careful and earnest consideration.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

19th June, 1956.

REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS ORDER

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I was just saying that it was regrettable that a number of people — I would not put it stronger — who were entitled to register were not registered; and I can only put it to be the fault of political organisations and political persons that they did not notify the people of the dates. Publicity was given to the times and even the Rediffusion was made use of to notify the public. I did not know until after the time had passed whether I was registered. I did not go to see and I have no doubt that there may be a number of hon. members in like cases who remembered and again forgot until the time had passed. It is a matter of regret that persons who could exercise a vote should not be registered, I do say it was not the fault of the Government and I attempted to have proper enquiries to see whether it was possible to do it as from today to get a further extension; and I see it would be quite impossible to keep the timing right if this were further postponed. I repeat: I know some of our political enemies will say that we are purposely delaying the bringing into operation of the Maude Bill, and if we were to attempt to add to the time, it would look like that; because (to mention one thing only) we have been informed it is going to take something like nine months to adequately prepare the assessment roll. We hope it would not because we can easily see that the coming into operation of the Maude Bill, if we cannot shorten that time, will be delayed until March next year. I give hon. members that bit of information,

in order that they may see that it is not a matter ignored by the Government but absolutely a question of timing. It is not like the old system which was absolutely haphazard. I repeat: in order to postpone much longer with these different bits of procedure that we have to do before the official date is published in the *Official Gazette*. I hope hon. members will take my assurance that it is not through lack of thinking, or through the possibility of enlarging the time, but through the real difficulties that would ensue if further time were given for registering names.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, unless I misunderstand it, I think this order is an extension by Government for publication purposes only. I do not think you intend to extend the time whereby persons could now make application for the insertion of their names or corrections. I interpret it that way. What the hon. member has asked for, an extension of the period of time and a suggestion even that teachers be sent back to their homes, is not permitted in this order. This is purely an opportunity for Government to have a completed list published by the 31st. July instead of 30th June. I agree with other hon. members that the ten days that were permitted for people to ascertain whether their names were on the roll or not was not adequate. Ten days was not adequate. Persons may have found themselves in the position, during that period of ten days, that they had so many duties to perform for one reason or another; or illness may have played its part on persons who did desire to find out whether their names were on the roll, but did not have the opportunity within the ten days; so I have always held the time inadequate for people to ascertain whether their names were on the roll or not. That is past history; that is closed now, so we are not dealing with that today; so those members who may have spoken in the past, and think they will still be given an opportunity to get their supporters to put their names on, are wrong; let us not go away with that impression; nor should the public think it is so because the Police Stations will be infested with a lot of unnecessary enquires. Now, as to the suggestion that the Maude Bill is the real reason for this extension—the Maude Bill is going to take a long time yet before it is implemented, whether Government knows that or not. I understand that the number of amendments that will have to come back to this House is something in the form of a new Bill. In other words, the original Bill was so badly prepared or has so many lapses unforeseen, that the number of amendments to be made now can amount to almost a new Bill. The amount of adjustments to be made between the various sections will also amount to a great lot of executive work to straighten things out. When you are joining bodies together or taking off parts and adding to others, it is not so easy and all that will have to be done. But that is only by the way. I only want to stress the point that this Order does not give extension for persons to be put on the register.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, the position is still a rather awkward one in so far as the Government is concerned. I cannot imagine any member of Parliament would be willing to criticise the Government as regards the system used in registering, having regard to the organisation that was created to handle the registration. Think of what the Premier said here as regards the possible fault of the politician. In the first place it could not be expected of any one politician, or of any organisation for that matter, to go around checking the registration after the system which the authorities set up. I would just draw a simple example, in the parish of St. George where there are some 14,000 people, it took

the Registering Officers weeks and months to do the work; so therefore, how could one ask politicians to go around and check whether the registration has been well taken care of?

3.45 p.m.

The very lists appeared on the wall. You will find that some people have to walk for about 3 to 4 miles so as to make a check, and that is not done in other Countries; it is not done in the Home Country. The terrible thing is that after several years of struggle by all Parties to provide the Country with Adult Suffrage, by some strange reason, thousands of people of our community are being robbed of the right to vote. I want to remind the Hon. Premier that this is cutting across the fundamentals of human rights; for any individual to be denied his right because his name does not happen to appear on the list is something regrettable. We have an old lady at Brighton; she has been with us for all the years that I can remember, but no one has ever appeared at the house so as to register the people who live there.

There are several districts in the parish of St. George in which no investigations have been made at all. I should like to say that this postponement for a month is for the purpose of the compilation and printing of the Lists, but not for registration. The Government is really in a rather awkward position with regard to the Local Government Bill, and nothing can be done about it; but to claim that this Resolution can have an easy passage is not what an ordinary Parliamentarian would expect. I do not think that anyone would put the responsibility on the shoulders of the Government, but there is no excuse no christain excuse,—why you should deny a person who has attained the age of 21 years, the right to vote, particularly one who wants to use the vote. You may send a person to prison; you can correct the laws of the State; but do not deny him the right to vote.

I know that the Hon. Minister in time will read these things. It is alright for him to sneer now, but people have striven for this right; and today, with Adult Suffrage, and for a series of uncouth reasons, you find that thousands of people in the community are unable to exercise the right to vote. I do not know what hon. members are thinking or are willing to do about this matter, but it is rather awkward that in the development and growth of the community, such should be the case. It is the duty of Parliament, and of the Government to see that this matter is carried out; if for one reason or another the organisation has failed, human rights have been disturbed; primaevial man was willing to develop a society which we want to keep and preserve; and if it founders on the recklessness of this organisation, it is time for us to be aware of the ugly things which are likely to grow in our midst and deprive us of our rights.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I quite agree with the hon. junior member for St. George. If the Government persists in putting these underhead old men in positions of responsibility, then these things will always occur. This is a negation of Adult Suffrage if it means that thousands of people will be denied, through the technicality of any Act, the opportunity of being able to exercise their right to vote. If you are not aware of the serious conditions which exist in your community, I say that there are lots of agricultural labourers who cannot read and write, but they have the right to vote. As a politician, I cannot accept the responsibility; I cannot accept that it is my job to go around in any villages and tell the people these things. We voted money for the publicity of these things; but if the people who are doing the job are not enthusiastic about it, somebody must say so. If you put people to do this job, people who,

as soon as they get 3c. or 6d. and the job is done, well they can say: "I went there and you were not at home."

If you have somebody who is enthusiastic about the aspirations of our people, then he will see that people are registered. We cannot leave this job to old dunderhead people who live in the past generation and who do not realise what this generation means. You will find that there are a number of people whom you are encouraging to take active steps in these matters, but they cannot exercise their right to vote. I believe in the system which existed before. I do not mind what takes place in England; as long as you give enough time for registration, a man should have the right to register and exercise his right to vote at any time.

3.55 p.m.

I do not believe in this system which you have of the declaring a time for the closing of the Electoral List. If there is a bye-election tomorrow, I feel every citizen of this community who has reached the age should be able to take part. You should be able to register at anytime you like. Why is it that Government is spending this lot of money to prepare this register, and then in another five years it will have to spend another lot to prepare one? That is wasting money. There is no reason why a person should have to be re-registered. It is my opinion that if you voted at the last election, you should be able to vote at the coming election. Do you mean to say that if you happened not to be at home when the registering officer came around, you will not be entitled to vote at the next elections? It is my opinion that if your name was on the old register it should remain on the register of voters until you die.

I am sure that there are going to be lots of people who voted at the last election and who are alive today who will not be able to vote at the next elections. I am satisfied in my mind that you have given a job to somebody who is not as enthusiastic as he should be, and as a result you are going to lose a lot by it. Let me say that this right to vote has been given to the people by sweat and toil, and a lot of blood has been spilt for the people to be able to vote. I am not for one moment saying that there was not publicity given to this matter, but do not let us argue that sufficient publicity was given. A blind man on a trotting horse can see that. I do feel that this coming election is going to be postponed on matters of this kind. I say that because I have enough administrative commonsense to know that if this is the month of June and all these things have to be done that you will have to work like Hercules to get elections held in December. I am not one of those who want a postponement in order to warm a seat in here longer, but from a practical point of view all these things cannot be done by December. This Order which extends the date for publication of this List gives rise to the point which I have just raised.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can as well look into the question that it is necessary to have a supplementary List to the Register if the Government is satisfied that there are too many people who are not registered. You had 90,000 registered on the last occasion. Look at the growth of population and see what it is today. Does your register today truly represent the number of people who should vote under Adult Suffrage? I think it would be better for you to postpone the elections so as to allow the majority of people to exercise their right to vote than to say you cannot postpone it any longer to please the opponents of the "Maude" Bill. Who are the opponents of the

"Maude" Bill? Do you mean the hon. junior member for St. Andrew and the hon. junior member for Christ Church? Certainly they cannot be opponents. They have to swim with the tide. You should not look for the opponents of the "Maude" Bill now. That time is past. In my opinion, the "Maude" Bill is a small fry with the General Elections. Voting for the General Elections is bigger and more important than the coming into operation of the "Maude" Bill. The important question which should confront your mind is: Should a large number of people be deprived of voting on account of this technicality? I feel that every opportunity should be given to the people to register now. There should be no question which should deny them of the opportunity and that is why I agree with the remarks of the hon. junior member for St. George.

