

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1956

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 11th September, 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. F. C. GODDARD, (*Leader of the Opposition*); Mr. J. A. HAYNES, B.A.; Mr. E. STA HOLDER; Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); and Mrs. E. E. BOURNE.

Prayers were read.

Mr. MILLER entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the last meeting are not yet ready for circulation.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT entered the House and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency to lay the Civil Establishment (Payment of Passages) Order, 1956.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. G. H. ADAMS:— Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Payment of Passages) Order, 1956.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS:— Resolution to place the sum of \$9,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to Supplement the Estimates 1956—57, Part I—Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1956—57 No. 25 which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. M. E. COX:— Resolution to advance the sum of \$65,001 from the Public Treasury and place at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1956—57, Part II — Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1956—57, No. 26 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Chief Judge and Crown Law Officers Act, 1907.

I wish to take this opportunity, in giving notice of this Bill, to ask hon. members to whom it will be circulated today, to study it, because I propose to deal with it next Tuesday. I am asking your permission just to add this: it is extremely difficult, almost impossible to get a Chief Justice at the present salary, and the present Chief Justice must go as soon as possible. I must therefore ask the House to deal with this which is a recommendation of the Salaries Commissioner, but which has been taken out owing to the extraordinary circumstances in filling this post.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Judicial and Legal Service Commission Act, 1956.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, 1921.

I am making the same appeal to hon. members. I propose to deal with this Bill next Tuesday. It is a Bill to institute a compulsory P.A.Y.E. System. The Government has considered it from every possible angle over a number of months and has come to the conclusion that it is essential to get through the Legislature soon in order that it may be put in operation next year. Cyclo-styled copies of this Bill will be distributed today so that hon. members may be able to make an early study of it.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Local Government Act, 1957.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to consider the money Resolutions of which notice has been given.

Mr. BRYAN entered the House and took his seat when Government Notices were being given.

QUESTIONS

Mr. BRYAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following questions:—

To enquire of the Minister of Social Services:—

Is it a fact that Friendship and Welches Playing Fields in the parish of St. Michael were purchased from their respective owners through the Labour Welfare Fund during the same year?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister say why has there been such considerable delay in the preparation of the Welches Playing Field and the erection of a pavilion thereon?

3. Will the Minister say if it is the intention of those responsible to carry out the plan of preparation of the grounds and the erection of the Pavilion at Welches; and when is it intended to put this plan into operation?

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

What steps if any, have been made to implement the request made during the consideration of the Estimates 1954-55 and again in 1955-56 re the erection of Bathing Cubicles etc., at Brighton, St. Michael?

2. In view of the promise made, in the reply given 1955-56, will the Honourable Minister state:—

- (a) Whether the request will be granted,
- (b) How soon will these facilities be made available for the people in that area?

Mr. F. E. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to enquire of the Appropriate Minister:—

Now that the British Caribbean Federation is a *fait accompli*, will this Government consider inviting the Governments of the area concerned to participate in the implementation of the following proposals:

- (a) The invitation to all interested and qualified persons in the area to submit plans for the FEDERAL CAPITAL, with designs of its buildings, amenities etc., and to offer a suitable prize or reward for the plan and design which could be considered a contemporary architectural triumph to be accepted by some competent Federal authority.
- (b) Offering a prize or other suitable reward to the composer or composers of an original and selected OPERA the — Libretto and musical theme of such an opera to be as fully West Indian in character as possible—to be performed to immortalise the occasion of the opening of Federal Legislature on its new site.

3.25 p.m.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by the Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, the Bill to amend the Chief Judge and Crown Law Officers Act, 1907, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, the Bill to amend

the Judicial and Legal Service Commission Act, 1956, was read a first time.

On the motion of Hon. G. H. ADAMS, seconded by Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, the Bill to amend the Income Tax Act, 1921, was read a first time.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Local Government Act, 1954, be read a first time. At the outset, I should say as I have said with the other Bills, this is a huge Bill, and I hope honourable members will find time in the next seven days to study it.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the day stands in the name of the Hon. Dr. H. G. H. Cummins: to move the House into Committee of Supply.

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

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.

Emergency Relief Funds

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution for the sum of \$41,500 to be spent on Miscellaneous Services, under Head 29, Item 58, Emergency Relief Funds. \$10,000 is voted from year to year for Emergency Relief Funds in case a hurricane comes along, and the sum now being asked for is \$41,500. Let me at the outset say it has nothing to do with the houses that may still have to be repaired; the House will hear of that later. If honourable members will read the Addendum they will see what this provision is for, and naturally being nearly half-way through September, it is essential not to wait any longer in getting this voted. As honourable members will know, we learnt a lot from "Janet"; there was appointed a Hurricane Relief Organisation Review Committee that went into all the details of our previous plans (profiting from the experience of "Janet") and some of these recommendations it is now proposed to implement by furnishing this money to put them into operation. The Department of Agriculture has been used as Headquarters. It has been suggested that ring bolts on the wharf should be strengthened and a wire hawser provided for the Harbour and Shipping Master, and the supply of other equipment for the Public Works Department and the Department of Highways and Transport. These items will cost \$10,000.

There is an outstanding account of \$23,807. There are creditors who did not send in their bills; the Social Welfare Officer \$50 to pay the watchman; the Director of Civil Aviation \$18,943 for equipment which came after the end of the last financial year; the Director of Public Works to pay C. F. Harrison & Co., Ltd. for galvanised sheets; Central Foundry for asbestos sheets for repairs at Erdiston and Stockton; Sandford Plantation and Woodland Plantation for repair to houses, the total being \$23,807. There are creditors who have not yet sent in their bills and some of the stuff did not arrive until recently, so that it could not be paid earlier. That is how the \$23,807 is made up: I repeat, the Social Welfare Officer, the Director of Civil Aviation, the Director

of Public Works, Central Foundry and Woodland Plantation, and Sandford Plantation.

These outstanding accounts amounting to \$23,807 are for work done or for supplies which were not received during the financial year 1955-56 for which accounts were not rendered until after 31st March, 1956. In this connection it should be noted that expenditure in 1955-56 under this vote amounted to \$402,585; and, since the total provision was \$460,000, an amount of \$57,415 lapsed at the end of that financial year.

This Resolution also makes provision to keep intact the sum of \$10,000 voted in the Estimates against the possibility of an emergency during the present year.

We have voted \$10,000 year after year for emergency relief, meaning hurricane; in addition this year \$57,415 lapsed at the end of the financial year, and these sums amounting to \$23,807 remain unpaid for the reasons given in the Addendum.

I now beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$41,500 do now pass.

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

3.35 p.m.

Mr. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, when I received this Resolution, I was wondering why no mention had been made of the houses which had been repaired, but the Hon. Premier has cleared up that point; however, on reading the Resolution, I thought I would have seen a sum of money in connection with the premiums of insurance on houses. I thought that that would have come along with the Resolution for \$10,000. It looks to me as if we are running a big risk in not effecting the insurance of houses. I have repeatedly stood here on the floor of this House and tried to show the Government how vulnerable they are making themselves in relation to the number of houses which they have repaired and which they own. I suppose I will be told that they cannot get coverage for these houses, but I went last Friday and insured a house for a friend of mine against hurricane, tidal wave and every other contingency. It is of no use for the Minister concerned to say that the Insurance Companies will not take this risk, because they are willing to take it; it is therefore, only foolish on the part of the Government to hold this risk, and not take it off their shoulders.

The position is a very serious one. I would not like to sleep in my house tonight without having an insurance policy on it; I would not sleep well. What I am trying to show the Government is that if they are told that they cannot get these houses covered by insurance, and individuals like myself can get it done, I do not see why the Government cannot get it also. If you are getting what is called comprehensive coverage, the Insurance Companies are out for big things. They would sooner insure 4,000 houses than 4 houses, because the 4 might be destroyed, the 3,996 may not be damaged, and the premium on those 3,996 will pay for the 4 which have been destroyed. Therefore, it would be an easier job to have a comprehensive coverage than an individual coverage.

I should like to hear the appropriate Minister, perhaps the Hon. Minister of Housing, say what are his intentions in this matter. As regards the funds which are collected on the last occasion, nobody is satisfied with the way in which they were distributed; you may not get any other substantial amount, even from a man like Colonel Julian [Laughter] and the Government may have to pull their pockets privately. However, that is by the way.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Before any other hon. member repeats what the hon. member had just said, let me say this. I paid the hon. member the com-

ment of repeating word for word his constant reminder to the Government about the necessity for insuring houses. I do not take any credit for saying what I am saying now. As far as I am concerned I was absolutely prepared against a hurricane last year and the year before, because hurricanes were knocking all around in the Caribbean and there was the possibility of one striking this Island. We put the matter up to the Executive Committee, and the Insurance Companies; the Insurance Companies will insure every house in Barbados, but you have to specify every house. They will not give blanket insurance; I enquired as to whether we could get this insurance; I asked: will you insure so many houses? The hon. member quoted a figure in this House [Mr HAYNES: 40,000] and suggested that we should put up that figure. The Insurance Company will insure houses in the manner in which the hon. member got his friend's house insured — I take it that that was a parishioner [Laughter] but you have to insure them individually. As far as our information went, they will not insure 10,000 houses in St. Michael or 5,000 in St. Philip.

The hon. member must not think that we have not considered this question about getting a huge insurance policy in case a hurricane comes along. Whether one should take the risk of just insuring Government Buildings and not insuring every single house in the Island, is a matter for consideration with your other financial commitments. However, I do thank the hon. member for bringing the matter to public notice again, and I do assure him that taking into consideration our resources, or financial commitments and the size of the premiums of this wholesale insurance, the Government has again considered the matter, but so far, the Government cannot say that it has had such a reply or such a reaction from the Insurance Companies as to make it such an excellent thing to do what no other Country, as far as I know, has done before. It may be that it may be right to do it; every Country has to consider the question of typhoon, hurricane or storm damage, and I have been unable to trace that this wholesale insurance has been done in the history of the world.

Mr. HAYNES: I would like to enlighten the Hon. Premier, and perhaps he has read that in the United States of America, year after year floods as well as hurricanes have been taking place, and the States which are affected are covered by flood damage and other insurance. The Mississippi wipes away thousands of houses, and valuable houses too and it has been found that they cannot go on having this damage without insurance. Even the American nation with tons of money behind its back has to effect insurances.

As regards his argument about submitting the sizes of the houses, he has the sizes to over 9,000 houses at the Housing Board already tabulated. It is only for him to put them together and that can be done in five minutes. He can get that information in nine minutes. I cannot see where the problem is in that at all.

3.45 p.m.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member. I would just like to tell him that the Housing Board houses are insured.

Mr. HAYNES: I am glad to know that, but could not the others be easily assessed in size? That is not a big job. At present, I happen to be Chairman of the Sanitary Board in St. Andrew and I can certainly get my Inspectors to help Government in getting the sizes of the houses. There is no trouble in that at all. It does not take much out of the inspectors themselves to do a job like that. Even if the Government supplies them with a tape measure it will not

cost a large sum of money. These things only want a little reasoning being put behind them and they will be solved.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, this Resolution is to provide a sum of \$10,000 for rendering hurricane-proof a room at the Department of Agriculture to be used as the headquarters of the specialised branches during a hurricane. In other words, we are making provision for a hurricane-proofed room for specialised branches if and when we get another hurricane. I sincerely hope that when the room will be used on the next occasion that it will not be used as it was used on the last occasion.

With this expenditure of \$41,500, about \$23,000 is for work as regards work done, or for supplies in connection with the expenditure on the last hurricane. In other words, in September, 1956, a year after the storm, we are now making provision for the payment of old accounts.

Long before this, Mr. Chairman, something should have been done about the remainder of the houses which were damaged last year. There can be no excuse at all for the prolonged delay on the part of the Government in attending to houses which are still either on the ground or badly in need of repair as a result of "Janet". For the past two or three months we have had very heavy rainfall; and it is easy to visualise the plight of people who are living in houses badly damaged as a result of last year's hurricane and which have not yet been repaired. Further than that, the deterioration which has set in with regard to these houses, will mean, when we go to repair them, that it will cost us twice as much. If the number of damaged houses still remain undone in St. Michael, Christ Church, St. Philip and St. George—I will say nothing of the others which exist—are to be repaired, we would have to spend perhaps another quarter million dollars in repair work. As a matter of fact, if the work is done under the same administration and control as that of the last time, we will spend more than a quarter million dollars, because re-housing of the people of Barbados after the storm, up to now, has cost the country over two million dollars, and the greater part of that money has been spent under the control of the Housing Board with some nondescript additions in staff. Normally, Mr. Chairman, the Housing Board hardly spends more than \$200,000 a year, so that what the Government did was to expect the Housing Board—which normally spends \$200,000 per year—to expend two million dollars in six months with irresponsible additions to its staff. And the Government did not expect that a greater portion of that amount would have been squandered or thrown away!

In my opinion, the money which we have already spent, had it been expended under competent administration, would have sufficed to complete the entire hurricane re-housing programme. It is a fact that there was so much incompetence, irresponsibility and wastage in the re-housing programme that I shall be very surprised if we are not asked to spend another quarter million dollars or more to re-house the victims of last year's storm.

It is not good enough to sit week after week, month after month and allow these people to remain with their homes in that bad state of disrepair. There can be no excuse if the Government is giving priority to matters which are before us today rather than to the question of completing the damage done by "Janet". Let me say that people are not animals whom you can leave to live in the open air, indefinitely. All the houses which were to be repaired should have been repaired already. Every week people

come to me to know when the programme of re-housing by the Government is going to start again. It has been stopped since March—that is, six months ago. I send those people to the Housing Board and the Board put them on a list and say that they are waiting for the moving of the waters; that is, waiting for the Government to wake up and become alive to the responsibility of the job of the repairing of the people's houses. We cannot say we have not got the money. We have been collecting more money than we want. We have a healthy Surplus Fund; so healthy is it that we have got very little help from the British Government. All that we have got from the Imperial Government is not more than one million dollars. The Surplus Balances of the country which long before this should have been in circulation or invested in some manner so as to provide more revenue than they are providing now, have had to be used and are being used to restore the damage caused by the storm.

If the money is there, if we have to spend our own money and we are not waiting for someone to give it to us, can there be any excuse for the protracted delay in getting on with this job? The reason for the delay must and can only be indifference on the part of the Government to the position as it exists. Last Tuesday, the hon. senior member for St. George referred to entire districts in his constituency which are still desolated. I do not know whether the inhabitants are living in the canes or in the gullies in St. George now. In my own constituency, St. Philip, I can think of a large number of houses which still have to be repaired, and, I think of an even larger number which the owners repaired themselves at their own expense with the understanding that they would be refunded by the Government. They bother me about the money all the time, but nobody knows if or when they will get it. If the programme came to an end at the end of the last financial year, immediately after the Estimates were passed this year, it should have been restarted. We have got the men to do the work, and the materials are available. The only thing lacking, Mr. Chairman, is responsibility on the part of the Government to discharge its obligations; and I personally and sincerely hope that if and when they ultimately in their irresponsible fashion get around to repairing these houses, they will endeavour to provide a more efficient administration with regard to the expenditure so that we shall not have people's houses that were slightly damaged having more money spent on them than on those which were badly damaged, depending on the relation of the owners of the houses with the parochial authorities responsible for repairs. Nor, we hope, shall we have the wholesale distribution of lumber free to people who do not want lumber at all, because their houses were not damaged. In other words, Sir, the authorities must endeavour to arrive at some more economic method of carrying out the final repair programme. The Housing Authority, as I said earlier, cannot possibly be expected—I mean the Housing Board—to cope efficiently, with its present staff, and with the few harem-scarem additions, in finalising this programme. During the emergency last year, we begged Government to second responsible Civil Servants from the other Departments to assist the Housing Board, but they picked up numbers of incompetent men, some of whom do not know a saw from a hammer, or a nail from a screw, and threw them in the parishes to supervise and inspect the repairs programme, with the result that hundreds of thousands of dollars were thrown completely away. If you were to go carefully into the figures, Mr. Chairman, the number of houses damaged, the repairs they needed, the houses

replaced, you can come to no other conclusion than that the two million dollars we spent should have almost given every man a new house; and yet a great proportion of these houses that were repaired is still in need of repair and will have to be repaired when the programme restarts. Whenever they start again, they will have to repair houses which have been already repaired and upon which large amounts were expended. They were not repaired properly, and cannot be left in the condition in which they are now.