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

STATEMENT Re THE ADVOCATE'S STRIKE

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, before the next Order is begun, I would like to make a statement in connection with the Strike which recently took place with the workers of the *Advocate* Printery. As hon. members are aware, when the stage was reached that there was an embargo on the handling of goods in the Harbour and it seemed as if the normal functioning of the exportation and importation of goods would be held up, the Government had to intervene and I am glad to be able to say that as a result of the Government's intervention a settlement has been reached.

I should like to read a statement which has been carefully prepared on the part of the Government. It reads as follows:—

I am glad to be able to announce that an amicable settlement of the recent dispute has been reached, through the good offices of the Government, between the *Advocate* Company Ltd., and the Barbados Workers' Union.

As the precise wording of the agreement embodying the settlement has been the subject of considerable discussion, I think it best to quote the first sentence of the agreement *verbatim*.

"The Company will in December, 1956, pay to every worker in its employment on 28th May 1956 the customary bonus and an additional bonus the whole of which will be two weeks and eight days wages at consolidated rates and which will be equal to four weeks wages at present basic rates exclusive of Cost of Living allowances".

The Government is assured that, in the effect of what I have quoted, every worker eligible for the full bonus payment will, in December next, receive a payment which, however else it is or might be computed, will in fact be equivalent to four weeks basic wages, exclusive of cost of living allowance, at the rates hitherto in force.

Workers who are dismissed for good cause will, of course, not receive the bonus, which may also be forfeited or reduced for misconduct, the rules relating to which will be defined by the joint Works Council.

These arrangements relate to 1956 only; it has been agreed that they are not to constitute a precedent, nor to prejudice any future negotiations between the parties.

No further wage negotiations are to commence between the parties before the 3rd March, 1957.

I am sure that hon. members will join with me in feeling that it is a very good thing for the Work-

ers' Union, the *Advocate* and other employers and the Island generally that this settlement has been made.

4.05 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

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

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

Pre-Federal Headquarters

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution for the sum of \$9,000. The Addendum is pretty full and hon. members will see from it all that it is necessary to say as to why it should be voted. The standing Federation Committee has agreed that until the site for the Federal Capital has been agreed upon, key officers will be appointed who will come to Barbados shortly. It is proposed that the first key person to be appointed will be the Chief Justice of the Caribbean Federation. Some of the administrative staff will of course have to be appointed early—the Chief Secretary and his staff and so on—and therefore, it has become necessary to find office accommodation available as pre-Federal temporary headquarters; and naturally the Government of Barbados is very anxious to do everything possible to provide such accommodation as may be necessary. The Government has surveyed possible buildings that might accommodate these officers and staff, and pre-federal staff coming to Barbados. It is near completion—I am afraid I must apologise for forgetting no christian excuse—why you should deny a person has given me a date—in about six weeks or so, and at any rate in very good time for the officials who will be coming here. In the early stages it is expected that accommodation for about a minimum of about 36 persons will be necessary, and we can house them in these new buildings; but naturally certain adaptations have to be made and one of the chief items and the most expensive as hon. members will see is the carparks, and out-buildings for housing cars for the staff. It is thought that \$6,000 will be necessary to provide that; we have to surface the drive-in at a cost of \$2,000, and we have to install telephones and light. Those provisions will add up to another \$1,000 and therefore, we are asking the Committee to vote the sum of \$9,000. I do not think there is anything I can add, but if any hon. member feels there is something he would like to ask I will answer.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I agree with this in its entirety but there is only one thing I want to ask and that is, where are you going to put the children? The children are now in the present building next to the Government Headquarters and I understand that building is also to be used in conjunction with the Federal set-up. If that is to be so, is Government has in view clearing that for such a purpose, have they made arrangements for these children to be accommodated somewhere near the present site? That is the only question; and if they are going to leave them where they are, all well and

good, but if what I have said has any truth in it, they had plans for them?

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I do not think if the Government is getting its wedge in for the Federal Capital by this, that I should have heard in a *sotto voce* remark by the Minister of Social Services that they should remain where they are now. That is not the kind of remark we should hear now that they are going to remain where they are now—because \$143,000 was voted to build the new school for them, and it would be like the master and servant attitude to leave them where they are now. But let us examine where the Bay Street School is now as compared with what it was originally before Government Buildings were put up there near the same school, because it does not provide the physical facilities and accommodation for a boys' school. You find some of the playing field has been restricted; there is not the amount of space; and moreover, that is an old school of old architecture; and the mere fact that the population in growing in this school was the reason why you wanted to build an alternative school at the Bay. If you are going to do that—and I am not dealing with old “dunder heads” who will be out of the House of Assembly, because the time is coming when people in here who represent the people falsely will be swept out because their thinking does not suit modern times these people are wasting time coming and sitting here from Tuesday to Tuesday and drawing \$160 a month and getting a lift back home. This is not the place for them. You have to think in terms of the people you represent.

I agree that you have to make alternative accommodation, but I want to put this to the Premier: this is going to be an arrangement for perhaps five years. You know the building for the new Federal Capital cannot be built under two years with what has been put down in the Federation, and the decision has not yet been made; and if the Federal Capital is not in Barbados, the interim Government would have to remain in Barbados for some time, and I am sure you will be suggesting that you postpone the direction of proper accommodation for the Bay Street Boys' School for five years. I will go further and this is the suggestion I am prepared to offer as to what should be done now. If the Government has specific plans to utilise the present Bay Street School for some other things, they should do so because Government should make plans to clear more of those houses out there even from the point of view of making the site clear around the whole area, because when you go to the Government Buildings you can look right out into somebody's back yard and see articles of clothing which they have to hang out and that sort of thing. You want better space around the Government Buildings where you do not have to pry into people's business accidentally, and I feel that if Government cannot make plans for it now, they should in the very near future say what are the alternative arrangements for the Bay Street Boys' School; if you say the new school is going to be used or make some temporary arrangements at the old school to make it more comfortable. I have been at the Government Buildings a couple of days more recently and I saw many of these children out there on the grounds, and although it is a good thing to see you can teach children outdoors in the tropics, I think the building should be so well constructed that you can accommodate them. I do feel that with this interim arrangement, which I feel must last for almost three years, some better provision should be made for the children, because the old Bay Street Boys' School would have to be

regarded as a make shift and no right thinking person would like to see that makeshift arrangement continued. The School in that area, bearing in mind what is going to take place, would be inadequate for its purposes in the next three years; and if you want to give elementary schools any accommodation, at least you would have to give some better arrangement to the Bay Street Boys' School even if you have to spend another \$15,000 on the school so that it can be so constructed into your temporary Headquarters that you can use it for Government Offices. But I do not like the idea of the Minister saying that the boys could remain where they are now.
4.15 p.m.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Lest any other hon. member makes the same mistake as the hon. member has just made, I should like to speak at this stage. The Bay Street Boys' School would not have been removed at all if the Ministerial Buildings had not been put there, and it was thought that some Government Department could be placed in that building so as to be near the Ministerial Buildings. The new school at the Bay Estate is being built with the object of accommodating those boys if we move them out now. The Hon. Minister of Social Services was perfectly right in his *sotto voce* remark which was quoted by the hon. member. The boys are not being removed primarily because they are overcrowded, it is because we feel that that building, being so close to the Ministerial Buildings, should be used for Government purposes.