It is nothing short of a scandal that two million dollars should have been spent in this manner and that there should be so little satisfaction in its expenditure, and that we are going to have to look for new money now to spend again on some of these houses. It appears, Sir, to be largely a matter of the utmost indifference to the Government when this programme is restarted, and it is just like the toilets at the Pine! Of the 800 built, fully half still remain up there not yet sited, and heaven knows when they will be sited. The houses for which they were intended, a year after the storm, are still without toilets. All we can do, Mr. Chairman, is to hope and pray that a similar calamity will not befall us under such irresponsibility.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, the Premier has stated that this Resolution will not deal with the rehousing of damaged houses during the hurricane. Of course, he did not have to tell us that because the Addendum quite clearly states that it is for other purposes. But in the absence of replies that should have come before and in the absence of the House's knowing what is Government's policy with regard to the houses that have been left unrepaired, the promises that have been unfulfilled — promises by their carpenters and foremen or inspectors that they were just patching up then and were in a hurry, but would come back; yet there has been no reply to questions of this sort which were tabled in this House five or six weeks ago, and today we have no statement of policy from Government, no courtesy or reply to these questions — for those reasons we are compelled to take an opportunity like this to try and get out of Government their policy with regard to the completion of the rehabilitation of the houses damaged one year ago.

4.05 p.m.

In a few days, it will be a year. As the last speaker has said, it is now a period of some 6 months since work ceased on the rehabilitation of these houses. The work which has been done to date, has been confined to within 6 months, from the 24th September to the end of March. It was hurried work, and a lot of it was wasted, because of the hurry with which we were trying to get people back into their homes. The Government has had a remarkable opportunity since then. If they intended to fulfil their obligations to these people, they could have implemented a scheme whereby they could have more leisurely repaired these houses in a proper way. Today, there are still houses in Christ Church which are uninhabited; last Sunday I saw one of them in the Fair View district with half-a-roof and half-a-floor, and that was a whole house before the 22nd September last year. Just a few galvanised sheets have been put on, and how this house could have been left in that condition is beyond me, because it has not been used since the hurricane. It is still there for everyone to see.

There is a sense of frustration on the part of the people who feel that no help has been given to them. They have been to the Housing Authority; the Inspectors have come around to take their names and make an assessment of the damage; but they do

not know yet what the Government's policy is. There is a strong sense of frustration; there is no other word for it. I say: let us know today whether it is the intention of the Government to complete these houses. I understand that a survey was to be made; let us know today whether that survey has been made or not. I should like to know if the Government can state how many houses will have to be attended to in one way or the other, and whether it is the intention of the Government to go back and repair these houses. Let them say whether they are waiting until the hurricane season passes again or not. I am sure that these sufferers would like to know what is the policy of the Government in this matter. If we have to deal with an aspect of hurricane damage for which funds have not been voted, it is because of a lack of policy on the part of the Government; there is a lack of policy as regards the repair of damaged houses throughout the island.

Now let us come to the Resolution itself. This money is for something which we all agree would have to be attended to. Personally, I see no reason why ring bolts on the wharf, the supply of a wire hawser for the Harbour and Shipping Master and the supply of equipment for the Public Works Department and the Department of Highways and Transport, should have to come under Hurricane Relief at all. These should always be in a good condition; even for rough weather. You will need these things at the Wharf at all times, if it is a question of having these things in good repair, we expect that it should be a matter for the Public Works Department always to keep these things in good condition. Why should they strengthen only one Government Building? All of these Government Buildings should be kept in a good state of repair. During the last hurricane, very few Government Buildings were damaged, but all of these Buildings should be so strengthened as to withstand hurricanes of normal velocity.

There is one amount which has been left out of this Resolution and I regret that the Government did not see its way, even at this late stage, to include it; that is a bill which was rendered to them by the Vestry of St. Michael for services rendered by the Sanitary Department after the hurricane. After the hurricane, the streets were in a state of blockage; trees and houses were lying across the roads not only in St. Michael, but also in Christ Church and in other parishes, and they had to be cleared so that the hurricane relief work could be continued. It was everybody's business, and the Sanitary Commissioners of St. Michael took on extra gangs; they worked their men overtime and they set about the clearing of these trees. That was only one part of the work done by the parish of St. Michael; we went ahead and fed the homeless who were in shelters for 2 or 3 days on our own. It was quickly mooted that we had jumped too quickly and it was the Government's responsibility to send to these people. For that reason, it was not likely that the Government would be paying bills to the Vestry of St. Michael for relieving the sufferers at these shelters as we had done. We never sent in that Bill; the Vestry of St. Michael at a meeting which was held soon afterwards, decided that if that was the Government's attitude in the matter, they would not ask them to pay that bill, but surely we felt that the bill from the Commissioners of Health should be sent in, and we had no reason to believe that it would have been treated other than as an honoured debt.

I go further and say that the Commissioners of Health of Christ Church did the same thing; they submitted their bills and they were paid promptly; I think that they were paid weekly. The Commis-

sioners of Health of Christ Church were reimbursed by the Central Government to the tune of \$8,000 for the clearing of the trees and the extra sanitation which they had to perform. That bill was honoured by the Government, but when a smaller bill was rendered by the parish of St. Michael, the Government said that they would not pay it. The taxpayers of St. Michael felt that they should not have been so treated by the Government when the taxpayers in the neighbouring parish of Christ Church had not been treated otherwise. I thought that even at this late hour, the Government would have re-considered their earlier decision, and included the sum for the payment of the services rendered by the Commissioners of Health of St. Michael, which services, it was considered, should have been performed by the Central Government. If it is possible to hear something on that, I would be glad to hear. I would have hoped to have seen that \$17,000 included in this Resolution today.

4.15 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: The matter of hurricane assistance has been a very sore one for some time and it is now about a year since we have had that calamity when houses were destroyed, lives lost, equipment destroyed and things of that sort, and yet all the houses have not been repaired.

You will remember, Sir, that during the hurricane or the day after, the Government made a big announcement to the public suggesting that those who could help themselves must go ahead and do so, and that the Government, when it was more convenient, would reimburse them with any monies which they might have spent in repairing their houses and purchasing equipment which they might have lost. Well, only a Government which does not know what it is about to do, or one which is not particularly charitably inclined towards its people, could afford to wait for one year before relieving much of the suffering caused by the hurricane.

What do you find? Now that a Resolution is brought for money to do something in respect of the hurricane, one would have felt that it contained an amount to be spent in satisfying the expectations of those people who were made to feel that the Government was going to help them, even though it has not done so yet. What is happening is that you have got a Resolution containing a sum of money for other things than that.

Sir, is it more appropriate to spend money on the building of a hurricane-proof room at the Department of Agriculture, the strengthening of ring bolts, etc., on the wharf, the supply of a wire hawser for the Harbour and Shipping Master and the supply of equipment for the Public Works Department and the Department of Highways and Transport rather than to meet the requirements of the people who are still awaiting the Government for aid?

During the past week the daily newspaper suggested that some Resolution was to come to this place to continue the assistance which has been started by Government to those people who suffered in spending of this money by way of reimbursing those people who have committed themselves by way of credit from various business houses, as well as those people who were not sufficiently influential to get credit but who are still waiting on Government. There are houses in the parish which I represent which are still lying on the ground, because many of the occupants have not been working, and they are without relatives with means enough to give them assistance. As a result, those houses are still in the open air deteriorating all the time. I can go further by saying that I know of an unfortunate woman whose house

has been blown down and who has not been able to get assistance yet. That woman was forced to live at some person else in another district and somebody in her absence has caught her house afire. I have only cited that case to give hon. members a picture of the prevailing conditions of affairs.

One is forced to come to the conclusion that the Government does not intend to give further assistance to those people. I think hon. members are stupid to think that the Government still intends to give further assistance to those people because we know that the who gives soon, gives most. The Government has a substantial sum of money collected under the Labour Welfare Fund for the purpose of re-housing people by way of loans, purchasing, release of mortgages, etc. That money is there lying down and nothing is being done with it. Government has the machinery at its disposal, and there are persons who are willing to come to its assistance in the formulating of any scheme or plan whereby those deserving people who suffered in the hurricane would be able to get ready assistance. It seems to me as if the Government does not intend to do anything in that respect. Therefore, if people of the same opinion as myself are forced to come to the conclusion that the Government has made promises which it does not intend to carry out, I think they are justified in coming to that conclusion because no definite attempt has been made by Government to cause one to think otherwise.

What is more, Sir, because of these houses destroyed by the hurricane, the homeless people who have been seeking shelter here, there and everywhere, have put recommendations to the Government—and I presume that through the Hon. Minister for Housing there has been a tightening up of the Regulations of the Labour Welfare (Housing Loans) Department because since the hurricane it has been made more difficult for workers who were willing to repair their houses at their own expense by means of a loan from that Department to obtain such a loan.

I am hoping that the Hon. Minister of Housing who, I thought, would have been handling this Resolution will enlighten the darkness surrounding the running of the Labour Welfare (Housing Loans) Department and will also tell us of Government's intention with respect to further assistance which is being anticipated by the people. Now, I know for certain that many sugar workers who were willing to wait on the premises of the Government made several attempts to acquire loans from the Department. I have it on record where a labourer was asked to come to that department no fewer than eight times—but no loan has been given to him as yet. I know of cases where applications were sent in about three years ago.

I know of places where applications were sent in two or three weeks ago and the Hon. Minister knows about this case too because I had to take it up with Mr. Turner before he left this Island where after making a man who had a large family including.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is this something to do with the hurricane?

Mr. ALLDER: Yes sir, it certainly is; and after this man was made to come to Bridgetown giving up several days' work he was still being turned around and I had to telephone the Officer concerned. Like everything else that Department is being run like some concentration camp, with a lot of Gestapo agents, and you do not know who is the senior officer, except only by title. Every officer up there seems to have the same authority and the place is run in

a confused manner, so that the workers who have to use that place suffer as a result; they have to pay for the confusion. That particular officer, when I in a reasonable way telephoned on the worker's behalf, put the receiver down in my ear, and I had to interview Mr. Turner on the matter, and the Hon. Minister knows. Last year a house was burned down which was owned by a man of about 60 years who worked at Kendal for about 45 years, but up to now that man has not been able to get a loan from that Department for the re-erection of his house. House, furniture and every possible thing he owned were burnt. I was on the spot and saw all that remained was ashes, and up to now—and I hope the Hon. Minister will investigate the case if he wants to—the man who is a seasonal worker and who is now reaching the age of retirement, has had to walk the streets of Bridgetown for the past three weeks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member for St. John speaking on hurricane relief or about a burnt-down house, because that has nothing to do with this Resolution and I am not going to entertain it.

Mr. ALLDER: I am speaking about the hurricane, the results of it, and the attitude of Government in respect to it because the Resolution is headed that way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hurricane did not do any burning.

Mr. ALLDER: It should have, Sir. It should have burnt certain places!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now, you will keep to the Resolution.

Mr. ALLDER: What I am saying is that I hope that my statements here may arouse the Minister who is responsible for that Department, because I know that the disappointments would be fewer if it were made more possible for these workers, whose earnings have been reduced by virtue of the building up of this Labour Welfare Fund, to get loans more easily than they have been able to get them. Many of them were eager to help themselves as suggested by Government; but when they decided to do so, and came down expecting to be able to get their business expedited, there was a lot of turning round: and up to now there has not been any improvement in that Department. I say that, Sir, because we cannot sit here as a Government, or as a Legislature, responsible to the people for existence as such, having materials at our disposal, the necessary money and men, and allow these people to feel towards us as they are feeling now, when it could be avoided. I do not believe, unless Government can cause me to feel otherwise, that they intend going any further in assisting those people who have suffered. In this particular case, when I went there with the man, the manager who was willing to reason with that man tried to ring the chairman and those over him to see what immediate assistance could be given to him; but then some other clerk under him—As I said, it is run like a concentration camp with Gestapo agents was apparently are able to come and counteract the intention of the Manager of the Department. Whenever you are going to appoint a head of a Department and you do not give him the freedom of action and the use of discretion at the same time your Department must run badly and the public must suffer. Regardless to what kind of Government is in power, it should see to it that authority should be given where it is due and necessary; but in this case it is a waste of time, and in most cases when the people leave the countryside and come down, they are frustrated. Obviously they will call on their representatives, and their representatives usually take up the case; but I have been forced to the decision of not worrying to telephone

or even to go there. I cannot tell the people that I am disgusted, because as representative of the people they feel that what they cannot do, you are supposed to be able to do; and I will say now: let the Premier and his Ministers go and investigate that Department, put it on a proper footing, and I mention the Premier specifically, because I can remember in 1948, Sir, his telling the people, "give me the majority" If you want to build a house and you had a hundred dollars, the Government would give you \$100 free and \$200 as a loan to acquire a house, and it went up the scale according to the number of dollars you had in your possession. When the scheme was first started it was reasonably easy for workers to go there.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am directing the attention of the hon. senior member for St. John to the fact that we are not dealing with the Labour Welfare Fund or anything of the sort. You must keep to the Resolution. We are not dealing with the Labour Welfare and its set-up, or Gestapo and all these sorts of things. I want you to deal with the Resolution before us.

4.55 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: I am very sorry, Mr. Chairman, because reference has already been made by the previous speakers to the Housing situation and especially to those people who were affected by the hurricane. I cannot avoid making comparisons; what happens is that the Labour Welfare Fund has something to do with the workers whose houses have been damaged by the hurricane. If you have received your papers, Mr. Chairman, you will see that you asked a question about damaged houses, and the Government has presented the reply in which it is stated or suggested that in respect of those houses which were damaged, loans be given to these sufferers out of the same Fund.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not seen it yet. I am not entertaining it.

Mr. ALLDER: However, I view this Resolution with some disappointment; like other people, I intended to honour the pledges which the Government has given with respect to the people whose houses have been damaged. I know that many people were looking forward to get some further assistance from the Government, and they will not take this matter which is now before us very favourably. What I do hope—I hope it will not be a frustrated hope—is that the Government intends to bring down a further Resolution for money in order to meet the requirements of those people whose houses were damaged. I hope that it is not the intention just to give this Resolution an easy passage, but I must still comment that instead of a Resolution of this nature, although it might be necessary to bring it down it is not more necessary than one for the relief of suffering. We are in the hurricane belt, and there is no certainty whether we will have a hurricane tomorrow or not, but there is a certainty that many families have been inconvenienced over the past year, and there is nothing which would justify the Government by way of excuse for not assisting them. If you have money and something is involved requiring the expenditure of money, there is no reason why that thing should not be attended to. If there are materials crowded in Bridgetown, and materials are needed, and you have not done what should have been done, then there is something which has prevented you from doing it. The question is: what is that thing which has prevented you from doing what should be done? It is an uncharitable feeling towards the people whose credit should be maintained.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I should like to say a few words. I was a bit disappointed in that this Resolution was not before the House a month ago or even before then. No doubt there will be occasions of suffering, but in an emergency you can always come back to the House for more money. Much has been said in connection with the last Resolution which came before this House, and as most hon. members have said, the parish of St. George is still in dire need of assistance. We still have people in most of the districts living like animals in holes.