As regards the length of time, there are these things: we need accommodation for the Federal people who may go somewhere else if the Federal Capital is not placed here. The Federal Capital may be here, either permanently or temporarily; if it is going to be here permanently, surely the hon. member must realise that the first lot of building which you will start work on is for the accommodation of your staff. Therefore, the period of five years is out of the question. We hope that the decision will be made for the Federal Capital to be placed here in Barbados, and if that is so, you will start erecting the Administrative Buildings. I should imagine that these buildings would be one of the first lot of buildings to be erected, and those boys who are to go to the new school at the Bay will be moved out. There is no school at the Bay will be moved out. There is no question of depriving people of a more commodious building; that will not arise over a long period of years.

I have just got up to assure the hon. member and other subsequent speakers that these boys are not in need of a building; it is purely because we feel that the Education Department should be brought closer to other Government Offices, and we could use the Bay Street Boys' School for this purpose, that this is being done. We did not want to remove the boys too far away from where they are at present, and we thought therefore that the old Wanderers' ground would be an excellent site for this school. I do assure the hon. member that we have a Pre-Federal Commission which has been sitting and the hon. junior member for Christ Church will know that all these things are being carefully considered. I again assure hon. members that everything we can do with the minimum of inconvenience to ourselves is worth while doing, if as a result, we will get the Federal Capital here.

Mr. ALLDER: I presume that Barbadians can breathe a sigh of relief that the Federation Committee in their kindness have at least considered that we

have the potential possibilities for housing the Pre-Federal staff, but there is still something which is worrying my mind. I do not mind spending this money, I will spend more than this amount for this purpose; but there is an argument which has been produced by the previous speakers. We can very well remember that it was proposed to abolish the present Bay Street Boys' School; when the Resolution was brought down here at that time, it was suggested that that building be demolished, and hon. members on this side of the House protested against that suggestion.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: On a point of Order. Never in our wildest dreams did it cross the minds of any hon. members on this side of the House that that building should be demolished. You might change its appearance, but nobody suggested that it should be destroyed.

Mr. ALLDER: The proposal to demolish the building was not in the Resolution when we were handling it, but an Hon. Minister, I think it was the Hon. Minister of Communications, suggested that building would be demolished.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of Order. The hon. member must have been dreaming when I spoke on that Resolution. I remember clearly what I said. I told the Committee at that time that we were prepared to renovate and alter the old Bay Street Boys' School for the purpose of housing the Education Department; that is what I said.

Mr. ALLDER: I am sure that if the hon. member were to look back at the debates, he will see that I was one of those hon. members who suggested that it would be *infra dig* to demolish an honourable building such as that. The original proposal was to house the Education Department in that building, and arguments were very forcibly brought forward that the new Bay Street Boys' School, which is now being built at the Bay Estate, was a No. 1 priority. I think the existing school was being so overcrowded that although the Hospital project was to be carried out and the erection of the Ministerial Buildings had already been undertaken, the Government could not avoid spending the money to remove the Bay Street Boys' School to the proposed new site.

I am suggesting that there could have been an alternative in this matter; I feel that we should not do anything to obstruct the even flow of the education of the youths of this Colony. My alternative suggestion would be that the present Government Buildings should be used for the accommodation of these Pre-Federal Officers because we were very elated when the Hon. Premier suggested to us that he had a vision which caused him to embark on the construction of the present Ministerial Buildings because there would be the possibility of using them as a Pre-Federal site of offices in case the Federation Committee considered that Barbados was suitable for the purpose.

4.25 p.m.

That hint was given by the Hon. Premier, and as a result we excused the expenses then for such a palatial building; therefore, I would have preferred to see the Federation utilising it. He said that about 36 officers are to be housed there and if you were to house half of the staff of Government at the present Ministerial Buildings elsewhere, you would be able to house the pre-federal staff there and therefore allow the new school to be used by the children as was formerly intended. It will be easy to do so. In my opinion, it does not appear as if there was a hitch in the agreement as regards the finding of accommodation for the 36 officers who are to

do the pre-federal business in this colony. I am saying that you should again remove some of those officers who were recently removed from the Public Buildings even if you have to bring them back to where they were, because some of the offices in the Buildings from which they were removed are not in use yet. You can put the remainder in the present Bay Street Boys' School and allow the Prefederal Officers, when they come to go in the palatial building so that they may feel good. They will be situated right to the front and they will feel more happy than when you take them to the new Bay Street Boys' School which is surrounded by a lot of small houses and other residences above which are very close and which must block the air from that building. We want to make those officers who are coming here to feel as happy as they can. I do not agree with this arrangement.

I will appeal to the Government while we may pass the Resolution before us to give us the guarantee that whatever you do (1) that as regards the new Bay Street School as soon as it is completed the children will be allowed to go into it; and (2) that the Pre-federal Officers who are coming here will be allowed to use part of the Ministerial Building. That should be so even if the Ministers have to remove themselves to the old Bay Street School temporarily. I do not think it will be very embarrassing to them. Let me repeat that anything you can do to attract the Federal Capital being put here, you should do.

It is a fact that the new Bay Street Boys' School is a nice bit of construction and architecture. I have seen it for myself and I know that the children will feel very happy in it, yet, I do not feel its environment is very suitable for those overseas personnel of the Pre-federal staff. I hope that the Government will give some consideration to this statement which I have made.

It is also a fact that that district is being built up more and more, and its population is increasing by the thousands because new homes are being sited there almost daily, and people are removed from various parts of St. Michael and carried there. Because of that, the present old Bay Street Boys School cannot accommodate all the boys that are in that district. It is a fact that dozens of them have to leave that district and go to school elsewhere. Some of them go to St. Giles School, some to Richmond and some to St. Mary's. Again I will repeat that I feel the present arrangement is wrong.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I took objection also to this arrangement when I first read the Addendum to the Resolution. Knowing full well the liaison which this building will cause, yet when I read this Resolution (I am not in the inner circles of Government) it seemed to me some extraordinary reason that the new Bay Street Boys' School could not be used for the purpose it was intended so that the money which we are now voting would be able to be devoted to reconditioning the old Bay Street Boys' School which will have to be done when it is turned into a building for the Education Department, and in the interim period it could be used for offices for the various Pre-federal Officers. That is the thought which occurred to me. I do not know enough of the reasons for the present arrangement, therefore it is very hard for me to decide on it; I can only give the House my impressions on the matter when I first saw the Resolution.

There is another feature to this Resolution which worries me and it is what I surmised when I made a few remarks on the principle of Federation. We are always going to be called on for Resolutions for this, that and the other to support this new organisation. I opined then where is that money to come from? It is going to come from our own local

people and prevent them from getting the comforts which they should have. We are told today that we are economising on money for the repairing of roads. We are told that we cannot do so-and-so for the same reason. We are told that we cannot do an extra-extension to the water service and that Department has been asked to economise. We realise why that is so. My words are coming true. We are going to carry on this large organisation at the expense of our local improvements.

I feel myself, Sir that that is a very retrograde step. We will never be able to carry on this rate of improvement that has been apparent during the last ten years, because we would not have the money—we have spent it for other purposes. These are my impressions which I put to the House to see what they are worth. As I said I was not lucky enough to hear first hand information, but sometimes I can see outside the walls what is happening inside them.

4.35 p.m.

Mr. J. C. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I really would like to hear the Government's reaction to the beautiful suggestion made by the hon. member for St. John that those beautiful buildings up there will be placed at the disposal of those three Federal Commissioners etc., occupy that beautiful building; that when in any private capacity we have visitors from outside you give them the best bedrooms and you put the best service at their disposal. I am saying that you should give them the best. I am not listening to my colleague now, because he can out-talk me. However, every right thinking man and woman in this island would like to hear in the near future that Barbados has been blessed with the Federal Capital, and everything that can be done to bring that about should be done and I think this is one. I do not know if all the offices up there are occupied but the Hon. Ministers should see that these pre-Federal Commissioners etc., occupy that beautiful building, if there is any need to make changes they should bring their offices back down here. I think he is big enough to command that to be done and let the Chief Justice and Prime Minister etc., occupy that building until we are assured that we are going to get the capital here. One hon. member said it is going to be about five or six years, but if we are going to have Federation next year (because the Commissioners are coming to tell us who is going to be the lucky fellow and they have got to report before the end of the year,) therefore, we will know by the end of the year where and who will get the capital, and we can start making plans to house them permanently. So I hope the Government Bench will view the suggestion coming from the hon. senior member for St. John who although he might not be as well educated as the Hon. Ministers might yet be able to give some good ideas. I hope you will work on that.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I may assure the hon. member who has just sat that if it were a question of time during which the temporary or permanent capital will come we have already agreed to offer our building. The hon. senior member for St. George will be pleased to hear that I am content to leave my bath behind and come back down here, but that is not the point. They will then need room for 200 odd people but now they are going to need room for 50 at the most with 36 as a minimum and that is why we decided on the Bay Street School, so as soon as they decided that the Federal Capital is coming to Barbados other temporary or permanent arrangements will be made. Obviously, we will be so glad and so delighted to make everything go smoothly, that Government would move back to their old offices cheerfully, so hon. members have no need to worry about that. This is only for the pre-

Federal staff who has to put in a certain amount of work before 1958 when it will be known whether the capital will be in Barbados or not, but further arrangements will have to be made when Federation becomes a reality.