[ASIDES]. The Hon. Ministers of Housing will understand my feelings in this matter; it is alright to promise hospitality and so on. I know that plans are afoot. [A MEMBER: You know better than we]. The members of the Opposition can say whatever they like. I was a member of the previous Housing Board, and I was one of the first to recommend its abolition. I thought that with the new Housing Authority, the authority would rest with the Ministry.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Housing Authority is nothing to do with this Resolution.

Mr. MILLER: I am suggesting that the Housing Authority should be used as the authority for the rehabilitation of these people.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Housing Authority is nothing to do with this matter.

Mr. MILLER: We have only one Authority, and if you are thinking of rehabilitating the houses, then you are thinking of the funds, and you still have to go to that same Authority, because you are offering this money by way of assistance in respect of the damage to houses, and this is the final Authority. What I wanted to say is that I am somewhat unhappy about the whole affair; because I feel that the authority should rest with the Ministry, and this Housing Authority would serve only as an Advisory Committee. There is no reason to imagine that if you refuse complete authority in the hands of a Committee to carry out the functions of the Government—

Mr. ALLDER: On a point of Order. I should like to draw your attention to your ruling Mr. Chairman. Clause 2 of the Addendum to this Resolution says this—

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of Order. The hon. member is out of order. The hon. junior member for St. George may continue to speak.

Mr. MILLER: At this stage, I should like to decline speaking and leave it to the hon. senior member for St. John to continue his speech.

Mr. ALLDER: I rose on a point of Order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of Order.

Mr. ALLDER: I am speaking on the Resolution.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, you are not to speak now; it was the hon. junior member for St. George who was speaking.

Mr. ALLDER: He has refrained from speaking. Clause 2 of the Addendum to this Resolution states this:

"In addition, outstanding accounts amounting to \$23,807 remain to be paid. These are for work done, or for supplies which were not received, during the financial year 1955—56, for which accounts were not rendered until after 31st March, 1956. In this connection, it should be noted that expenditure in 1955—56 under this vote amounted to \$402,585 and, since the total provision was \$460,000, an amount of \$57,415 lapsed at the end of that financial year."

Paragraph two in the Addendum makes reference to expenditure already incurred in respect of hurricane damage, therefore, Mr. Chairman, I beg

humbly to submit that you should not rule honourable members out of order for making reference to houses that are damaged.
4.45 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have not ruled members out of order for that. It is when you deal with the Housing Authority and the Labour Welfare (Housing Loans) Authority that I stop you. [A VOICE: That is not so.]

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, I will draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Housing just one matter which I think he can rectify. There are many people who have sent in claims for repairs to be done to their houses on account of an advertisement by Government that they will be reimbursed for so doing and they have got no answer after six months of sending in their claims.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The resolution to which the honourable member is referring has absolutely nothing to do with Labour Welfare. The Housing Authority has nothing to do with such claims. That work was done by the Public Works Department.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I am glad to know that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is completely misinformed. He does not know what he is talking about. The hon. junior member for St. John referred to houses repaired by the owners or occupiers themselves. Those claims are being sent to the Housing Authority and not to the Public Works Department. Therefore, if the Hon. Minister is telling this Committee that the Public Works Department is responsible, he does not know what the Public Works Department is responsible for, or what his Ministry and himself are responsible for.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of \$41,500 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Leave To Postpone Resolution For \$2,000

Hon. Dr. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to postpone Item 2, which is a Resolution for \$2,000.

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

Supplementary Estimates: 1956-57, No. 24 Technical Institute

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for Supplementary Estimates under various Heads. The notes to the various items are full and clear and I will deal with it in the usual way, that is, I will take it Head after Head.

The first is Head XX—Education, for which the sum of \$11,832 is to be voted for the Technical Institute. I am glad to be able to say that after a great deal of extraordinary difficulty, the Crown Agents seem to be able to get (at the figure for which we came to the Legislature and got approval) instructors for the Technical Institute. I am told that one of them is likely to be on a plane very soon and will reach Barbados sometime this month. We hope to get these posts filled in September. I beg to move that the sum of \$11,832 to be voted under this Head do now pass.

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

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, on this particular item, I would like to question the Hon. Minister of Education as regards a particular matter. What has happened is that certain Second Grade Schools have been circulated in respect of the creation in such schools of a Technical stream. It is proposed at the opening of the Technical Institute to take a number of boys from Combermere School and Har-

rierson College but I have noticed that there is no provision for the Lodge School. [A VOICE: That is not true] If provision were made, it was made verbally by some Minister to some individual on the Governing Body of the School. However, officially, the Lodge School has not been allocated any number of boys from that school. The Hon. Premier should investigate the matter and see to it that allocation of boys from every school is made.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Mr. Chairman, allow me to interrupt the honourable member. Let me say that this has been fought out on the floor of the House already. It has been stated that any secondary school has a chance of sending boys to the Technical Institute whether they be government-aided or non-government-aided schools.

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Chairman, up to the last minute no notification was given to the Governing Body of the Lodge School in respect of any special allocation being given to that school and we of the Governing Body propose writing the Education Department asking for the reason why the opportunity has been given Harrison College and Combermere School to send boys to that Institute and why the Lodge School has been treated like that.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Premier is right when he said we actually fought it out on the floor of the House as regards every Secondary School, Government-aided or non-Government-aided sending boys to that Technical Institute. However, I am not quite satisfied that all is well as regards that. I said then and will say now that this grant for technical education is money spent in the right direction. I am not merely concerned with Harrison College, the Lodge School and Combermere because we all know that it is a fact that the Government cannot provide all the Schools for secondary education. I made my position quite clear on the floor of the House when we were dealing with the Resolution for the approval of the Scheme of Government for the Barbados Technical Institute. I would like to say that those parents who are not fortunate in having their children taken on at any of the Government Secondary Schools, but have to send them to Private Secondary Schools—at which the Government does not pay one cent towards their children getting a School Certificate—should also be given this opportunity. In other words, if my boy goes to Harrison College, the Government pays for him to do the Higher School Certificate examination; but if my brother's child who is not lucky enough to go to Harrison College, goes to Mr. Louis Lynch's or Mr. Batson's Secondary School, my brother will have to pay for his child to take the School Certificate examination. I presume that the Lodge School will get an allocation; I am not concerned with that School only. I do not merely represent the people who send their children to Harrison College, the Lodge School or Combermere; I represent the people of this Island; and after all, by and large the majority of the people are sending their children to private Secondary Schools. Therefore I feel that they should also have the benefit of being able to send their children to the Technical Institute. That is what is worrying me and what will worry any honest man.

I am glad to see that at long last the Crown Agents are able to say that they have found somebody to come as an instructor for this Technical Institute. I remember very well that I told the Government that we should not put a glorified mechanic as an Instructor of that Institute; and if we are to have some proper person as an Instructor at this Institution, we should pay the money to get that person so that we can have somebody who can really do the job. Actually, I do not want to press Government into it today, but I know that all is not well: because the Principal of that Institute when

Certificate boys in this Island who could be put at that Institute. That is not good enough.

I contend that what is being done for the pupils who are at the Government-aided secondary schools should also be done for the pupils of the other private Secondary Schools. They should have the same opportunity of selecting some of their children to be sent to the Technical Institute. All these things were brought to the notice of the Government and were fought out on the floor of the House. 4.55 p.m.

The Hon. Premier has just said, I repeat, that the Executive Committee has discussed it and that it is not only for Government Schools — and if I am misquoting him, let him stop me now — but other secondary schools will have the opportunity of going... [A VOICE: He never said so:] He said Government and other secondary schools and I am sure he said that. I am glad that the Premier has seen the light to agree. [A VOICE: Do not mislead the public].

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Can't the hon. senior member for St. Philip keep quiet?

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am rising on a point of order. These debates are printed in the *Official Gazette* and in the public press and the hon. senior member for the City will mislead the public. The Premier did not say that Government and other secondary schools are entitled to use the technical school; he said all Government secondary schools — Lodge School, Combermere and Government aided schools.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I never like to mislead people and I cannot depend upon my hearing all the time, because the Premier might speak in a low voice; but I did hear him say when it was fought out here that Government and all secondary schools were entitled to use the Technical Institute; but here is an opportunity to make it out that I cannot hear well enough and that the hon. senior member for St. Philip can hear better than I can.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member please address the Chair?

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am drawing to the attention of the Premier that having said today — and I hope this is not misleading to the public — that this matter had been fought out on the floor of the House, and that the Executive had considered it, an opportunity should be given to all secondary schools to select children for this institute. I know of the selection from Harrison College and Combermere, but I want to tell him now, that as a matter of fact, not what I believe, but what I know, that nothing has been done by the education authorities in this country to give any secondary school other than Government schools an opportunity to place boys at the opening of this term. The Government may have — and I have no reason to doubt what the Premier has said — discussed it and given instructions to the Director of Education that steps should be taken to include schools other than Government secondary schools, but I say on the floor of this House, and I am conscious of my responsibility, that absolutely nothing has been done by the Government through the Education Department to allow any secondary school other than Government aided schools to select boys for this institution. I am saying what I know is a fact, and if he says what he knows is a fact, then somebody must be straying from the truth; but I say here now, Mr. Chairman, that we argued here that they should be given the opportunity. We must accept it if the Premier said they have given these instructions, because having discussed it he must have given the Director of Education instructions. What I am saying is that today you are discussing the principle of having the Crown Agents assist in asked certain questions said he had some Higher

the recruitment of technical instructors and not one Headmaster of other secondary schools has been informed. When you take the statistics, you will see they are in the majority; they have the most children and you cannot deny them this opportunity. If you say in your education system that children must come out at fourteen years, and the other secondary schools come to the rescue of Government, Government should make this provision for the purpose of providing technical education. How can you say you will recognise them if they have proper qualified teachers and proper buildings and then in the same breath and by your action say "We are putting up this Technical Institute but we cannot select boys from your school?" It is not true to say that the hon. member for St. John, who is a member of the Lodge School, does not have information about it. As a member of Harrison College I have been informed because it has been discussed at length; but I am not merely here to represent people at Harrison College. They do not run the world; they do not run Barbados, and if, Sir, most of you think because you went to Harrison College you run the world, then you get out, because you do not run the island either. You run a few people.....out. What I am saying, Sir, is that I do not intend to go out of my way to say that the Executive did not discuss the statement made in good faith. All I say today is, Will the Premier find out why all the other Government schools have not been informed; as he himself said he went up to Lodge School, and the hon. senior member for St. John must know.....

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: I am sorry, I have not said that. Let me remind the honourable member of the scheme as was put to the Executive and to which we agreed for the Technical Department, which falls under several heads; for training, you asked people in town to release a man in the day and so on. That is one aspect. Another is secondary technical education, and that this should commence at the age of thirteen years, organised in conjunction with existing secondary schools, and in Government aided schools; and then in the actual scheme that passed the House, admission and accommodation in paragraphs 25 and 26, and so on. Honourable members will remember that there was a great deal of comment as to whether it would be convenient to have it at Combermere School, and the matter was postponed. Actually I was not in the island; when I discovered what had taken place and the matter was again discussed with the Executive and while it was passed that it should be at Combermere School, it was also agreed that there should be nothing to prevent boys from coming from other secondary schools and going to Combermere for instructions. It was passed eventually and this is how it reads:

"The Principal shall submit to the Governing Body the results of the entrance examination and test each year . . ." and so on, "provided that pupils who shall be subject to the same conditions mentioned elsewhere in this scheme which are applicable to pupils from Combermere School, may be selected from any other secondary school in the island which in the opinion of the Director of Education is adequately equipped to offer pre-entrance training similar to that obtainable at Combermere School."

That is why I say it applies to every Secondary School, and I should have added, provided the Director of Education is satisfied with the equipment. There may be a Secondary School in some parish that may not have a laboratory or where there is somebody who can not add two and two, let alone teaching Maths. Obviously, nobody in that School can profit from Technical Education, but this advantage is still open to every Secondary School.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I quite agree with that, but the Hon. Premier came here and said something about a laboratory. What kind of laboratory did Combermere have? What have they got now?

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: That is only an instance. The Institute is going to teach handicrafts too! What is the point of building up an argument as if I meant that instance to be something comprehensive?

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: What is the good of saying that there may be somebody who cannot add two and two? Let me ask the honourable member if he is not aware that Private Schools had been offering children for the Barbados Scholarship, and they will be excluded in some way from entrance in the Technical School. The honourable member seems to think that because there may be one or two persons who control the Secondary Schools, that that is sufficient force to be used to bar children from some of the Schools. The Hon. Minister of Education, who is Premier, was not here when we asked the question —

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The honourable member is reflecting on the Rules of the House. This Scheme has been passed by this House and the Other Place, and it has been assented to by the Governor. The time when the honourable member should have talked about this matter was when the Scheme was before the House. All that I quoted today, is what we have passed.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: What Rules is the Hon. Premier talking about? Who has ever broken more Rules than he? This is a money Resolution with which we are dealing in respect of Instructors for the Technical Institute, and therefore I can talk all around in a circle on this Resolution. Do not therefore let the Hon. Premier say that I am breaking the Rules of the House. The Hon. Premier has said that if in the opinion of the Director of Education he is satisfied that there is a School where you can have pre-entrance training,—well, I say the policy is the Premier's and his alone. I am asking him whether they should not have Schools other than Government-aided Schools in this Scheme. We have discussed that matter all around in a circle and the Minister was wise enough to take back the matter to the Executive Committee so as to have other Schools included. I tell you that you have Secondary Schools in this island other than Government-aided Secondary Schools, and they have not been told one word about this matter; therefore, he is at fault! Are we to go to the Public tomorrow and say that the Government is willing to have children from Schools other than Government-aided Schools participate in this Scheme, but the Director of Education has refused to allow it? I am not talking about the Minister of Education; I am not talking about the Government at all.

This Scheme is a very important one in the matter of Education today. The Premier has said as long as the Director is satisfied that there is a School where pre-entrance training is offered, there is the opportunity for entering this Institute. Combermere has not got any Laboratory and yet the Premier has come in here with a Scheme in respect of Combermere! I ask: what about those boys who are going to Schools where there is no opportunity of getting into the Secondary Schools of Harrison College and Combermere? I say that local private people cannot get in, and people who are from overseas can get in; this is a matter which should concern the local private people more than anybody else. Let us take last year; some of these boys went in for the Oxford and Cambridge examination and when the results came out, the private Schools did better than other Secondary Schools, but the boys are not of the type who

can get into Harrison College; therefore why should you deny them this opportunity? The Crown Agents have said that suitable candidates are in view; I know that Harrison College and Combermere have a selection—

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: If I may interrupt the hon. member in the matter of entrance exams do you have to tell people that they have to apply to Combermere or Harrison College. Any boy from any School can make application for admission to this Institute.

5.15 p.m.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I say, that is not true! I challenge the Hon. Premier. It is not true!

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The honourable member must be thinking that he is in Cats' Castle.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: That is where you were born, you were born in Cats' Castle and Bulls Alley.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: (*rapping the gavel*) You are breaking the Rules of the House.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: He is breaking the Rules.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The Scheme of Government—

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: That is not anything on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Premier has risen on a point of order.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: That is not anything on a point of order. He is making a speech.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the honourable member obey the Chair?

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am speaking. Allow me to speak; I am not giving way. That is not a point of order. Let him say what it is.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Take your seat.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I was speaking and the hon. member rose.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: All I am saying is that there may be more copies of the Scheme, and, may be, the Marshal will bring them in and share them out to hon. members. That is no misquotation of what the law is. The Scheme shows how people can get their children at the Institute. If hon. members read the Scheme, they will see that there is no discrimination against any school.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Premier seems to think that I said that there is discrimination. He is saying that anybody can apply. I am saying that that is not true. All that is happening is that he knows nothing about the matter. It is not true that any child can make application. That is sheer ignorance. That is trying to mislead the Committee.

What I am saying is that the children who go to private secondary schools that have been approved by the Department of Education should have the opportunity of benefitting from training at the Institute. That is what caused the debate in this House when the matter came up at first. Any school which can give the proper pre-entrance training should be invited to send boys. Harrison College and Combermere School have been invited to send boys. The hon. senior member for St. John said that the Lodge School has not been invited. I did not know that the Lodge School was not asked. The Hon. Premier said that it was strange that the Lodge School had not been asked.

Mr. ALLDER: What I did say was this: it is not that the Lodge School was not asked. The Governing Body of that School was sent the scheme that Government formulated as regards the School and the creation of a technical stream in the school, and that was agreed to by the Governing Body. My contention is that when the vacancies at the Techni-

cal Institute were being allocated, there was provision made for boys from Harrison College and Combermere School only, as far as my knowledge goes, as well as the knowledge of the Governing Body of the Lodge School. If the Government has decided to make provision for pupils of the Lodge School, I know nothing of it yet.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: That makes my point stronger if you have sent the scheme of what should be done to the Lodge School, Harrison College and Combermere School. I do not know what the hon. senior member for St. Andrew would say in respect of the Alleyne School or what the hon. junior member for Christ Church would say in respect of the Boys' Foundation School. I am telling you that no such scheme has been sent to any private secondary school that is approved by the Department of Education.

This is a matter of policy and it is for the Minister of Education to say what is the policy. The Hon. Premier is not taking enough interest in it. You sent a scheme to Harrison College and Combermere School. Have you sent one to the Boys' Foundation School and one to the Coleridge-Parry School? Surely, if you sent a scheme to Harrison College and Combermere School, you should send one to all the secondary schools that are able to give pre-entrance training. Would the Hon. Premier say to-night that the Modern High School cannot give pre-entrance training? When you send a boy there, he comes out with between eight, nine and ten subjects. The School also sends pupils to sit the Higher Certificate. The Hon. Premier cannot argue against that. He talked of a school having a laboratory. He then found out that Combermere School had no laboratory and he side-tracked there.

In my opinion, all of us must feel very proud to vote money for the Technical Institute because we realise that this part of the education of the country is long overdue: and if we must fit our young men, and similarly our young women, to face the world with a technical knowledge and the know-how to do things, we must pay great attention to this matter. I sit on Boards and listen to learned men of education and they all agree that we must provide our boys with this training. I myself have seen the big Technical Institute in Boston and Canada. I can see the importance that is attached to Loughborough in England; therefore, this technical education which we are providing is important. We should not confine this to any type of school. All schools which in the opinion of the Director of Education can give the proper pre-entrance training should be asked to send pupils. If you are opening this Institute in October and you sent around a scheme to Harrison College and Combermere School and you say that you are ready for boys from those schools, how is it that you have not sent an invitation to any of the other schools? I say that that is a matter of policy and that the Minister of Education himself must take the blame because he is not doing his duty or he has too much to do.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I can quite appreciate the dilemma which you are in, but it is not my intention to make it any more difficult for you. This is one of those examples of democracy and the procedure of this House. It is true, Sir, that this Resolution in the main deals with the provision of funds for three instructors for the Technical Institute. You did not see fit to look upon this Resolution other than in the usual way; that is to say, you do not agree with words being spoken of matters outside of the Resolution. Indeed, when you look at the Resolution, you will see that it deals specifically with the money to pay those instructors.

It is not my intention to refer to the Scheme. There are those of us who like to abide by the Rules. I do not kick when you rule. However, no one should object to any reference being made to the Scheme for the Institute if what the Scheme states is not carried out, because in passing the Resolution, you are implementing the Scheme. If what the hon. members said about it is correct, the Government should be quite willing to say something about it. You have to be factual. There is no point in your pretending that you are doing more than you can do. This Technical School is for a certain number of boys. I do not believe this school can hold the number of which hon. members are speaking. The Scheme is limited to a certain number of boys and preference is being given to certain schools to send boys at the Institute at its beginning.

8.25 p.m.

I am only making a factual statement, because all the secondary schools that exist in the island, if they had to send four or more boys, you would find a number of boys going to the approved secondary schools, and some schools will be left out if you did that. There should not only be approved schools, but approved candidates, because you can have approved schools, but every approved school cannot produce approved candidates in the sense of candidates who are likely to go forward. I would like to deal with the note in the Addendum. "In the addendum to the Resolution No. 54/1956 relating to the provision of staff for the Technical Institute it was intimated that the assistance of the Crown Agents was being sought in the recruitment of Technical Instructors with the requisite qualifications and that as soon as the terms and conditions of service had been settled satisfactorily a resolution would be submitted to the Legislature for the provision of the necessary funds. The Crown Agents have now notified that suitable candidates are in view and accordingly an amount of \$11,832 is required to pay salaries for the remainder of the current financial year." It goes on to say that "The salary proposed for these posts is in the scale \$4,800 x 240 — 5,760 per annum and agreements will be entered into with the appointees for a period of three years."

Now, I am very glad to hear that, but I do not want Government to be too ambitious about these salaries and think you are going to keep these people on contract for three years, because you will find yourselves in a position like that at the Hospital, and I hope the Minister of Education does not possess the same mental attitude about the Technical Institute with the remark he made about people from Cats Castle, because in my opinion it is the people from Cats Castle who are going to make the technicians, because it is going to appeal to these people, people from obscurity, people from low down; but if one can see this permeating your mind, and there is this innate snobbery in dealing with education, education has its wrong meaning. If the Technical Institute is to create better technicians for Barbados, then your mental attitude must change; your whole approach to life must change; and that is where I am going to warn the Government. I am going to make this bold statement. This is a worthwhile institution; it is an institution that must affect the Union of which I have the honour to be General Secretary, but I must make this warning that within the context of the Barbados economy and industry, we must not get the idea that the Technical Institute in Barbados can run along precisely the same lines as a Technical Institute in highly industrialised places moving on to automation. The majority of

the people you have to absorb in trade and industry are in the main going to be mechanics; they are not going to be the people required for the assembly lines in manufacturing motor cars; they are not going to be the people in the chemical places like ICI. In the main you have to train the boys, and if you reach the stage, train girls in the maintenance of heavy machinery, light machinery and in the building and construction trade. If you take an analysis of the trade and industry you have in Barbados, it will give some slight indication of that. I do feel that the Government should pay attention to the recruits they will have as instructors, because from my experience even in the United Kingdom, they to-day have found difficulty in recruiting people for these jobs, and do not get the idea—and I would not repeat what I have even heard repeated, that you are going to get the super-super person coming to Barbados to take up these jobs, because the super-super people, the English, the American or Australian cannot get them and when they get them they are holding them with higher salaries. What is being done in the United Kingdom is not going to be done here. You are not taking the boys from trades and using them in this Technical Institute; you are taking the youngsters from the schools and recruiting them into the Institute, and we are not surrounded by a big technical world. The technical world in Barbados is limited, and so a boy has to show real aptitude in order to find profitable employment. The worst thing you can do is to have a boy from a secondary school who cannot find his way in life in this community, because he is a more disgruntled individual than a boy who never goes further than elementary school and feels the world does not owe him anything. I have to watch the Technical Institute very carefully because as one engaged in the Trade Union Movement, I am going to come up against this in my daily employment and I know this is one of the problems we are going to face with industrialisation in Barbados, if we are going to find in process of time that recruitment is based on such a narrow basis. I am very pleased to support the Resolution for this money, and I say I cannot see the Government getting men who are going to remain in Barbados at these salaries for three years. My experience in the last six weeks indicate that this is one of the things we are going to come up against, as in England, because one of the problems is the recruitment of people. I am not one of the people who do not mind if the salaries come near somebody else's and if you want the Institute to mean something you must have instructors feeling happy. I am not one of those who think you can run this Technical Institute successfully if you are going to run it on the salaries that you have proposed here.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, . . .

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: Perhaps if the hon. member will give way, I would explain that we have tried at lower salaries and then at a higher salary, and now at last we can get people at the salary proposed. That is the answer, and we would not have come with this until the Crown Agents had informed us that we could get somebody. I apologise if I took for granted the general principle of what was passed. As I said in the course of one of my interruptions, any boy can sit. You do not write to every parent and say you can let your boy sit for the Technical Institute. Let me remind hon. members of the scheme. I have it before me and I thought everybody would have had a general knowledge of what the principle of the scheme is.

'Admission to the Institute shall be by means of such examinations and tests as approved by the Director and such examination and tests shall be

conducted by the Principal at the end of each academic year." Then what did we do? We made provision for seventy candidates, that is the law, seventy apprentices and thirty boys from Combermere School. When the scheme was first brought the House objected to Combermere only, and the Director of Education gave explanations, then I came back to the island and I gave the explanation why Combermere was singled out, because it was the only school with anything approaching what you might call a real technical stream, but it was made clear that nothing would be done to prevent other boys from coming to Combermere to take that training.

5.35 p.m.

Anybody can sit, and he gets through this examination or does not get through it as the case may be. The next section says this: The principal shall submit to the Governing Body the result of the entrance examinations and tests each year together with his recommendations for entry for confirmation by the Governing Body, which shall —

- (a) fix from time to time, subject to the approval of the Director, the number of students to be admitted to each course in any one year;
- (b) select in each year as students, to the number of not more than seventy, candidates who have been successful in the entrance examinations and tests who are also apprentices properly indentured to registered firms or master workmen in trades appropriate to the courses of instruction and training provided at the Institute; provided that, if through failure in the entrance examinations and tests or for any other reason an insufficient number of indentured apprentices be recommended as students, the Governing Body of the Institute may after the end of the second year of the operation of the Institute, fill the vacancies thus caused with candidates who have been successful in the entrance examinations and tests and who also are and will remain pupils of Combermere School while they are at the Institute and who have been recommended for courses at the Institute by the Headmaster and Governing Body of Combermere School;

I am sure that the hon. junior member for Christ Church had been approached by the Technical Institute; and he would know all this. You pass the examination and the test, the Director of Education sends up your name to the Governing Body and the recommendations as to who have got through. No more than seventy candidates can get in. There is another paragraph to this effect; the Governing Body of the Institute shall select.

"select in each year after the end of the second year of the operation of the Institute as students, to the number of not more than thirty, candidates who have been successful in the entrance examinations and tests and who also are and will remain pupils of Combermere School while they are at the Institute and who have been recommended for courses at the Institute by the Headmaster and Governing Body of Combermere School; provided that, if through failures in the entrance examinations and tests for any other reason an insufficient number of pupils of Combermere School be recommended as students, the Governing Body of the Institute may fill the vacancies thus caused with other candidates who have been successful in the entrance examinations and

tests and who are also apprentices properly indentured to registered firms or master workmen in trades appropriate to the courses of instruction and training provided at the Institute."

In short, there will be seventy boys from Foundries, Stores, Workshops and so on. If you have seventy who have passed the examinations and tests, those seventy will be admitted. If you do not get these seventy, then you will make up the number with boys from Combermere. Suppose the same thing happens at Combermere! If there are failures at Combermere, and you do not get the thirty from Combermere then you get apprentices.

I will forgive the members of this House or the public for forgetting at times. You cannot carry everything in your head, not even the lawyers can carry all the Law in their heads. I say that there is no discrimination against anybody; anybody from any Secondary School is admitted. I have read the proviso, and therefore what is the good of bringing forward an argument which is suggesting that the Director of Education can discriminate against any School?

The hon. senior member for St. John gave the impression that the Lodge School was not being considered, but he corrected the impression which he gave. The point is, that you can sit an examination and everybody knows that, but it is limited to seventy apprentices. Harrison College has chosen to start this technical stream. Anybody can start this stream as he likes, and send in his pupils; provided that in the opinion of the Director of Education that private School is sufficiently equipped to furnish its boys with the pre-entrance training equivalent to that obtainable at Combermere School, a boy will get a place although he is not an apprentice in a workshop. I repeat that this House objected at first sight to what apparently applied to Combermere School only, and this proviso was put in to make it abundantly clear that nobody would be excluded from either the seventy or thirty provided there was room for him. This proviso states:—

"Provided that pupils, who shall be subject to the same conditions mentioned elsewhere in this Scheme as are applicable to pupils from Combermere School, may be selected from any other school in the Island which in the opinion of the Director of Education is adequately equipped to offer pre-entrance training equipment to that obtainable at Combermere School."

If you pass a Law saying that only 100 can get in, what is the use of complaining if you are the 101st? The law says that only 100 can get in. When this matter came back to this House on the second occasion my recollection is that it was passed without division.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, I may begin by informing this House that I have recently been appointed as a member of a Governing Body, and as such, I have had close contact with these matters. I can answer the hon. senior member for St. John as a result of a meeting of the Board held yesterday. I can quote a letter from the Director of Education dated 12th July, in reply to the letter from the Lodge School Board dated 6th June, relative to the creation of the Technical Stream at the Lodge. The letter stated that the proposals would be in the final form where pupils of the Lodge School would have the same opportunities for admission to the Institute, provided that they were suitably trained, as would be offered to pupils of any other School: so that when the Hon. Premier says "any other School," he knows what he is talking about. It would be seen

that the Headmaster of Lodge was conferring with the Principal of the Technical Institute in the matter.

As far as I have been made to understand from the Director of Education, the number of apprentices who at present can be accommodated at this Technical Institute is something like 358 boys.

5.45 p.m.

The delay has been occasioned because of the lack of and difficulty of acquiring staff but as the note to the Resolution before us explains, that is somewhat offset at present and the Director, as far as he believes, hopes in the near future to be accommodating 358 boys because they are having two schools—a day and a night school—and in that way they hope to accommodate that number of boys.

This Technical Institute is the ambition of the Department of Education. This Technical Institute may be comparable to any Technical Institute in the United Kingdom which train boys in several courses of technology. It teaches boys to become artisans with the higher form of technical knowledge and they sit the highest qualified exams at the universities abroad. Already the plans which the Director has in mind about the running of this Technical Institute and which he is going to put in force have become the envy of the surrounding colonies which have these Institutes already. Just as Harrison College is compared with the best Grammar Schools in the United Kingdom, so is it spoken of the plans of the Barbados Technical Institute because they say that the preparations made at our Institute are comparable to any similar Technical Institute in the United Kingdom. As I have said, they hope to accommodate 358 boys because they hope to keep a day and a night school. I do not think I need say much more on the matter, but what I have said is knowledge which I have gleaned from the horse's mouth.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I have listened to the hon. member who says that he is convinced that the plans of the Technical Institute will come into operation by next year.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I said that the plans are to prepare at this Technical Institute several grades of technologists, from the well instructed artisan up to the higher grades of technologists, the pupils of which can qualify for passing technological examinations at University standard. Those are the plans for this Institute. I am not saying that this will happen next year.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I accept what the hon. member says. He means pre-entrance examinations.