Mr. F. E. MILLER: Mr. Chairman I had no intention of saying anything on the matter because the Premier knows that I am among members who are anxious to make some form or type of sacrifice for the capital, but out of things he said here about the Bay Street Boys' School, the question is not one of having so many dollars or extra dollars in the kitty to build a school or Playing Field; but this new School was built for Bay Street, but now that such a school is almost ready I am moved somewhat by what he said. He is aware that it will take six years before the structure for the new capital is ready, and I have no doubt it will come to Barbados. There is that feeling among the majority of rational human beings in this community generally. I repeat I have no doubt that the Capital will come to Barbados, but at the moment there are twenty-three persons who would require ten to twelve rooms or offices as you choose to call them, and I am wondering if he should deny the importance of the school and not do something about it. If the Minister is now asking for \$9,000 to embellish the existence of the newly constructed school car ports and driveways, ask for \$20,000 or \$40,000. I am wondering if it is possible for him to answer a simple question. Is there any immediate site or anything like a building that can be purchased and converted for use or would it be convenient to reconvert the existing Bay Street Boys' School? I do not like the idea and it strikes me now as if the children of the Bay Street School will have to continue in the condition there if possible, for another six years. It would be a tremendous gesture not only to the West Indies but to the world generally if the Ministers came back to their old offices or to some other place and give room to the pre-Federal staff. It would be a tremendous gesture to those interested in the capital, and I believe, Sir, that if the sacrifice is made by the Ministers, particularly the Premier, we can still find a means of creating for him a new bath. I am wondering if he would be willing to consider such a possibility. He is always big hearted and anxious to give things to the community and the people and I believe if he is willing at this stage he could find somewhere else and ask for ten times the amount of money.

Mr. ALLDER: The Hon. Premier is like a cow that gives a good pail of milk and carelessly allows the tail to wag and let a bit of mud go into the milk and spoil it. The Hon. Premier must realise at times that the Government is not possessed of all the knowledge and that sometimes a good suggestion can come from quarters least expected; and however big, broad and capable the Government is, it should be able to change the programme for the better of the community in general. I would not go so far as to suggest to the Ministers to come out if they feel that would be an embarrassment but on the other hand I feel it is expected that a sacrifice can be made by all and sundry. If I had to give up my bed so as to get the capital here, I would do so. If the Ministers really want to give proper accommodation to these officials who are coming here, I do not know for how long, the least they could do for them is to have them up there. I am not suggesting they should come out if they can accommodate them along with themselves; but there are other offices which are of as great importance [A VOICE: Mention one.] All of the offices. There is nothing wrong if they have to be brought back down here and there is nothing

wrong if they were to be transferred to the existing Bay Street Boys' School.
4.45 p.m.

All of us would know that this is only temporary accommodation. What is more is this: you are going to take these children and house them at the Bay Estate where there is a lot of noise and possible intrusion from the children in the area. [Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The unwashed]. The hon. member would like to get me down there, but I am not going down there. [Laughter]. What I am suggesting is that there are many other buildings which could be put into use so as to afford these Officials to be accommodated in the Ministerial Buildings. I do think that the only place in Barbados short of Government House in which these Officials should be housed is the Government Buildings. These Buildings are in a vicinity which gives a view of the harbour and on a highway which leads to several Hotels; this vicinity is airy and clean, and it has everything to make these Officials give of their best. Some hon. members have suggested that if you house these Officials so accommodatingly, you would cause them not to want to leave here.

Now that the hon. member has the opportunity of creating a decent and favourable impression, he does not want to come down one peg; he allows some petty statement to reduce the good of what he intends. I am going to suggest some other places where Government Offices could be accommodated as well. You have the Drill Hall up there. [Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: You cannot commandeer that]. In an emergency, any building can be commandeered. You should attempt to treat the placing of the Federal Capital of the West Indies as seriously as you would consider an emergency. You should remove some of your offices to the Drill Hall; you could ask the Education Department to go back to the Garrison and ask somebody else to occupy the quarters which they now occupy. You have Combermere School; that is an extreme case, but it is a possibility. My suggestion is that with the present Bay Street Boys' School where it is, you should allow the children to remain there and expedite the construction of the new building at the Bay Estate; as soon as that is finished—it will only take a couple of weeks before it is completed; I went there today to see the position for myself—these children will be able to go into their new school. Hundreds of boys will be able to go to the school which is next door to where they live, and that will cut down the cost of their parents in having to pay to transport them to St. Mary's, Westbury, My Lord's Hill and elsewhere. I am told that some of them go as far as St. Barnabas. Why do you put them to that inconvenience when there is an expensive school being built in their area? Even Queen's Park could be utilised; I do not mean that you should put the Officers from Overseas there, but if you pretend that you cannot find alternative accommodation for Government Officers, I can point out some alternative accommodation. The same accommodation which they all enjoyed in the past, they can continue to enjoy.

There is nothing more I can do than to pass on the suggestions, however humble they may be, to the Government; it is their business. I repeat: I have a deep interest in getting that Federal Capital here, and I would impress upon the Government the necessity of trying out my suggestion. Wherever you put Government Offices, allow these Officials from abroad to go to the Ministerial Buildings; put these Officials in these buildings and get them to develop a friendly spirit towards Barbados.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I should like to correct

the Hon. Premier about the Bay Street School, when he was referring to my speech. The Bay Street School was not merely removed because the Ministerial Buildings had to be erected; in a long-term programme, Bay Street Boys' School was one of the schools selected for renovation.

I would hate to make a speech like the one which you, Mr. Chairman, has just heard. The hon. member thinks that we are dealing with little children in the Caribbean so that you can bribe these people by compelling the Ministers to go out of these buildings and putting these Officials there. The hon. member says you should put them to sleep in your bed and so create a favourable atmosphere for the Federal Capital. I should like to say that the position is just the opposite; that will cause the other Caribbean Colonies to feel that you want to bribe people into putting the Federal Capital here and that will make them say "No". It is a question of the members of the Standing Federation Committee who have to make a decision as to the three places which will be recommended by the Commission which is coming down. I should like to say that, having regard to a speech coming especially from one who has opposed Federation, if I were a member of any territory, and I read the speech of any member who opposed Federation, who says that the only thing which Barbados has to gain from Federation is the Federal Capital—I say that this speech would make me and other people vote against Barbados being the site of the Federal Capital, because it shows that he has no use for Federation other than Barbados should be the site of the Federal Capital. The hon. member suggested that the Ministers should come out of the Ministerial Buildings, and allow these Officials to use them, and that is the atmosphere which is creating for Barbados as the Federal Capital.

4.45 p.m.

Now, imagine in 1956 when we are reaching nationhood, one of the members within this whole ambit of Federation is making a speech which you should not expect from a member of the Legislature but what one would make who is outside of the Legislature. The type of speech he has made will lead people to understand that all we want out of Federation is the best for Barbados, and that cannot be so unless Barbados is made the Federal Capital; therefore he is asking the Ministers to remove out of the Ministerial Buildings so that the Pre-federal Officers can go in there. The Hon. Premier is only getting a rebound from the type of speech he made in this House previously on this matter. In that speech he gave too much of the impression that the whole life of Barbados is at stake in the siting of the Federal Capital. That is the reason why you get this type of speech from the hon. senior member for St. John. If we join Federation, we should do so because we can see in it something in the future for the British Caribbean. If we get the Federal Capital in Barbados, that will be O.K., it has to be placed somewhere, but do not let us overplay our hands, except to some aspects of Barbadian social life. As a matter of fact, some of them feel that if the Federal Capital is sited here it would help to break down that part of our social life which they do not like.