Mr. VAUGHAN: To give you an instance, the best pupils who are coming from Harrison College and the Lodge School should be able to qualify to the standard of a University standard in technology in England.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: You are a member of a Board whose members are men of great qualifications. You should read. That is nonsense which you just spoke. Mr. Chairman, let me say that all that was said by the Hon. Premier and the honourable junior member for St. John have clinched my argument. Of course, the Hon. Premier has to refresh his memory as to the Scheme of the Technical Institute. Of course, we are aware of the question of pre-entrance training for boys who are to go to this Institute. Of course, we knew that they did put in a Proviso to the Scheme which is as follows:—

“Provided that pupils, who shall be subject to the same conditions mentioned elsewhere in this Scheme as are applicable to pupils from Combermere School, may be selected from any other school

in the Island which in the opinion of the Director of Education is adequately equipped to offer pre-entrance training equivalent to that obtainable at Combermere School.”

I thought the Hon. Premier would have denied what I said. If the Director of Education can send schemes to Harrison College and Combermere, he can also send schemes to those non-aided secondary schools to which he has given a certificate. I refer to those which have well qualified masters; I am not saying that he should send a scheme to a person who has opened a school because he wants some pennies. If you have an approved secondary school, one which is qualified to teach up to a certain standard of secondary education, and the Director of Education is sending out a scheme to the Lodge, Harrison College or Combermere, he should also send out one to such other approved schools.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, what I spoke on I quoted from a letter from the Director of Education which was sent to the Lodge School Board.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: As has already been discussed, the Director of Education has sent a copy of the scheme to secondary schools omitting those secondary schools which are not aided by the Government. The Hon. Premier knows that that was a point which we raised in this House and to which they made an amendment which was only a sop. There seems to be some official annoyance to certain secondary schools. I am in a position to talk back to anybody who talks to me. It is a fact that anything they can do to harm those schools, they will do. I am saying that you cannot put people with ability in the gutter. The Modern High School is catering to the needs of nearly 1,000 children and they are other secondary schools such as Mr. Rudder's which are qualified to send boys to this Institute. Therefore, I contend that the Director of Education or the Minister of Education is drawing a line somewhere. They should call in the Principals of those other schools and discuss the matter with them.

The other day, some English officials made applications to be taken around on a visit and they did every possible thing to prevent those English officials from visiting certain schools. Those officials who were interested in education had to make their own appointments and arrangements to visit Private Secondary Schools because the Education Department would do nothing to help them to get around to discuss matters of education with the people who are running these private secondary schools. I feel that properly run private schools, such as those in Bermuda and Trinidad, should be given some aid. As I have said, I am not thinking of somebody who has just set up a little place with about 30 boys to get a few pennies, but wherever the Education Authorities see that there are properly-run Private Secondary Schools, then I say, you should do nothing (I mean as far as the Government is concerned) to prevent them from partaking in whatever you do. The fact remains that you have done nothing to bring these Private Secondary Schools into the scheme. Far from that, you are trying to keep them out.

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

5.55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House for half an hour. On Reassembling.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

Head XXIII—Director of Medical Services

Head 23 was called.

Hon Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: As the note explains, the sum of \$3,800 was provided under authority of Resolution No. 105/55 for the purchase of a Station Wagon for the transport of the World Health Organisation Experts.

Due to the late delivery of the vehicle, payment could not be effected within the financial year 1955-56, therefore this is just a revote to pay for this Station Wagon for the use of the experts.

I beg to move that Head XXXII stand part.

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

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

Head XXV—Public Works

Head XXV was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The vote deals with Plant and Equipment for the Public Works. The note explains the necessity for this.

I beg to move that Head XXV stand part.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, this is one of the innovations that I hope now that Government has seen fit to do it, there would not be any misgivings about things happening to private individuals. The note says: "The Director of Public Works"; it does not say the Minister, "has represented that considerable time is wasted in the construction of buildings over two storeys in height by the present laborious method of lifting all materials by hand labour on block and tackle."

Now this must be analysed in this context. It is laborious. I am one of those people who would like to see many of the primitive methods of doing many jobs abolished, but we still have to bear in mind that in a redundant population there is no use saying you must find outlets for people by letting them go overseas, and at the same time use the word laborious. Laborious methods in a place with a large population is not unusual. There is an old parochial system where you repair roads not so much because you have to do the roads, but you do them on the basis of finding unemployment for people. I do not subscribe to the view: I am more modern in my outlook to the view in which you manufacture employment by using outdated methods which is uneconomic and cannot produce a worthwhile economy for the people, so I have no objection: but it is members of the Government who know other reasons, say they want to find employment for people and do things of that nature. I can bring references to show if you do this you can do other things and find means of employment, but

with the abolition of these laborious methods you will take away employment from those people who do work with the block and tackle.

6.10 p.m.

You are going to have the position where these workers will now question you on the basis of what the re-assessment and the re-valuation of work within the whole Public Works Department is going to be. That is where the Trade Unions have to play a very important part. There are some of the people in respect of whom it has been stated by the Government that it is illegal for them to be represented by the Trade Union. You are now investing \$2,000 in this Department, and it means that when you are erecting certain buildings, you are not to require the amount of assistance which you needed when you were working under the old laborious system. That system kept back the buildings from being erected in a shorter period. If you had a system of 10 man hours, instead of having 10 man hours, you are now having six man hours to do the same job which was done before.

No one who is modern in his outlook in industrial matters would object to that; I am only mentioning this to show that where the Government takes the lead in any technological change, it is stupid to ask private employers not to do the same thing. There is no question of belly-ache when you hear—

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: If I may interrupt the honourable member, I should like to say that there is no question of any diminution of labour. When I have a buggy, I employ a coachman, and when I have a motor car, I employ a chauffeur. Nobody is going to be unemployed.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: If I read the note to this Item correctly, this is what it says:—

"The Director of Public Works has represented that considerable time is wasted in the construction of buildings over two storeys in height by the present laborious method of lifting all materials by hand labour on block and tackle. It is considered therefore that it would be a great improvement to furnish the Department with a mobile hoist capable of lifting a loaded wheelbarrow."

If something can lift a loaded wheelbarrow as compared with a man who is hauling up a bucket with something in it, if you are employing the same labour force as the Premier has said, what are you saving then? The analogy which has been drawn between a buggy and a motor car is inapplicable if it is a question of saving time and labour. I am not one of those who would say that you should not have any technological improvement; all I am saying is that if the Government attempts to introduce any technological change, then you can look out that private employers are going to do the same thing. If you have a machine for mixing cement, do not tell me that you are going to employ the same number of people for mixing cement; you may employ people for mixing something in a faster method somewhere else. You say that this proposal is not going to cause any diminution of the labour force; yet where you were employing 800, you are now going to employ 788 or 790. I am dealing with the gradual diminution of labour which is going to take place; I am not opposed to this improvement at all. I am merely saying that if you are making this change, when private employers do the same thing, then you cannot say that you are enacting legislation to prevent any diminution in labour. When these changes are taking place, then adequate provision has to be made all along.

The Government does not give any guarantee to these workers. It is illegal for these people to join

a Trade Union, but these people have had no guarantee. Some people are employed on a day-to-day basis, and if the rain falls, they are not employed. I am at pains to draw this matter to the attention of this Committee, because there is a glaring case before me in which the Trade Union had to deal with an issue similar to this one, in which an employer was making a change with which we agreed, and it would be surprising if I were to state in this House what was written in an article which had something to do with the Trade Union, and which was written by one of the members of the Government.

The Government is introducing a new change, but you can get, in respect of private industry, a deliberate attempt made by a member of the Government to interfere with something which the Trade Union was doing relative to private employment. I will have to deal with that matter when a Resolution in connection with the Sugar Industry comes before this House, because it is something which relates to the Sugar Industry.

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

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Head XXXII—Highways and Transport—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: In connection with this Item the amount provided under it has proved to be insufficient. Where the roadways are broken by the Waterworks Department, the Electric Company and the Telephone Company, which are public utilities, the Department of Highways and Transport has to repair the roads. This work is done at the expense of these Companies, and therefore the whole amount of money under this Item is recoverable. I beg to move that this Head stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

TRANSPORT

Head XXXVI—Transport—was called.

Hon. G. H. ADAMS: The amount required under this Head is \$3,814 to pay the fees of the expert valuer which is required by Counsel retained by the Government in respect of the bus arbitration proceedings. This valuer is required to visit Barbados again during this month to give evidence before the arbitration tribunal. I beg to move that this Head stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I was not here when a big debate in respect of this matter of Transport took place in this House. I was very sorry I was not here, but I have read something in the Press in connection with what the Hon. Premier and the Hon. Minister of Communications stated about this matter. The Government is asking for this amount of \$3,814 in respect of this expert valuer, but I do not know whether it is the intention of the Government to keep these buses or to give them up. Do not let us waste public funds if it is the Government's intention to give up these buses. 6.20 p.m.

Now, the Government has not yet decided to give up the buses or to give them back to the people

to whom they belong, but I understand that the Yonkers buses are to be given to some gentleman by the name of Mr. Alleyne. I do not know what is written by Mr. Gibbons on the transport system but I know that there are going to be some pointing remarks. I read in the newspapers that since the Transport Board came into operation that no Minister has anything to do with that Board.

I am glad to know that the Government seems to think that the Transport Board needs overhauling.

Now, the Government had one of the best opportunities for nationalisation. If there is something in Barbados to be nationalised and nationalised in the interest of the community as a whole, it is public transport. There can be no doubt about that if you give any serious consideration to it. The Island is small; it has an excellent net-work of roads and from the point of view of screening and policy, there can be no doubt about it. What do you find? An excellent opportunity to nationalise the public transport service and the Government has given to all of the detractors of nationalisation and public ownership the very idea that they can say that nationalisation or public ownership is wrong because of the mess Government has made with public transportation.

It is true that Government did not plan to do it, but you do not have a policy, say for nationalisation of transportation, and when it comes your way to do the thing which you have as a matter of philosophy set out to do, you do not try to make the best use of it. It is no point to say you must possess a specialist philosophy to deal with public transport, because I do not think the public authorities in the United States of America have a socialist mentality. As a matter of fact, a socialist philosophy is regarded as a crime in the United States of America. There is no State in the United States of America that is of a socialist nature; yet the public authorities there run public transport. Similarly is the case with the transport system in London which I regard as the best in the world. They run an excellent service and even the Conservative Government which is in power now has not made any attempt to denationalise the type of transport. You find that Government with its policy to nationalise has made this mess of running the transport service. You can clearly see it. Of course, you may not have been ready to run it, but you have allowed the people to misrun it because you have people who are not capable of running the service.

I make this serious charge against Government because there is no use hiding these matters. The Government has now come down with a Resolution for legal expenses in connection with the transport service. Do you know that the Minister of Transport says he has nothing to do with it? Let me say that the Minister has to dictate the policy. Every member of that Board was appointed by the Minister; no member could be appointed without the approval of the Minister. The Transport Board is headed by a man who is a charming person, but he may not be a man that can give the public the best service. I have had some painful duties to perform. A man has been dismissed by this Transport Board and that Board took a week before it could tell you what the man was dismissed for. When they gave an explanation, they said that the man gave some evidence in which the Minister of Transport was involved.

Hon. M. E. COX: I must object to that. I was not involved in anything.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: The Minister's conduct was the subject of an enquiry in this Island. He says that he was not involved in anything, but his conduct was the subject of a public enquiry and one of the persons who gave evidence was that man, therefore, it will have to be the concern of the Minister. He would not have been in that business if he did not go begging for contracts. I never yet begged for contracts; those who beg for contracts pay the price.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is not now dealing with the Resolution.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: You must listen to the Hon. Minister. I am not afraid. If the Minister wants to say something, let him get up on a point of order and say it. You are asking me not to say something. My tongue would have to be stuck in the roof of my mouth.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. member to stick to the Resolution.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Ask the hon. Minister first. You allow them to bring the House into disrepute and when I reply you are asking me to keep quiet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You do not know the reason why I rapped my gavel. You must obey the ruling of the Chair. You should listen to what I am saying instead of carrying on like that.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Ask the Hon. Minister to sit. You must have heard what they said over there; you cannot pretend that you did not hear their remarks. I heard the remarks that they are my friends. Imagine the Minister of Communications talking of my friends. So far as the Trade Union is concerned, all its members are my friends. If a Trade Unionist is right in my opinion, I will represent his case; if he is wrong there will be no representation of his case by me.

I have pointed out already that the Transport Board could not for one week tell the Trade Union why they dismissed the man and that case was the subject of a long arbitration before one could know the reason why they dismissed that man. At the root of it, you heard the insinuation that the man had something to do with something against the Minister of Communications.

What are you asking for in this Resolution? Are you asking for something to retain the Transport Service or is it the intention of the Governor to ask the former concessionaires to take back their bus service? What has Mr. Gibbons recommended? I do think that this is a time to say what Mr. Gibbons recommended. At this stage, I would not deal with the sodium which has been given against certain people, or the accusation against the bus conductors that they are responsible for the loss in the running of the Transport Service. What I do say is that if a general attempt was made to revamp your Transport Service, there could be no better occasion and better time to do it than now.

6.30 p.m.

I am saying that the Government and the Labour Party would have to put a red pencil line right through nationalisation and say this is no longer their policy, because I am going to submit that if Government cannot make a good job of the Transport, there is nothing in Barbados that you can see the Government nationalising unless they are going to nationalise us and say all human beings today are the sole property of the Government, and when you buy a pair of shoes or pants you must get their approval to see what it is. If they cannot nationalise the transport system already there, can you see them

nationalising the Electric Company, the Telephone Company and all these other public utilities in our life time when they have failed to take the golden opportunity to nationalise the bus service? By this, they have given people like the hon. junior member for Christ Church and the hon. senior member for the City the right to cut through on nationalisation and say they did not mean it. You had an opportunity and failed. I want to say that no matter how much we protested the increase of bus fares, no one, no politician, no member of the community, likes to increase the cost of living for himself, because it means higher expenditure; the only person who can by this method say they have reduced the cost of living is the employer, because if you take an economic survey of it, the amount of taxes that have gone this way must have been more than what the increase would have been, because it does not matter from which pocket you take it. If you use it from the Public Treasury, it has been depleted by more than what the community would have paid and the public is lacking in that amount, because some people have the idea that if you take money out of the Public Treasury it has nothing to do with the people, but it comes out of the people's pockets. I am a grieved man to see the position with the public transport in this island, and I am not one of those Socialists who believe in socialism on the basis of spite; I am not a Socialist who believes in socialism, and would only speak on (a) any socialist theory or in doing something if it will help somebody or (b) if it is going to hurt somebody I would come off. I have no concessionaire friends and I make no promises that I am going to do this or that; but in the interest of the public and the public service, the transport should be run by the Government of this country for the public of this country and made to be a success; it is not beyond the competence of the people, but what do you find; you take an old Civil Servant that you can use as Chairman of the Board. Why not take some of the people with ability to make them Chairmen of the Board rather than taking dunder-heads people who have been a failure in public business? You put people to control the Board as though it were some peddling business, people who are not accustomed to having things in a big way and when they see big money they are afraid of it. I am not one of those people who believe in bringing back retired people into active jobs; but if you have a Board like that you make use of those people with experience for administrative purposes. This Government's belief in justice as a Socialist Government is that a man is dismissed and is not told why he was dismissed. The Manager of the Transport Board dismissed a man and he did not know why the man was dismissed. He was told by the Board to dismiss the person. Imagine a manager being paid £1,000 a year being told by a Board to dismiss person. [A VOICE: Who told the Board?]