I am sure that what would annoy them would be to hear this sort of speech by the hon. senior member for St. John which amounts to this: that you must bribe somebody. He is saying that you must put these Pre-federal Officers in Government House or next to Government House in order to get the Federal Capital here. What I do say is that wherever you put these temporary offices for the Pre-Federal

Officers is a matter of opinion. I am not for one moment saying that the Government does not have their reasons for putting them at the new Bay Street Boys' School but I am saying, do not let us lose sight of the fact that this interim period may be longer than we think. I do not subscribe to the views that the old Bay Street School can be left much longer in the state it is. I am of the opinion that the present Bay Street Boys' School should be renovated as quickly as possible and I am sorry that the pupils of that School are not going into the new School as soon as it is finished. If the boys are allowed to vacate the old School and go into the new school as soon as possible, it will give the Government the opportunity of renovating the old School into offices to compare with the new Government offices in the Ministerial Buildings opposite, and when you do that you will have additional space. May be, the Pre-federal officers could be accommodated there, I do not know if there is alternative space which they can use. I well remember on one occasion the Hon. Premier hinted that the present Ministerial Buildings will be put at the disposal of the Federal Government. I believe it is because he made that offer that the hon. senior member for St. John was prompted to make the speech he made just now. Of course the Hon. Premier said so before that building was occupied by the Government. However, the Hon. Premier said so and it has rebounded. You can very well see the inconvenience you will have now that you have moved your offices out of town and taken them to the Government Headquarters and having to move them back to where they were just to accommodate the Pre-Federal Officers. It must create a sort of confusion.

I am not suggesting what offices are better than the other to use for that purpose. I may say that I do not agree that you should put these Pre-Federal people in buildings to lower their dignity. I have heard some people suggesting the use of the Drill Hall for the purpose. It is true to say that the atmosphere of the Drill Hall when it is used for the purpose of a dance makes you feel supple. However, you must bear in mind that the Barbados Regiment is functioning; you still have the Army there, therefore, it will be not much good to reconstruct the buildings around the Drill Hall into offices. As a matter of fact, there are Government offices at the Garrison, but they are not convenient.

I doubt very much if there is any more accommodation within the Ministerial Building. The building is of very good architecture and very nice to look at, but it does not have very big offices. It has one long string of offices but when you take the cubic space of each of them you will find that they are not of that space as they appear to be. The building is set off with a very large verandah and a lot of back space but when you go into any of the offices, do not think that they carry any surplus space. Many of those offices do not carry even the sort of accommodation which offices like those should carry. I have passed through the building and heard conversations which were taking place in the offices.

Mr. Chairman. I rose because I did not want hon. members to think that the Bay Street Boys' School was going to be one of perpetuity. It was one of the schools which was set down for renovation, but it happened that this system of building the Ministerial Building was pushed on us as one of priority because of Federation. I do not subscribe to the idea that now that you have the Ministers in that building that you should push them out of it in order to create a favourable impression. It must be borne in mind that those officers who are coming here have nothing to do with who should vote for your

having the Federal Capital here. It has been agreed already that Barbados will have to accommodate them and all we have to do is to give them suitable accommodation. Mr. Chairman, the time has come when we should stop this talk which connotes bribery for the Federal Capital. I do not see the reason why you actually have to bribe people in order that the Federal Capital should be put here. All this talk cheapens us.

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

On motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. H. G. H. CUMMINS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee.

On separate motions of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS in each case, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The question was put and agreed to, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
5.20 p.m.

On resumption.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT ORDER NO. 15

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to take Order No. 5 as the next Order of the Day. *Leave was granted the Hon. Minister.*

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. G. H. ADAMS: to move the passing of the following Resolution: A Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 15 Order 1956."

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: This is a Resolution for the House to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 15 Order, 1956," made in accordance with Section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949. It is, as honourable members will see in the Addendum to the Resolution, intended by this Order to make provision for the creation of certain posts at the Statistical Service which is being set up with the aid of a Statistical expert from the United Nations Secretariat, whose services this Government has had since November of last year. I hope honourable members have read the Addendum. It is very long and full of details as regards the work which this Statistical service will do. The main functions of the service are to make the best use of the existing statistical material in order to provide information of a comprehensive nature relating to trends in industry, trade, populations and national income. For too long we have in this Island, with some exception, because of our good fortune and because nature has been bountiful in the things she has provided us with, no swamps, no malaria, good health and the rest of it, not taken care to provide ourselves with elementary statistics of births and deaths, or the incidence of ill health of even the number of houses that are fit for human habitation and the like. I think the honourable member for St. Andrew possibly might well be pleased if I paid tribute to him by saying that for many years he pointed out that we came here with Resolutions for this, that, and the other thing without any policy. I hope it will not be quoted at Election time that he had pointed out that we did not even have a financial policy based on knowledge. Gradually,

we went on voting sums of money without the aid of a Financial Secretary to co-ordinate our spending and to advise us on financial policy. As honourable members will see this as I said is comprehensive, Sir, and it is set out in the Addendum under several Heads: Population and Social, Trade and Financial, Statistics of Industry and Labour, National Income and Expenditure and on Meteorology. The subject is of sufficient importance that I think honourable members should, and I dare suppose, have done for themselves what I propose to do now. It is, I think, Mr. Speaker, right that I should dwell for a little time on certain items that will be the work of this new Department in order that hon. members will see that the Government of Barbados as it exists now and will exist in the future will not be based on guess work in any department of our social or economic life. It might be a surprise to some hon. members to hear that although we have had records of births and deaths for several years, they are not always strictly accurate. On the last occasion that we had a census, there was a fairly substantial difference between the actual results and what we thought would be the number. Of course, there was certain extraneous matters that led us astray, for instance: during the rice rationing you could get a figure of the population of Barbados as the result of issuing of tickets, and it gave you a completely wrong idea of your population when it was discovered that John Brown would have ration tickets in High Street and the same man called Thomas Brown would have ration tickets in Roebuck Street and so on; so even the population appeared to be higher than it really was. I have already, when I first came down for a preliminary vote to establish this post, spoken to hon. members—and it is therefore not necessary to repeat—how we managed to get the Statistician, this technical assistance from the United Nations, and how fortunate we were to have Mr. Dudley Seers in this part of the world; and therefore, I shall not go into what I have said already, but this will be the first time that the House will have had before it a comprehensive statement of the work of that Department. As regards Population and Social, hon. members will see that the work will consist of tabulation of statistics of births and deaths for each month, quarter and year, so we will always be up to date in knowing what the actual numbers are; Publication of Statistics for marriages and divorces of each year; migration statistics for each month, quarter and year; estimation of population by age and sex at the middle of each year, and estimation of births, deaths, marriages and divorce rates by year. There will be what hon. members will find to be extremely useful, a tabulation relating to health, education, housing, public assistance, crime and accidents, and miscellaneous social statistics. Under Trade and Financial there will be tabulation of imports for each month, quarter and year; estimation of annual indices of price and average value for different classes of imports and exports; publication of certain tourist expenditure by month, quarter and year.

6.00p.m.

If for no other reason, I am sure that the Committee will be glad to have these statistics because much of the information sought in sundry questions will be at hand in the reference Library of the House. Hon. members will see other items set out on page 2 of the printed copy of this Resolution; they will see that the statistics of Industry and Labour are even fuller than the foregoing. In short, if hon. members will read the items carefully, they will see that there is not a single item which should naturally be cov-

ered by the Statistical Department is missing from the proposed work of this Department.

There is of course, today even by law, provision made for some of these things. As hon. members know, the Department of Science and Agriculture is empowered to call for Statistics relating to the Sugar Industry, which have to be made by the Plantations and Sugar Factories year by year; however, we will have this advantage that the Statistical Department will make publication of these figures more often than is the case today. We will have publication annually of statistics in relation to sugar, molasses and rum, and publications quarterly and annually of statistics with regard to labour. I say again that hon. members will see that there is no item which will be missing from the publication of figures which are essential for us to have, if we want to work in this way rather than bring forward *ad hoc* Legislation when something happens, and we have to deal with it.

Finally, there is the question of Meteorology. Numbers of people are even more keen, now that we have had the visitation of "Janet", about knowing the facts, and it is indeed a good thing from the point of view of forestalling possible fear which need not take place if the facts are known. It is a good thing that we will have the publication of meteorological data. I do not think that I could put forward this matter better than using the words which have been used earlier in the Addendum to this Resolution. They are as follows:—

"The main functions of this service, are to make the best use of existing statistical material in order to provide information relating to trends in industry, trade, population and national income, which would be of assistance and guidance in formulating policy."