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for the City must not interrupt hon. members when they are speaking.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Even in the Ministerial system where you have a Civil Servant working under one of the Ministers, the Minister cannot tell the Governor or the Colonial Office when he must be dismissed without being given an opportunity to represent himself; but the Manager was appointed by the Board and I make bold to say that this appointment was subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee. The Minister has no control over the Department, so what conditions are you laying down? This is a small place where you go around and pick your friends. I am not telling him

to put people who are opposed to Government policy because there would be no point in that. Do not tell me there are not competent men in this Island who would go and sit on a Board like the Transport Board, and after you have put them there you cannot let them do their work. Do not have men going in disguise in short pants at night looking around the place at the conductors and next time they go to a Board Meeting they report to themselves that the conductors carried away money last night. That is not the situation you want on a Board, where you tell the Minister to watch another man on the Board, and that a man on the Board is not pulling his weight. This is an indication of the way we are aspiring to responsible Government. In a situation like that, those of us who have any love for justice must oppose it. I supported the Resolution to take over the buses, and not one of the concessionaires can tell me anything because I do not borrow money from either of them; I never asked them a favour and not even the bus conductors have to give me a free ride. None of them can come to my door and ask me what about the loan or the interest due. I do not get mixed up in that kind of business. When the Resolution came here and the Opposition was ready to go against it saying give the people more money, I supported the taking over because I wanted to see the public transport run by the public in the interest of the public and for the public. Here it is now that I hear rumours of buildings being built because some man is going to get back his buses; Mr. Birch has got back his. How do you know Mr. Birch is not going to come at a later date and say he cannot run them anymore? But he came back like a Daniel to judgment and said he made a mistake; you do not make a mistake with a matter like that.

You do not tamper with matters concerning the buses like that. The action of these Concessionaires has put the Government to all of this expense; the sum of \$8,795 has already been voted, now we are asked to vote this \$3,814, and we had \$5,000 put down to obtain the services of a Queen's Counsel to advise us. You go through all of this expense, and you are giving back the buses to these people! What is wrong with saying: "We are going to run these buses?" Why can you not say today that all Transport in Barbados should be run by the Government in the interest of the community? What protest are you getting from the people that you cannot run the Transport of this Island? The Conservatives are fundamentally against nationalisation, and you would be playing into their hands if you ever attempt to nationalise anything in the public interest and then you drop it like a hot brick and you ask people to hold this baby for you because it is too wet! Do you imagine that the British Labour Party would have the steel people to put the steel in their hands and then they give the steel back to them? The Conservatives denationalised the steel, it is true, but are you going to denationalise the public transport?

All over the world public transport is one of the things which you try to nationalise. I do not subscribe to the view that a good service must necessarily be a cheap service, and that one cent more will raise the cost of living of the people beyond reason. A man wants a service which will get him to work in time and one which will get him home without having to wait for half an hour on it. We had a classic example at the *Advocate*, and despite what has been said privately that I messed up the *Advocate* strike, what is the position in this Island? A man leaves his work at 11 o'clock to go to Government Hill for his lunch; he has an hour in which to return

to work; he does not get a bus until 11.30 to go for his lunch, and eventually he is 15 minutes late. The employers will regard him as being 15 minutes late, and there was a system where a man would be losing that proportionate part of his wages. Nobody takes into consideration the transportation service and the system of communications. I would like to say that the Government owes a duty to the public. I travel up and down this Country, and I will say that you cannot drive from St. Joseph until you reach Bridgetown without noticing that the buses have left people to whom you have to give a lift. [A MEMBER: The Minister of Trade says that you cannot give a man a lift].

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for the City is breaking the Rules of the House.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: What Rule is that?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for St. Peter may proceed.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Where you have a public service which has made itself so unpopular that you should nationalise it, and people in this community agree with that, except those who are fundamentally opposed to nationisation, why have you got to give back these buses to the people? Fundamentally, an employer runs his business for profit. The Government cannot run all business for profit; a Government-run business cannot be carried on for profit pure and simple. We pay a subsidy to the *West Indian*; we paid a subsidy to the Canadian National Steamships and we have to subsidise this service out of the Treasury saying that it is not making a profit, but it is a good service, and you would regard it as an economic fare to be paid for what it means to the community. There are people who say that they are not increasing the cost of living to the community, but sometimes the cost of living increases in ways which are not reflected in the Cost of Living Index.

Mr. Chairman, I would be failing in my duty if I did say that the Minister in charge of this Department owes a duty to the community to make a full explanation with regard to any vulgarisms in so far as the people who work in this Department are concerned. There is no point in accusing the Conductors and Drivers for the losses which have been sustained: let us be frank about it; I was one of those who said publicly that the Transport system could not be properly run unless you have a system where the boys will play a fair game. I said that this year would be a year of strikes. We had to deal with some employers, and you would be surprised to hear it said that my conduct was reprehensible. I challenge the Minister to deny this; he said that if you want the project to succeed, you cannot take home the bag at night. There is a Minister whom we find is now smiling; when I said that he was Laval I was correct; you can spell the word "Laval" both ways! [Laughter].

Some years ago, the Hon. Premier said that far from the Transport service being run as it was being run, he would like to have a service where you could take any school child from any point to school. Well, no private Concessionaire would run a service like that for you; the Government must do it. No Concessionaire would run a bus from any point to a school on any fare.

6.50 p.m.
Now, Sir, I feel that here is an excellent opportunity for any Government with a socialist philosophy to make the greatest use of the public system of transport which is one that could be run in the public interest. But what is the failure of the Government? The failure is that instead of

attacking the problem as big men and realising that they hold a big position and act big accordingly, they go and look for people who are not big enough to run the service for them. I have nothing against the men whom they have put on the Transport Board, but if you put a man to run your Transport Service, you must put a man who can do the job competently. We all have many friends, but all of our friends cannot even run their business properly. It is pitiable to go to the Transport Board and see what is happening there. They are like men who find themselves in a strange land. I do not know how to address them. They do not have one single clue to the problem presented to them. They cannot say to this day why they dismissed that man. The Minister's plea would be that the Board dismissed the man. He would wash his hands out of it like Pilate. This is what I know and what he cannot deny. The action of the Board over that person who was dismissed has cast a very sad reflection on the Minister's administration of that Department.

I will go further by saying that the Director of Highways and Transport was in charge of the Transport Board. It was stated that the Director fooled the Minister and did not give him the full facts of the situation. Whether that is so or not, do not go from one extreme to another. If the Director fooled you, do not go for a fool to fool you. I know as well as the world, and the Minister knows it too, that the present Chairman of the Board is not competent to handle every problem that comes before the Board. As a Manager, he is a nice man, but at heart he is weak in will. What manager is he that the Board can tell the General Secretary of the Union that they must be given a week to say why they dismissed a man? If the Executive Council of the Barbados Workers Union decided to dismiss a member of my staff and they could not give the reason, they would have to dismiss me too. When the Ministerial system of Government was about to come into being, there was a suggestion of taking a Minister to the Governor if someboy got vexed and we said "No" to that. We said that it was not to work that way. You put a man as Manager of the Transport Board. He holds an administrative post. If you put him there, you cannot have another man snooping around the corner at night behind him. Fire him if he is no good. That is where the whole thing has broken down. The Hon. Minister of Communication's duty to the public is to get people who can do the job. We of the Barbados Workers Union could have given him a retired Trade Unionist to do something for you on that Board; you should not look around for lackeys. These are not days for lackeys; these are days for socialists and people who have the philosophy. If you look for lackeys, you will get cheap people who will do things for a loaf of bread or an old waistcoat. Real men are not going to do such things. There are many people who while they do not agree with your philosophy would have done a better job.

You said that the bus conductors did not bring in all the money they collected. Do you think our bus conductors and bus drivers are bigger thieves than people working in another line of business? Tell me of a domestic servant that does not carry away some of your sugar. If you work on that philosophy you will fire all of them and will have to do all the cooking yourself. The Minister talked of such things happening in the general administration. I am saying: do not tell the public that the reason why the Transport service failed was because of the system which you have. Let me say, lest I be misunderstood, that there has not been any member of the Worker's Union which that Union repre-

sented where a case of pilferage was brought against him and the Council of the Union found him guilty of the offence. We have no political axe to grind. We will dismiss a man today if the General Elections are tomorrow so long as we feel his conduct is against the Union. We do not say, Mr. So and So is a good canvasser, therefore we cannot dismiss him. We stand for right in the Trade Union. We do not represent that kind of person. The honourable senior member for the City knows because he sits around the table at some of those meetings that when the Union has a member who is guilty, we have no time to waste in trying to argue a case for him.

As I have said, the Government has an excellent opportunity of owning the Transport Service. The British Transport authorities have people with knowledge and they are willing to support you not only in one thing but in others. This is the mistake made by the Hon. Minister. Now the horse is out of the stable, he has called in Mr. Gibbons to advise them; he did not get Mr. Gibbons to advise them from early. You should have got somebody like him to advise you from the start, but you have not done that. When you possess an overdose of conceit you must go wrong. The Minister of Communications believes that so long as he can get up and smear anybody's character and can make people believe that everybody else is dishonest but he is an honest man, that that is all he has to do; he does not have to do anything more.

As regards the bus conductors and drivers employed by the Government, do you know that they are employed 365 days a year but if any one of them takes a day off, he loses money by it? Is that right? Of course, the Hon. Minister will say that he does not know anything about that. It is because of that, I say that I have a function to perform. You cannot get away with it from me when you make people work on that old slavish idea. I do not want any seat in the House of Assembly just to warm it and get \$160, a month without representing the people. Sir I intend to talk on any of these injustices which I see. You cannot let these things go unanswered.

Sir, that poor man is now out of a job. All that we of the Union are saying is that if he is wrong, we are willing to admit, but we have not heard why he is wrong. All they are saying is that he is wrong. Can you imagine that I asked them why they dismissed the man and they said: "we have dismissed him but give us a week to tell you why we have dismissed him." It really sounds fantastic but that is what the Board told us. We asked them: "if you have dismissed the man for sound reasons, why cannot you tell us here and now?"

Imagine dismissing a man and you cannot tell him the reason why he was dismissed. We ask if you had to dismiss a man for sound reasons, why could you not tell us why he was dismissed there and then? But the idea was that this man gave evidence in a case in which the Minister was involved and human nature being what it is, what more could you expect? Because the man gave evidence against the Minister, spite was being used against the man. You cannot prevent people from hearing these things because many of the bus drivers and conductors are people who belong to the Union, and I am not afraid of saying that that was the feeling. I can call names but I would prefer not to; but one man said that in an argument in the Union and it was some thing to do with a man whose nickname is one "Christmas". When you get these things happening in your administration, it begins to get to the root of your Ministerial System which must be above the slightest suspicion of any Minister using his influence to make

a man lose his job. Ministers must stand clear in their ministerial functions and not allow anything to make them depart from their policy, because if you get that taking place, the whole situation will be like a Fascist Government where stooges come in with the Ministers; and when the Ministers go, the stooges go too, or are shot. We do not want that in Barbados; we are too small for that. We are heading towards more responsible Government as a federal nation. I am strong on two grounds: I am in favour of Government owning buses; but you must tell the hon. senior member for the City and the hon. junior member for Christ Church why you believe in Socialism, because it stands for social justice and you must give a man the right to rise and also give the people an economy that will fit the needs of the majority and not the needs of the few. You should not be preaching that a man stole money, but there is something which you cannot answer, and that is, that nationalisation is a bugbear. If you are going to give them a better economy, how are you going to do it unless Government put money in the people's interest and take a positive step? So far as I am concerned I have no axe to grind. I have been accused; I am not one of those people who will accuse people of certain things, but I will accuse the Hon. Minister, if it is an accusation, of being involved in a case and be frank enough to say that he is a spiteful and vindictive man and the members of his Party know it. They say it of him, and that he will move any stone against any person whom he feels is in his way. [A VOICE: Hear, hear!] I go further to say that if they knew the man was a dishonest man—they made him an inspector, and we promoted him to president of his division; we did it and they knew it. If they did not want him to be an inspector they should say so, but you should not go behind his back and say he is a dishonest man. I would like to say this: no Minister has any right to say if a man vote or does not vote what will happen. We do not get everybody voting for us. You do not ask a man's wife to vote for you unless something has gone wrong. [A VOICE: Like what?] Use your imagination! In every community there are people who are opposed to you, but that is a sign of healthy democracy. At the same time I do not like to see any Minister use his influence against any person and I hope that after the expenditure in this legal matter that Government will make a clear unequivocal statement as to what is their intention so far as keeping the buses are concerned. Do you intend to keep the buses or give them up? If you intend to give them up, say so and advertise so that whosoever will may come forward; but it will be one of the gravest mistakes you will be making in giving back the buses to private concessionaires and that will be the end in this island of nationalisation.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, there is only one point to which I should like to reply. I am prepared to answer the hon. member as he should be answered or could be answered inside here, where there is protection or rather some measure of protection, but I am sure the opportunity will avail itself in some other place or places for me to reply adequately and properly to the remarks made against me. I should only draw to the attention of the Committee that this Resolution has absolutely nothing to do with the running of the buses. This is a Resolution for \$3,814 to bring the Expert out here to give evidence in the case of arbitration which is expected to take place sometime during the latter part of this month. The House has already by a vote agreed to bringing out this man; and as hon.

members know, the gentleman was here and the case having adjourned, it was necessary for him to go back home, and now it is also necessary for him to return here and give evidence in the case. During the course of his remarks the hon. member, as is customary threw some slime and mud on me as he could, but I have become accustomed to that sort of thing not from him alone, but from all my opponents from whom I differ purely on policy. That has been happening for some years and that can continue as long as I live or the individuals, it makes no difference to me. I just wanted to refer to the particular case to which he made mention of some employee of this Transport Board, as he says, having given some evidence in some case or other—I did not know I was involved in a case—and therefore I chose the opportunity of having this man dismissed. Now, the truth about this is, and he knows quite a lot today, and he has of course chosen this opportunity to attack me.

7.10 p.m.

The truth of this matter, as far as I know, is this. This man was working at the Transport Board from the time the Government took over the Transport service. I have been reliably informed, that not a single private Concessionaire would employ him; he was drafted into this service when it was first taken over. Soon after the Government took over the service, a man came to my office interviewed me, and made many suggestions to me for the improvement of the Transport service of this Island. I do not know what position he was occupying at the time, but he said that he was working with the Transport Board. I want to give the lie to the cheap stuff which the hon. junior member for St. Peter has thrown off here tonight. He said that I victimised this man.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: On a point of explanation, Mr. Chairman. If ever there was a person who can lie, he is an inveterate one. What I did say, was that this man gave evidence in a case, and the Hon. Minister is afraid to say that, because he did not know anything about the case in which Sir Clement Malone was Arbitrator. The point is that this man gave evidence in the case, and the impression was given not only to me, but to other people as well, that because the man gave evidence in this case, that was used against him. I repeat that; and you can go and ask people if that is not the impression which was given. All the hon. member has to do is say that he knew nothing either about the case or about the contract.

Hon. M. E. COX: That publicity does not worry me, and the hon. member knows that too. He gets on platforms and tells people about it; I am quite sure that when the whole thing was finished, I had a clean record when some of them had a very dirty one. [ASIDES] I like to deal with things on the platform level. [Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I like to deal with them on that level too]. The man to whom the hon. member was referring (ASIDES).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. senior member for the City continues to interrupt the hon. member who is speaking, I will name him.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY: I am very sorry, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. M. E. COX: As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member knows that outside the Government, this man has a very bad record.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: On a point of Order. The first time I met this man, was when I was called in the case.

Hon. M. E. COX: This man went to Prison for breaking Messrs Robert Thom Ltd.'s Garage and

taking away tyres; this man could not get a job in the Government Service. He was employed by the Transport Department and quite a number of reports have been made against his behaviour. I only got to know that in May or June this year, after the Department was taken over by the Government. The Board interviewed him to get a clean picture as far as the running of the buses was concerned, and each man there including the Secretary of the Organisation, referred to the behaviour and conduct of many of the employees of the Board. They referred to him at the time as a menace to the place. I knew nothing about him; the people there said that they would get rid, not only of this man, but of many others against whom there were many charges. The Director of Highways and Transport had reprimanded and suspended this man on more than one occasion.

As far as the bus service was concerned, it was absolutely necessary for every move which was made to be reported to the Minister and the conduct of people was reported from time to time. On the last occasion, the report was made that this man was put to work in Fontabelle and at no time when the Chief Officer went to the spot could this man be found. He was working for \$22 a week and was renting a motor car for \$40 and teaching the wife of his boss to drive when he was supposed to be working for the Government. The Board took account of the numerous reports which were made against this man, and they decided that they could not go on with him any longer. Whatever may have been the method in which they handled the situation at the Union, that is a matter for them; I do not know anything about it. All I happen to know is from the numerous reports which were filed against this man and other people; I have no reason to doubt that the whole situation was in a mess aided and abetted by some people who claim to be representatives. [Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Call names]. Some of the people who claim to be representatives have asked: "What is wrong if you take something out the bag and get something to eat?" These people will still criticise the Minister if the service does not show a profit; if there is any praise, the Minister does not want it from them. If there is any criticism and castigation to be thrown, it is thrown on the Minister; but when it is praise, it is thrown on the Officials or the Board or some people like that. I say that I have had absolutely nothing to do with this man; everybody says that this man was a perjurer. The hon. junior member for St. Peter knows nothing about the man, but he was sitting in there when he was giving evidence.

7.20 p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I rise on a point of order. I never knew that this man ever gave evidence against the Minister.

HON. M. E. COX: The hon. member cannot interrupt me.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I must interrupt you when you are wrong.

HON. M. E. COX: I must categorically deny any statement made by the hon. junior member for St Peter or anybody else as regards having used my position to dismiss a man because the man opposed me. I will tell you something more. There are members of that Board who are friends of hon. members on that side of the Table.

The hon. junior member for St. Peter referred to the Chairman of the Board. I want to assure him that he is a man whom I have seen for some years and I regard him as a respectable man. I do not know of anything against him. He has been appointed Chairman of the Board. It is the hon. member's duty as a supposed defender of the community, if he knows anything detrimental to the Chairman's character

to bring it to the notice of the Government and I can assure him that the Government will take action. As I have said, I know of nothing of his politics; as a matter of fact, I am inclined to believe that he is also a friend of hon. members on the other side.

This is the position of the Government as regards some of those members that were appointed to that Board: I felt that with the experience of some of them in the motor business, such as running motor vehicles and hired cars, that that experience would have been similar to running a bus business and that it could be used in good stead because except for the private individuals who had the experience of running the buses over the past years, there is nobody else in this island who has any experience of running buses; therefore, you have got to take the material which is available.

The hon. member made one point with which I agree when he said that there are times even though you may have somebody more capable and with more ability than another individual that that somebody should not be appointed to fill the position, but that the person should be appointed because of his willingness to serve. It is a fact that you can have educated crooks and that you find people using their educational ability to render a disservice. It is not a question of pure ability; it is a question of appointing a person whom you believe in and have good reasons to believe will work for the success of the community.

The hon. junior member for St Peter referred to our not appointing a Trade Unionist on the Board.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The honourable member should have listened to what I said. I said that you would not expect the Government to appoint an active trade unionist like a member of the Executive Council because you cannot have a person on a Board representing the Board when he is also representing the Trade Union. I said that may be, you could have appointed some retired trade unionist.

HON. M. E. COX: The honourable member referred to a retired trade unionist on the Board. However, what I want to tell this Committee is that we have never ignored the existence of the Trade Union. If you look at the membership of the Housing Authority, you will see that the President of the Barbados Workers' Union is a member of the Housing Authority.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Why didn't you ask a member from that organisation?

HON. M. E. COX: You do not ask a man to serve on a Board from a particular organisation.

Sir, I would not have risen, were it not for the nasty remarks made by the honourable junior member for St. Peter relative to my conduct. My association with the Board is as clear as anybody can understand, and I am more surprised that for a man with that conduct, a man whose behaviour is so questionable, the honourable junior member for St. Peter could put up such a strong defence, even going to the extent of accusing a Minister. The honourable member will tell you that everybody knows that anything which the Transport Board does goes to the Executive. Now, as he says, he knows nothing about it, but that a member was indiscreet enough to tell him that the Board has merely pushed this man out of work because he gave evidence in some case. I do not think anything could be more disgraceful for a supposedly responsible member of the community to do. There is nothing which could be more discreditable and nauseating than the remarks which the honourable member has said of me to-night.

Again, I will assure the Committee that the Board came to us with a number of names of people to be dismissed. Quite a number of inspectors were

sizes and they employed a total of about 272 workers.

Since we passed the Bill, the industry has made further representations. Early this year they came to my Ministry and stated that the situation had deteriorated somewhat. They stated that competition from Hong Kong and similar industries in the neighbouring colonies of Trinidad, British Guiana and Jamaica had caused them to come again for further protection. I may say here that the Jamaica Government went a bit further and actually was keeping out of the Island imports of shirts of a certain value; and this is the sort of protection that similar industries in other Islands are receiving. This has enabled them to step up production, and lessen their overhead costs per article so as to afford them greater economic strength to compete with similar industries in other West Indian Colonies and other markets.

9.00 p.m.

The result of this protection, Mr. Speaker, was that while this protected industry in Jamaica, Trinidad and British Guiana could compete in Barbados on more than equal terms with the local industry, the local textile industry cannot compete with it in the other islands with their raised tariffs. Their tariffs were raised against our exports while our tariffs were at a lower level, and they seized the opportunity to step up the exports to this island. That was the position represented to my Ministry. We investigated the matter very thoroughly. We went into it from every angle, compared tariffs in Jamaica, Trinidad and British Guiana with the tariffs obtaining in Barbados, and went into the figures of what they paid in wages, the capital investment involved and all other relevant data. I need hardly tell the House that no Government can in one jump, or willy-nilly and without serious consideration give protection of this sort to an industry, because there are many very far-reaching issues involved. We have to bear in mind our trade relationships with other territories and the implications as regards such international agreements as GATT and the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. I had discussions on this point when I went to England recently with the Colonial Office and also with Canadian Government Officials and with the Ministries of Trade, Finance and External Affairs on the effect of this measure on the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. Trinidad also had to have discussions with the Colonial Office when she was considering raising tariffs on imported shirts. I explained the situation fully to them and we came to an adequate agreement with the Canadian Government agreeing to waive the particular clause in the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement. That, Sir, in a nutshell is the position as regards the background of this Bill.

At the time when we passed the Bill to encourage the industry, as I have already said, there were seven factories of a sizable nature employing these workers; since then one factory had entirely closed down. I have inspected the factory in Bay Street the Elite Shirt Factory. It employed at one time over one hundred workers, then dropped to eighty, then fifty and then closed some time this year. I myself saw the stock rooms and it is true to say they were packed; they said they could not get rid of over-stock and it was no use going on producing any more shirts. Finally they were forced to shut down completely.

Now, I think the House is fully aware of the policy of this Party and of this Government. We have been attacked on very many occasions in the past by members of the Opposition on all sides for not doing enough to encourage industry. Our reply has

been that we have to be very careful not to raise the cost of living. We have to be very careful before we do anything that would affect the cost of living and send it even higher. We have pointed out, Mr. Speaker, on previous occasions that we did not think we should penalise 200,000 people in order to assist a handful. But the situation has changed. I do not think it could truly be said that this industry is employing a handful of persons. They have grown since we passed the Bill to encourage them. They were employing at the peak production 272 workers, and their claim is that if they were given suitable protection from overseas competition from Hong Kong and other factories in the other islands, they could employ as many as six hundred workers. Let us say that that may be throwing out a big sprat to catch the Government's whale; nevertheless Mr. Speaker, the Government could have no valid reason for refusing to consider the claims of an industry for protection when faced with two factors: (1) the growing unemployment in this island and the serious unemployment figures we are faced with and (2) the fact that other islands are also encouraging similar industries by giving them protection in various ways, the chief of which is by raising tariffs. These are the two chief reasons why we have come down with this Bill to-day, because when we place one factor against the other we find over-riding considerations which would justify us in departing from our previous policy of doing nothing that might increase the cost of living; and the over-riding consideration was the fact that in the face of what the other islands were doing to encourage industrialisation, in the face of the unemployment situation in Barbados, we were justified in departing from our former policy and adopting a likewise policy of protection. The burden of my contention to-night, and even before the Colonial Office, in the circumstances, was that we were forced to adopt this protective measure in order to compete and keep in line with other territories in the Caribbean.

I understand that certain members of the Opposition on certain political platforms are saying in one breath that the Government is doing nothing to help the unemployed, and in another breath that we are sending up the cost of shirts. Mr. Speaker, it must be faced that there is no country in the world which set out on industrialisation of some sort which does not have to adopt some method of raising tariffs in order to protect new industry.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not going to permit any honourable member while he is addressing the Chair to be interrupted. Honourable members must not make asides which can be heard.

9.10 p.m.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: In this Bill we are not going as far even as Jamaica. It will amaze the House to know that Jamaica last year not only increased the tariffs but also put a huge surtax on imported shirts. I do not remember the exact figure, but it was a drastic figure. They suspended the importation of shirts costing less than \$60 per dozen.

No shirts can come in where the first cost is below \$60 per dozen. We all see what steps Jamaica has taken in this matter. It is not proposed in our case to increase or change the duties on the lowest grade of shirts. When we see what steps are being taken elsewhere, we have to ask ourselves whether we can afford to let this industry die, or whether we can afford not to protect it against competition from the neighbouring Islands when they have protection against our shirts.

In so far as increased competition from shirts manufactured abroad is concerned, we went

thoroughly into the figures, and we found that the claims that this competition had been increased very greatly in the past year were quite justifiable. In 1955, we imported 15,848 dozen shirts from all sources; that compares with 9,657 dozen in 1954; so that the numbers imported in 1955 are those imported in the previous year. Of these 15,848 dozen shirts, 12,029 came from Hong Kong as compared with 7,548 in the previous year. Therefore, we can see the vast increase over the previous year in competition in shirts from Hong Kong. We also compared the types and values of these shirts, and it is on those lines that we are asking the House to allow increased Tariffs where the competition is greatest. It is no use manufacturers asking the Government to protect them in respect of all types of manufactured articles. Rather than give an overall protection in all grades, we have been very careful to go thoroughly into the figures. This Bill might have come down about a month and a half ago, but we were going thoroughly into the wages which are being paid, and we are protecting this industry only in those grades where they are faced with very keen competition from shirts which are coming from abroad.

There is just one other thing which I would like to say, and it is this; this Government does not agree with any policy of protective Tariffs to an industry which will benefit the industry concerned and the producers concerned, without at the same time taking measures to see that these benefits are passed on to the consumers as well as to the workers in the industry. I am very well aware of the low wages which are being paid by some of these concerns; where the workers are not protected by Trade Unions, I will see to it that the machinery of Government where Wages Councils are concerned, set in motion on behalf of these workers. If these workers are not in Trade Unions, we will set these Wages Councils in motion in respect of the workers in the industry.

In so far as the consumers are concerned, we will protect them from any undue increases which these industries may consider necessary because of the Tariff wall.

9.20 p.m.

As the House will see from the Objects and Reasons, the Bill seeks to retain the present tariff rate of 10% (British Preference) and 20% (General) on all shirts of a C.I.F. value not exceeding \$12.00 per dozen and seeks to increase the existing tariff rates of 10% and 20% to 17% (British Preference) and 27% (General) respectively and in addition imposes a surcharge of \$5.00 per dozen. The Bill also seeks to increase the rates of duty on vests and pants from 10% (British Preference) and 20% (General) to 15% and 25% respectively.

The House will remember that the Bill which I formerly laid on the table of the House made provision for different rates, but having found out that the existing margin of preferences under GATT must remain, we had to revise those rates. Therefore we came down with the present Bill.

This Bill is the natural inevitable consequence of the decision of the Legislature of this island and of the Government to encourage the establishment and growth of textile factories in this island. [A VOICE: This is nothing to do with textiles.] This follows from the Bill which we passed last year giving such encouragement. If we are agreed that the situation in this island as regards unemployment is such that we should encourage industrialisation, well then, it is not necessary for me to persuade the House much longer to agree to a Bill of this nature. I can assure honourable members that

we will impose all the safeguards of which I have spoken and give every protection to workers and consumers of this island. I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, in general, everybody will agree with protecting any industry. There is also another thing on which we would all agree and that is that the Minister who introduced this Bill does not understand the difference between what is textile and what is the finished product. All that we have to say is that the Hon. Minister of Trade has not been briefed even in the presentation of this Bill.

There is one thing about which the Hon. Minister made a statement and to which I wish to direct your attention. It is to the effect that it is the intention of the Government to give protection not only to the employers and consumers but also to the workers, and that where trade unions are not in existence, it is his intention to set up Wages Councils. Sir, that shows how modern he is. It is not a question of his setting up Wages Councils; it is a question of his failure to recommend Trade Unions. What is he telling us? He is telling us that no matter how you treat your Union, whether you recognise the Union or not, he is going to set up Wages Councils. That means that you are bringing in independent people and that you are not telling an industry that it must recognise Trade Unions.

Sir, the reason why he has said that is because he has written in the *Beacon* that the General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union has made the situation worse as regards the *Advocate* strike.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Sir, I object to those remarks.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am not going to withdraw them, not if the rope comes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable junior member for St. Peter is addressing the House on a particular measure. I will ask him not to deflect from that, or use remarks to excite honourable members, especially the Hon. Minister who is in charge of the Bill. There is no need to inform the House of any of the Minister's action. I think the honourable member can represent himself without having recourse to such suggestions which will only engender heat and disrupt the good decorum which should be retained in this Chamber.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker—

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of Order. If the honourable member wants to indulge in personal remarks, that is a matter for him. I am not going to bandy words with him; I will only ask him to quote me correctly. I do not know of any employer who has refused to recognise the Trade Union. All that I have said is that if workers do not belong to a Trade Union, we will encourage them in the normal course of events to join a Trade Union and if they cannot get their rights that way we will set up other machinery for getting those rights. Those are the exact words I said.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: I am trying to avoid doing anything which would meet with Your Honour's displeasure. It is very difficult for one to contain himself in a Parliamentary Assembly when one hears remarks by someone which are contrary to what one is pursuing. The Hon. Minister of Trade is giving the impression that he, as Minister of Trade is going to help the workers, but I as General Secretary of the Workers' Trade Union knows that he is pursuing a policy not only to destroy me, but wherever there is the propagation of

the Trade Union spirit, he is doing things to upset it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The honourable member is now getting to something that will disrupt the good decorum of the House.