Naturally I end by saying that if there is any more information needed by any hon. member than what is already set out in the Addendum to this Resolution, I shall be pleased to give it. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, when we first—

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will give way to me, I should like to say that I had finished speaking before I dealt with the actual staff of this Department. The proposed staff is as set out here; we have given very careful consideration to what these persons should be paid. We have in mind the fact that the Salaries Revision Commissioner is coming here but we have given very careful consideration to these salaries. It is necessary to have this Order dealt with right away, because it is a matter of urgency. I anticipate this question being asked; when the Salaries Revision Commissioner comes it may be necessary to modify these salaries somewhat, but it is thought that these figures would be proper for this necessary staff, unless there is some racial change made in the salaries of the Civil Service.

Mr. GODDARD: When we first learnt of the setting up of this Department in Barbados, we welcomed it because we realised that we were groping in the dark both from the Government's point of view of finance, and from the officers of the Customs whom we all realise give figures, whether they were accurate or not, which were so late that they were of little use to anybody. It was once remarked that the Coca-Cola Company of New York had a more complete list of trade in Barbados than the Government here had. How true that was, I do not know, but apparently, they made their own survey. That

only goes to show how inadequate and what little information we have pertaining to things of real material value. This Department, by Barbados standards, will cost a lot of money; this is another Department which is being added here, and there have been fears that we have been adding more Departments of greater expense to an already heavy administration.

My own view is that, if this Department is properly set up and administered and the figures can show a true picture of things as they are, it will be a money-saving Department. I have in mind the incident of bringing down a Factory Inspector to Barbados and attaching him to the Labour Department for a year or two only for him to tell us in the end that the incidence of factory accidents in Barbados is so small that there is nothing for the Inspector to do. A proper Department would have told us before hand that the incidence of factory accidents is so small in Barbados that we really did not need any Factory Inspector. That is only one instance that springs to my mind.

The Customs Returns are very necessary not only for local businessmen but for principals abroad who wish to know the trend of things, but because they are so late, they are hardly worthwhile; they are out of date before they are printed. I anticipate that with the machinery and the proper method used here, the figures which will be given to us will be published as quickly as possible.

6.15 p.m.

In other words, it will be made available to the public. Do not let us have a report going to the Executive Committee and it being kept up there for three months before it is sent down here. Let it be published at once and let everybody buy a copy of it.

The Addendum points to a very comprehensive list of what they are going to do in that Department and it should be interesting reading. I for one commend Government for setting this Department up. I just want to ask two questions. How soon would it be settled? Are all of these appointments to be made immediately or will they be brought into being gradually? Are the machines on order or are they here already? It will be interesting to know if the machines are already working and how adept are the people in the working of this Department.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, this is one of the new Departments in the world today if you may use that term, because the emphasis has been placed on statistical information since the last World War; and in many of what can be described as under developed territories there is such a lack of information that it is necessary to have such a Department. A few days ago I was reading a book which pointed to one fact that people did not know even the geography of Africa nor its population when you cross from one line to the other. It is a fact that you have to guess a lot of these things. We have been doing a lot of guess work on these matters and I am very glad that the Government has decided to set up this Statistical Department.

When you read the Addendum and listened to what the hon. junior member for Christ Church had to say, you will see that it is not the duty of the Statistician to formulate a policy for any Government in relating to the statistics that have been prepared. It is not even his business to interpret them for them. This Government has been tinkering at this question for a long time and I wonder if they realise that they have come face to face with the problem that they should have their own Economic Adviser to tell them how they should spend their money. When you have these statistics prepared

and you do not have people capable enough to interpret them, you are still no where. The interpretation of them is very important. You should have capable people to tell you how you should interpret them and relate them to your economy for the formulation of your policy. As a matter of fact, you cannot interpret a language unless you know the language; so you cannot put a dunderhead to tell you what you should do when he has no background knowledge.

In the Addendum to the Resolution you see that the main functions of this service are to make the best use of existing statistical material in order to provide information relating to trends in industry, trade, population and national income which would be of assistance and guidance in formulating policy. If the Government wants guidance in formulating policy they will have to go further than having this information. Now, your Statistical Department is not there to formulate your policy; it is there to help you co-ordinate your policy; therefore you must get an Economic Adviser to advise you on this information.

I am glad to see in the Addendum what is going to be done as regards (C) — Statistics of Industry and Labour. I am glad to see that among the things to be done there is going to be publication quarterly and annually of returns of employment and wages. I hope when this publication is made we will see the extent of employment in certain sections; that is to say, I hope there will be no more glib talk of your employing 25,000 people in the sugar industry. You should know how many people are really employed in the sugar industry from the 1st January to the 31st December. You should know the extent of how the wage level runs so that you can say the working population in Barbados in the sugar industry is so many, and so-and-so are the average wages which accrue to the people in the industry. It should not be as it is today when you have the opponents of the people in the industry giving you this information. They bring back some information from two or three plantations and give you; and you put that down and say from that information that the people in the industry work three days per week at the rate of so much per day, therefore the agricultural worker works for X dollars. That information may give a false idea of your wage level.

I am glad to say that in my own job a Department like this is going to be helpful to me. The information which it is tabulating is something which the population should have and now the people are paying for it, it is something that is worthy for them to receive.

The Hon. Minister of Agriculture is not in his place at the moment but while I am on this matter, I want to say that I hope the day is soon approaching when this Government will not have to depend on Sir Archibald Cuke to give them advice. This Government has to depend on someone who is advising private industry to give them advice as regards agriculture. I have just had the spectacle of the British Government having a Conference to talk about the quota dealing with sugar and in the Caribbean we had nobody from any of these Governments whom they could send to represent them. The two advisers whom they sent were Mr. Kirkwood and Sir Archibald Cuke. When you have Sir Archibald Cuke to represent the Government and he has to represent private interest you can see how fast we are running towards our own independence.

I do hope that now Government has its own Statistical Department, it will not have to depend on Sir Archibald Cuke's interpretation of the budget. He adds figures up and makes a percentage of them and then says that this is the amount you are spending on education, therefore we cannot afford to do

such and such a thing. Some one then comes along and say that that is statistics and Sir Archibald Cuke is an economic giant and we have this big economic statistical giant giving us this information, therefore for ten years we cannot afford to do such and such a thing. I am very glad that we are not depending on that sort of economic theory any more and that we are getting a modern Statistical Department.

I may say here now that I am very glad to see that the Government has made use of United Nations' Assistance in this matter. Surely the time has come when this Government must make greater use of international services and agencies. It is cause for regret that this Government allowed the Legislature to frighten them away from sending a delegation to I.L.O. The one Government which has refused help from this organisation is the Barbados Government. I do not know if the Minister was not available or if he felt it would be too much money for him to go to both places, he having to go somewhere else. I am saying that there is no point in our keeping away from these big international organisations. There are some people who think that Broad Street is the World and that the World circles around Broad Street, therefore, so long as you circle in Broad Street you do not need to go outside. In the West Indies we have not yet reached the stage when we can produce exports such as those in large countries because we are still a very young and growing territory. This statistical service is something which has developed out of countries that have been operating for sometime. The creation of this Department has my whole hearted support. I do hope Government will get down to the business and get the people and the machinery as soon as possible so that the people in the community will get the benefit from an expert service such as this.

6.25 p.m.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I want to give, Sir, as an illustration of the lack of statistics in guiding the politicians in his social outlook, paragraph 14 of the Memorandum to the Estimates 1956-57. It reads as follows:—

"As in the previous year the total exports in 1955 were valued at approximately forty million dollars, while the value of imports was fifty three million dollars (as compared with forty-eight and a half million dollars in 1954). The rise in the total value of imports has therefore continued, indicating an upward trend not influenced by war or threat of war as existed in 1951 and 1952 when the value of imports rose from thirty-nine million to over fifty million dollars."

Now, this is the important sentence.

"Figures so far available show that the increase is attributable to the importation in 1955 of greater quantities of consumer goods."

Now, what I wanted to know when I read this was which set of consumer goods were meant. There are of two sorts, luxury goods and goods consumed by the average people, by the working classes. Now, what class of consumer goods that were on the big increase this paragraph does not state, but with a statistical service you will certainly have known whether the greater increase was in things like wines, jewellery, family cars, perfumes, special tourist goods etc. These are consumer goods too. Were they increased along that line? If it were, well then, there was no rise in the standard of living of the working classes. But if along these lines it would be something definite: a greater number of shoes, bicycles, milk, lumber for repairing chattel houses, food that we know people consume daily, cotton goods, artisans tools: in the Transport service, buses and pickups for the convenience of people. Were there things

like livestock on the increase? If the increase were along these lines, then the standard of the people would be an eloquent testimony; it would tell us that the standard was gradually and substantially rising; but merely to state there was an increase in consumer goods does not tell the politician interested in social affairs much. So I trust in future when a memorandum on the Estimates is published and a sentence like that is submitted, we will be able to look back to some statistical report and come to the conclusion that the increase in consumer goods was in goods consumed by the people and not by the wealthy.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, Your Honour will probably recall that when some months ago we first heard of this matter in this Chamber, the hon. senior member for St. George and I were at that time very critical of what was proposed then. Not that in any way we opposed the idea of there being a Statistical Officer attached to this Government, but you will recall, Sir, that the burden of all criticisms was that we thought that Government had better get down to doing the whole thing. Of course, so far as I recall the Government does not object to many of the things we then suggested, but it was pointed out to us that it was better to have the gentleman who was promised to us from abroad to come and to let him advise us on what was to be done. Well, he has come, and has started to work; and it appears that what we have before us today is a consequence of his investigations and the advice which he has given Government; and it appears also that we are to have an entirely new and distinct Government Department set up. I wish to say here now that I am in entire agreement with the terms of this Resolution which we are asked to approve in so far as they go. I have one or two criticisms to make which do not at all detract from the principle of the things we are discussing, but which I think deal with matters which ought to be given some consideration.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I was rather interested to hear the Premier say in his speech that the salary scales and the figures mentioned here would in no way be permanent, but it was possible when salaries were revised generally that some modification would undoubtedly be made. That is a good assurance to have; but I think that we should go a little further than that. I notice, in comparison, Mr. Speaker, with the salaries of some of the officers employed with this Government, the Government Statistician will be paid a rather low salary. Again, I have in mind that it can be increased: but I am wondering what first prompted Government that their chief Statistician should be paid \$6,240 when in their and our opinion his job is no less important than that of the Director of Education whom we pay \$6,960, or indeed the Director of Medical Services or of Agriculture whom we pay \$8,160; and I think that it ought to be clearly understood by hon. members that this Department will in time become the lodge of all other Government Departments because there is scarcely one of them which will not rely on it for information almost from day to day. It will provide to a certain extent the sinews of Government. It will be working on a 24 hour a day basis, no rest period, because every Government Department will rely on it; and it is to be remembered Mr. Speaker, that the people who work in the Statistical Department are almost entirely people of skill, not only from the point of view of training, but there are certain jobs, certain kinds of work involved which require a certain amount of skill, and I think we ought to start off from the beginning by placing it on a level with those older established Government Departments

whose work is recognised and whose officers are paid to the best of our ability as we now pay them.
6.35 p.m.

I therefore think that the decision should be made, even before any question of salary revision arises, to revise the Government Statistician to a position of equality with the Director of Medical Services or at least with that of the Director of Education, because of the importance of his work. There is no doubt at all about that, and I think the sooner we agree to that, the better it will be.

There is another and more important aspect of the work of this Department which hon. members will realise later, and it may have escaped the attention of some hon. members at the moment. It is this: since this Department will deal almost exclusively, should we say, in gathering information and arranging and classifying it, it is much dependent in the first instance on the work of a body of people who will understand not only how to answer questions, but how to ask them. For instance, no survey of major importance which has to be undertaken will be successful if the persons conducting it do not understand the sort of questions which they must ask and the people of whom they must ask those questions. It follows, therefore, that in addition to what appears to be the nucleus staff with which this Department will be started, it will be necessary to train some people who may be field workers and investigators, so that a constant flow of people skilled in these matters might be available to this Department from time to time.

Another point is this: when this Department is working at its fullest strength, undoubtedly, there will be a lot of information which will be made available not only to the Legislature but to the public generally. The one thing I would hate to see is this: I should hate to see that information, which is valuable, accurate and useful is given to the Government and the Legislature, but not disseminated to the public generally. The whole purpose of having this Department is that all sorts and conditions of people in this Island should be able to know with a degree of accuracy, what is actually going on in this community. The Statistical reports and surveys should not lie on shelves unused and undusted. I think, too, that in order to captivate the interest of the public in these matters, such reports as are made and drawn up from time to time should be re-digested for the benefit of the average man; they should be got up in such a way that people might be able to follow with some ease the information and the subject matter of which the information treats. It is not enough that public bodies should themselves have this information available to them, but everybody should have it, and it should be easily accessible to them if they so desire it.

The Government itself should, perhaps, in its Radio Programmes, allow members of the general public to know what is the latest report on such and such a matter, and you should be able to get it in booklet form at the smallest possible and cheapest price. That is a matter of great importance, because unless that is done, people will always be arguing in a circle about matters, and then the Government itself will be engaged in this task, because even when you give people the spoken word, it is not sufficient. Therefore, in a community which is as literate as ours, it should be possible for people to read things of importance for themselves.

There is another matter which is equally important. I am glad to see that it is one of the things which is included in the list of the regular routine work of this Statistical Department; it is the question of National Income and Expenditure. Too often

in this House and in the Other Place as well, much valuable time is lost because hon. members of both Houses of the Legislature are not in possession of certain figures and analyses which would help them in understanding Fiscal matters. The position is even more difficult for persons outside the Government, because the Ministers and the members of the Executive Committee at least have access to information, quite appropriately not bestowed to members of the public, whether in the Legislature or not; but it will help the position if, at Budget time, a Statement or a Report or whatever the form may be, of the Estimates set out in analytical form, not by any means technical, could be distributed to hon. members of both Houses of the Legislature and interested members of the public so as to give them an idea of the changes, if there are any, of the Government's financial policy from year to year. I think we have to understand that there are some matters which are above and beyond controversy and one of the immediate benefits of having a Statistical Department is that some of the things which we argue about now, in respect of economic and financial matters will not be argued about, because the figures will speak for themselves.

6.45 p.m.

The time is long passed when statistics used to be a matter of guessing. No longer is it true: and Your Honour will agree with me that statistics have now become an exact science with rules of its own and it imposes an intellectual discipline equal to that of any scientific study. It does not tend to narrow down the points of controversy because the figures speak for themselves.

I am very glad to see that at long last we are managing to do this and I do not think that one ought to withhold praise where it is due. Much as I disagree with all the aspects of public policy as is interpreted by this Government, I think they have done the very best thing in the setting up of this Department. I will like Government to know that no considerations of money ought to stand in their way of attracting the best people on the staff of this Department because it is highly skilled work; and one ought to know the vast amount of trouble we have gone through to get it passed. From the point of view of the general public this information must be disseminated, and in such a way that it is not only interesting but easily understood. Naturally, as time goes on, we shall be able to see how well this Department is working. Of course, I take it that Government has so thought of the matter that any changes and modifications in conditions and the salaries of the various officers can be made easily. My very last plea is to remind Government, if its members need reminding on this point, that this is the opportunity for them to encourage the training of our own people in these matters and to let no opportunity pass from making it possible for Barbadians, and if not Barbadians, Vincentians to be brought into this particular Department for training, because it is important that we should rely on our own trained people eventually to do this very necessary service for us.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Premier has reminded the House (I do know it myself) I have often advocated the setting up of a Department such as this. I remember I went so far as to put forward an Address on the subject of having a Statistical Service set up for the Administration so that when we pass a Resolution for X pounds, we will be able to refer to it and able to see whether we have the money or we do not have the money to get what was suggested.

At the same time I must say that I never envisaged that a Department like this could be so expensive. I do see the advantages of the various headings of information with which it will deal. There are all inter-related with the information of the Island.

I believe there are Statistical Officers in nearly all the Departments of Government Service and I am wondering whether they would be withdrawn from those Departments and placed in this new Department or whether those various Departments will continue to have such an officer attached to them to gather all this information and then hand it over to this central organisation. That is a very important matter because I know that one of our Departments—the Agricultural Department of which I happen to be Advisory Chairman—had a man there doing the statistical work, and all of a sudden he was withdrawn and the Department is now lacking of vital statistics on things of a very valuable nature. I should really like to know that. If it is possible for the Hon. Premier to answer that as well as how these various Departments of Government will be co-ordinated to go through that information before handing it over to the central organisation I shall be very pleased to hear.

I also want to say that I agree with the hon. junior member for St. Lucy when he said that these statistics should be allowed to go to the public as soon as possible after they are made out, I also agree, as he pointed out, that there should be put out in a simple and straight-forward manner so that the ordinary man in the street can understand them. At present a lot of these things, a lot of Government papers and reports, are written and published in such a way that they take a very educated man to analyse them in order to get at the core of what they are trying to show us.

I am very much in favour of the setting up of this Department and I believe it will bear fruit. As I have said, I did not envisage that it would be such an expensive one but it is really very comprehensive. As you can see from the Addendum to the Resolution, there are many various items with which it will be dealing so I can quite see that it will need a large staff to bring these matters up-to-date. We do not want things which happened in 1953 to be published in 1957; we want to know that what happened in 1956 is published at least in 1957, because information which stands longer than that to be published can be very misleading. The world today moves on very quickly and conditions alter all the time, therefore when you get figures which are antiquated they do not help you. It is important to have these figures published at a suitable time.

I see from the Addendum to the Resolution that there will be five machine operators so I presume that there will be no holding up in putting out these various statistics in their various and proper forms. Mr. Speaker, I do support the Resolution.

6.55 p.m.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see that on so important a matter more than one hon. member has spoken. The hon. member for St. Peter raised a strong observation. There is much in what he has said, in fact in all the hon. member said, as regards the absence of statistical information of which we are all aware; but I do not know where he got the idea from that the Statistical Department just produces figures and does not analyse or tabulate these figures; it does not make or set out these figures in such a way that even the non-expert who of course should know something of figures—let me put it this way, the average Financial Secretary in the colonies hitherto is not always and in fact has been very seldom what we would call an econom-

ic expert, let alone a statistical expert. There are very few people, I would say, or they have been very few people who have been Financial Secretaries who could be called economic experts; and therefore, it is not absolutely essential in order to make valuable use of the figures of a Statistical Department to have a Financial Secretary who is a B.Sc. in Economics, real or alleged. I think that the Colonial Office in recent years is aware of the necessity of having somebody with some knowledge and skill in interpreting figures put before him that he can as a Financial Secretary advise the Government in formulating its policy, and I do assure the hon. member for St. Peter that the figures will be put in such a way and sufficient explanation will be given to the figures produced by the Statistical Department that they will easily be understood by the Administrative Officer whose function it will be to advise the Government on financial or other matters for that matter, depending on his knowledge of figures and the trend which these figures indicate. I have no fear whatever on that score, Sir, that the Statistical Department would be merely a collection of figures which mean nothing even to the initiator.

As regards the question asked by the hon. junior member for Christ Church some of the machinery has already arrived. I must remind hon. members that this Civil Establishment Order was brought before the House already and that of course the work has started since Mr. Seers arrived and we have some of the machinery already and some more is to be shipped by the end of August.

This is setting up the establishment of officers who have already been seconded from different Departments that prepare statistics, — the Customs and so on — and are now working in the Statistical office. These will be the permanent staff and some suggestion was made about the advisability of using Barbadians and West Indians. Of course it will be Government and just as we are now using Barbadians and occasionally non-Barbadians, just as there are Barbadian Magistrates and Permanent Secretaries and occasionally non-Barbadian, West Indians will be drafted into the service. There is no question of this being from an establishment point of view any different from any other Government Department. There is in the service at the present moment, one person of whom visiting economists of high reputation have spoken extremely highly, and he will be going abroad to be trained and return for work in this Department. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, that I can usefully add anything else. Instead of doing as we are doing now just borrowing from the Customs and, as I said, other Departments, you will have a person permanently in this Department calling for and getting the information from the Department of Agriculture, from Trade and Commerce and the like.

As regards the statistics of rainfall and things of that nature they will in fact only be published from the Meteorological Station that is here in Barbados. I will again say, Sir, that these salaries may have to be revised in accordance with what the Salaries Commissioner set. They have been fixed not by any means with reference to salaries paid in Trinidad and Jamaica, though we have gone clearly into their Statistical Department. They have been fixed by comparison with the Head of other Departments as far as possible. The Commissioner of Income Tax salary is this, but if the Salaries Commissioner comes and says the Income Tax Commissioner should get \$7,000 or what he may happen to say, naturally because we think it is comparably cheap we may have to raise the salary. It is not necessary to warn hon. members because they are themselves making the point, but it may be necessary to raise these salaries.

and it may be necessary because although I said that the functions are rather comprehensive, yet with our resources we are not embarking immediately on the sort of Statistical Department of the very rich countries or what the big countries would have. I think however that the provision that has been suggested to us by Mr. Seers and which the Government has accepted is quite a good beginning with our limited resources and with the need for making up the amount of leeway in statistics which in the past have been so badly kept. I think I have answered the points raised. I would just like to emphasise that it is not on a magnificent scale. The salaries are small compared with Jamaica and Trinidad, but we have to watch carefully lest by keeping these salaries low we lose persons being trained who would be able to take top posts in years to come if they are tempted to go to richer colonies which will pay high salaries. The Government will bear these things in mind and I will remind hon. members who spoke on the publication of figures, immediately you cannot help it: and when you hear that in some respects that we are producing monthly, quarterly and annual statistics, hon. members will see that in this department of social or economic life in which it is necessary to have up-to-date figures they will be having them monthly. I did not mention when I first started that in one or two respects statistics is limited except in the Income Tax Department where they are well kept, but in some other Departments none exist; migration figures are not perfectly kept either.

Mr. Speaker, I thank those hon. members who have taken part in the debate and I assure them that the Government is well aware of the enormous value of this Department and will take every step to see that it is well staffed. We have been lucky that those persons who passed through here and had anything to do with the establishment or making suggestions as to the establishment of this Department have spoken highly of two or three persons whose service we hope to retain.

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

7.05 p.m.

PUBLIC OFFICERS HOUSING BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing: to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Public Officers' Housing Loans Act, 1952.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, in moving the second reading of this Bill, I should like to inform hon. members that these amendments are necessary inasmuch as some doubt has been expressed by the Officers who are administering the Act, as to whether the Act applies to persons who rent house spots on which these persons proposed to erect chattel houses. I can assure hon. members that when the Act was passed, and after it was amended sometime last year, it was the intention of the Government that this Act should apply to people who intended to erect chattel houses. Hon. members will remember that figures were quoted in relation to persons in the various brackets; figures were given as to the amount which would be loaned to employees in the various brackets. In respect of a Senior Clerk, the amount would be \$6,720; Clerks, \$5,040, Teachers, \$5,040 and we came right down the Scale to the Cantonier, \$1,080. That, in itself, will convince hon. members that it was the intention of the Government that loans should apply to persons in the Key Scale who

may not own any land, but who would like to have houses similar to those which are purchased and occupied by workers who qualify for this benefit under the Labour Welfare Loans Organisation.

There was some difficulty in interpreting the Act, and in order to make the position quite clear, these amendments are necessary. As hon. members will see, this is what is set out in the "Objects and Reasons" of this Bill:—

"Under the Public Officers' Housing Loans Act, 1952, at present, loans may not be made in respect of chattel houses. The application of the Act, however, includes officers who would normally occupy or own such houses. This Bill seeks therefore to amend the Act so as to authorise loans to be made in respect of chattel houses.

The opportunity has also been taken to amend the Act in three other respects:—

- (i) to make it clear that a loan may be made to purchase land on which a house is, or is intended to be, erected;
- (ii) to permit loans to be made in respect of houses erected on leasehold land, provided that the unexpired term of the lease be no less than such period as the Governor-in-Executive Committee may prescribe;
- (iii) to authorise the Board to relieve officers from putting up the collateral security required by paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of section 6 (1) in cases where the value of the house and land, if any, provides adequate security for the loan.

As hon. members will remember the Act demands collateral security for loans and this Amendment seeks to avoid these Officers having to provide this collateral security but allows security in respect of the land on which the houses are to be constructed. I think that explains clearly the intention of this Bill. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

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

The three Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair, and reported accordingly.

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

7.15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I understand from the Hon. Leader of this House that he is about to move the adjournment. Before that is done, I would like to suggest to hon. members that the name of the Hon. Minister of Social Services be

added to the Committee dealing with the Rules of the House. He did not attend the meeting of that Committee which took place last week because he was not on it from the beginning.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the suggestion of the Hon. Premier, I have the honour to include the Hon. Minister of Social Services as a member of that Committee.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business.

The Order having been fixed.

Hon Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day fortnight at 3 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.

7.20 p.m.