9.30 p.m.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: It is difficult, Mr. Speaker, for one to contain himself when one knows one is speaking the truth and is not lying on people. However, this is the sort of infliction which we have in this island. We do not want any dictatorship in the Union. It is not the Minister's duty to encourage any workers to join Trade Unions; it is his duty to see that the protection which he gives is one which employers will have to recognise. What the Minister said just now is illogical.

Now you say here these textile people must be encouraged to join the Union, otherwise you are going to set up a Wages Council. Imagine a Minister of Labour (except the one in Trinidad where there is a Conservative Government) saying he is going to set up a Wages Council. It is not like in Jamaica where Mr. Glasspole has done so and the Minister of Trade Mr. Wills Isaac has demanded that if the employers do not recognise the Union, he will take away the protection the Government is giving to employers. [A VOICE: He is a real idiot!] He says I am a real idiot and the people in Barbados who do not know he is an idiot have not been born yet! [A VOICE: He is a boss idiot!]

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the same sort of behaviour that I warned the hon. member not to indulge in. I warn the Hon. Minister that if he makes such asides as can be heard and intended to provoke the speaker, he will also earn my displeasure. I am asking the hon. member who has just sat to make as little of what asides he hears as possible.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: It is not my intention, but if another member is going to tell me in a *sotto voce* remark, Mr. Speaker, that you are an idiot, you must reply to him. What I was at pains to point out, Mr. Speaker, was that the remarks that have been made by the Minister in saying he is prepared to give protection to these workers in relation with the Trade Union rights is not logical. I drew to his attention something that had arisen up in Jamaica; the Jamaica Government told people they were giving them protection, but in instances where they were not prepared to recognise the Union it let them know what legislation it would pass. The Minister is now telling us that where the workers are not organised, they will encourage them to organise or set up a Wage Council. It is his function to perform the duties of a Government, but when you look at the substance of the Bill, I believe any hon. member would agree in a broad way to give encouragement to the industry. The one person talking about cost of living and giving encouragement to industry is the Minister of Labour, because his idea about the cost of living is causing us to have this bus affair in our hands; and if this cost of living is something in the air, why do we not try to relieve it to some effect? What is this cost of living idea he is talking about? If you are going to give protection through this Bill, you do not talk about cost of living, because you set about to protect them on the basis of creating within your own territory sufficient capital investment that would circulate within the community as a means of promoting greater productivity, and at the same time creating better spending power. The idea of protection is now based on how cheap it is, but the price rises by a margin above what

it was before, and all the money remains in the territory and creates better spending power. The whole idea of tariffs was based on that; you increase your tariffs from the point of view of raising revenue for the purpose of creating something to spend from. We agree this would increase the cost of living, but only a dunder-head would say less. Read the first paragraph: This Bill seeks to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, so as to enable the shirt and garment manufacturing industry of the Island to face the Bill seeks to ensure that the protection it affords the industry will not result in increased prices of the severe competition from abroad. At the same time cheapest imported shirts."

Now, as you said, you are facing competition from abroad, which means the people from abroad can send shirts into Barbados cheaper than you can manufacture them here. That is what it is, and therefore in order for the employment force to be increased—and that is why they did it in Jamaica; Jamaica has seven times the population of Barbados, and if he knows anything about the shirt or garment industry, if it is a fashionable industry—because there is a difference between fashionable and ordinary industry—there are some industries where fashion does not matter, like where a man buys tweeds, that is not fashionable; but shirts for men become fashionable when you change styles. It is similar to the case of a manufacturer who finds himself with dozens of tunic shirts into which you have to put Gum Arabic to make it resemble some stiffness! These shirts are not as saleable as the "Arrow" Shirts or the "Elite" Shirts that are easier to wear. The old tunic shirt means you have to look for links, and the average man does not want to buy links. Garments with fashionable colours matter and you have to pay attention to that type of trade in relation to the community, because the community can make you change. In Jamaica the population is $1\frac{1}{4}$ million, seven times that of Barbados; and so they would have a local market like the U.S.A. I have contended before the shirt industry started that what the Minister should start about doing is to tell the shirt manufacturers—and this is a matter of common sense—that if there are eight factories in Barbados, he cannot give all eight factories protection because there is no room for all of them and there is a limited amount which the male public can use. If there are eight competing with each other, they are fooling themselves that you are reducing something to a level at which they can compete. Government must first of all decide they are offering protection or throwing money down the drain. In Great Britain it does not matter, but in Barbados it must matter, because capital is not available and people cannot throw away capital thinking they can make money. Now I said the hon. member brought Jamaica as an analogy; but Jamaica has $1\frac{1}{4}$ million people, seven times the population of Barbados; so do not take Jamaica and say that because they have done it you can too. Now it is true that the Minister has absolutely no knowledge about these things because when you look at this process we do not mind protecting them.

"This Bill seeks accordingly to retain the present tariff rates of 10% (British Preference) and 20% (General) on all shirts of a c.i.f. value not exceeding \$12.00 per doz. but on all shirts exceeding c.i.f. value of \$12.00 per dozen the Bill seeks to increase the existing tariff rates of 10% and 20% to 17% (British Preference) and 27% (General)

respectively and in addition imposes a surcharge of \$5.00 per dozen."

9.40 p.m.

Let me work this out for him. If a man imports shirts at \$12 per dozen c.i.f., even if you add another 50% for landing charges, whenever you are finished, and you are adding 1/3 as a profit, you have a shirt for 7-. I ask what working man can get a shirt for 7/-? When you talk about shirts at \$12 per dozen c.i.f., you are talking about shirts which somebody can sell for 7/- each. I challenge the Hon. Minister to go and ask them to show him a shirt which a man is getting for 7/-. A khaki shirt cost over \$3.00! The average working man could not wear a shirt at a funeral, because he is not going to get a white shirt for 7/-. Do not tell us that by this Bill, you are not increasing the cost of living to people, and make them believe that the shirt of the working man will remain at the same price. It means that the price of the average shirt which a man can buy as a dress shirt would be increased. When you give trade protection you do not increase the cost living; sometimes, this protection means an increase, because you want the money to remain inside. As soon as you set up a Tariff wall, you increase the price of the goods to the consumer, because the importer is not going to pay the increased cost.

If we import so many dozen shirts, and that is equivalent to "X" thousand dollars, per annum, it would be better for this Colony to have that amount of money circulated here, rather than letting it go overseas. The setting up of industries provides more jobs, because it makes for greater spending power. I should like to say that a shirt is not the only item which the consumer uses, and we have to consider what it means to the community when the money remains in the community. It means that you increase the spending power of the community, and the girl who is working in the Shirt Factory; you also increase the spending power of the mauby seller since you increase the spending power of the community.

They use this phrase about not increasing the cost of living, but on the occasions when they put up a Tariff wall, did they not keep out cheap goods and make the community pay a little more? The Philippines carried on trade with the United States of America, and the President of the United States said that they would remove any Tariff barrier which existed between the United States of America and the Philippines, because they realised that they had a certain protection, and there were certain industries which they were building up with the Philippines which could not compete with the United States. Here the Hon. Minister wants to give the idea that they are not going to increase the cost of the imported shirts to people; but what he has not said, is that he has to keep out these shirts—

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I have not said that we are going to increase the price of shirts to people. There is no increase of duty on the cheapest grade of shirts; I said that our policy is not to increase the cost of living.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: This is what is stated in "Object and Reasons" of this Bill:—

"This Bill seeks to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, so as to enable the shirt and garment manufacturing industry of the Island to face severe competition from abroad. At the same time the Bill seeks to ensure that the protection it affords the industry will not result in increased prices of the cheapest imported shirts."

That gives the impression that you are going to get the cheapest shirts. The Minister does not

know anything about these shirts because he does not go into any store. What are the shirts which are being sold at 7/-, which you are preventing from coming here? We are not talking about shirts for children! When the Hon. Minister leaves here, he should go into his constituency and ask any agricultural worker when was the last occasion upon which he bought a shirt for 7-. What is intended here is that the local shirt manufacturers should have the opportunity of competing with the manufacturers in Hong Kong. I protest against cheap labour in any part of the world; Hong Kong and Japan do not pay any proper wages to workers, and I do not subscribe to this idea of not paying proper wages to workers.

9.50 p.m.

I prefer to pay a sixpence or a shilling more for a shirt in order to get a better standard of living for the people than to get a cheaper for myself. The I.L.O. has declared that poverty anywhere is a challenge to prosperity anywhere. I am not in favour of promoting the low standard of living in Hong Kong, the Middle East and all those places, nor do I subscribe to the reason which the Honourable Minister of Trade gave and the innuendo contained in the statement that this Bill seeks to retain the cheaper shirts in Barbados. Why I say that is because I have practical experience enough to know that this is no retention of low-priced shirts. Shirts below the value of \$12.00 per dozen do not come in the Island except for boys wear; therefore, it is those shirts above \$12.00 per dozen upon which you are going to increase the tariff. According to the Objects and Reasons of the Bill:

This Bill seeks to retain the present tariff rates of 10% (British Preference) and 20% (General) or all shirts of a C.I.F. value not exceeding \$12.00 per dozen, but on all shirts exceeding a C.I.F. value of \$12.00 per dozen the Bill seeks to increase the existing tariff rates of 10% and 20% to 17% (British Preference) and 20% (General) respectively and in addition imposes a surcharge of \$5.00 per dozen.

According to that, you are going to increase the tariff on all shirts above the cost of \$1.68 each, and as you know, there is no \$1.68 shirts selling in Barbados. As that is so, he should cut out that because there is no question of his being able to retain a cheap shirt in Barbados. Where can you get shirts at \$12.00 per dozen unless you are buying them for a kid? On all of the imported shirts the *ad valorem* duty goes up from the percentage of 10% to 17% (British Preference) and from 20% to 27% (General). In addition you are imposing a surcharge of \$5 per dozen. Formerly, the surcharge was 10%. That is the protection which you are going to give to the local shirt manufacturers.

Now, this is something which I have to say in regard to the local shirt manufacturers. The Hon. Minister must tell the local shirt manufacturers not pay low wages. If anyone wants to get a quotation of wages which are paid in the garment industry, I can show them the international rates. I am saying that people in the garment industry should stop paying girls low wages and pay wages by which these girls can eke out a proper existence. We must encourage local industry on the basis that the people who invest their capital must be prepared as the first essential to make good wages the first charge on their business. It is a fact that girls working in a garment factory over here will have to do a lot of work in order to earn \$12 or \$15 per week which is the regular figure that they should earn, if they are working under ordinary conditions. When you are building up a trade which cannot pay proper wages,

something is wrong with your economic organisation. I can prove to you that \$12 per week is not anything to give a girl for working a week in such industries. I am pointing out that to show you that your economic organisation must bring this industry into closer relation to paying a living wage. As soon as that industry cannot provide a living wage for its workers, then you must consider if the industry is worthwhile to the community, or if the sum total of all that you are doing is to encourage the investor to make a few more dollars on his investment. That is why I say if you are going to encourage industries, (and they must be so encouraged) they should not be encouraged at the exploitation of the workers.

I hope that the Hon. Minister of Trade and Industry will not give the impression that he is selling any idea to the House that he is allowing cheap shirts still to come into the Island. The cheapest shirt which one can get in Barbados is one for \$2.00. The purpose of the Objects and Reasons to a Bill should be to set out factually the situation. Do not give the idea that you are leaving the market open for the cheapest shirts to come in duty free.

However, Sir, I will give this Bill my blessing. Shirt manufacturers in Barbados unfortunately must have missed the bus. If you go to the United States or to Great Britain, you will find that cotton is one of the cheapest products of the world; and because of that it is one of the problems which the world is facing to get rid of the surplus cotton products in the world. It is a fact that they have cotton articles in such vast numbers in stores and other places that they are willing to sell them cheaply. Therefore, when you have a manufacturer trying to find his way in a small community like Barbados, he will find it difficult to penetrate into already existing markets. That is one of the problems the local manufacturer will have to face because he really cannot sell shirts so easily to British Guiana, Trinidad or Jamaica, when he has to sell with freight charges added. He cannot penetrate into the U.S.A. market at all. In the U.S.A. a man can buy a shirt for \$1.50 or \$2.00. An "Arrow" shirt which is a very nice shirt costs \$3.50. Because of that, you can well see that shirt manufacturers in these parts can only look to the Caribbean and Venezuela for sales of their product.

10.00 p.m.

I am in favour of industrial development, but this is not industrial development as such. These are more or less trading matters: these are not trading industries; they do not manufacture the cloth, and are at the mercies of the trade that exists outside; and I do feel that it is a trade in which some encouragement should be given at some time. Do not let us believe that by passing this Bill we are going to make it easier for them to trade as they would like to trade. I am of the opinion that in process of time these shirt manufacturers are going to come back and say there are other difficulties. If landing them at a C.I.F. price give them trouble, what do you think would be the position if we are not giving them the C.I.F. price, and I ask them how can they put their business in order and at the same time pay better wages? The women they employ — they employ women in the majority and not men — receive very low wages, I understand, because of fierce competition from overseas. As a Trade Unionist, I cannot agree to low wages because very soon they will be saying that the said workers carry away the cloth or cotton. The Minister must refrain as much as he can from his pet phrase about Wages Councils in cases where

the Trade Union exists. The Barbados Workers Union is not a derelict organisation, you should leave those phrases for places like St. Vincent and St. Lucia; but in Barbados where the Trade Union is a militant organisation, no Minister of Labour should talk about Wages Councils as in unorganisable trades which are very difficult to hold. There are some in the United Kingdom and today you talk about Trade Union power and encouraging people to join the Union, but the Trade Union is these girls can eke out a proper existence. We must build; the Beacon Printery Building belong to the Barbados Workers Union; We have money; the organisation has money. [A VOICE: Hear, hear!] No "hear, hear!" you drew a salary for ten years.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has gone off the subject.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: We do not need encouragement from you. If you come to the Annual Conference you will know if we need any encouragement. The Trade Union does not need Government to encourage it. Any Trade Union that wants Government to encourage and tell it how it is to be run must become the tool of Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for the City is making asides so loudly that they have reached me.

Mr. F. L. WALCOTT: So Mr. Speaker, I would say in so far as this Bill is concerned, any person who wants to see the internal development of his own community would welcome it, but not on the basis that it will cheapen any cost of living, but on the basis that you want to develop the sugar industry, you must export it cheaper than you buy it in Barbados. Some countries do that; they export things at a cheaper rate because it helps. We will have to pay more money for a shirt, but on the basis that the internal economy will be improved. The reason why employers in this island are not giving as much encouragement to the Union as they should is because some of the members of the Government are making pronouncements that the organisation is not a good one. If you are going to say something here about the Trade Union representation and another time you are going to do everything to criticise the employers, we cannot afford to do that. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. If they debate that I will be sorry to see what will be the industrial relations in this island.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, it would, no doubt, be a most entertaining affair to have projected speeches to-night on the principle of protecting the textile industry. I imagine, Sir, that the speeches pro and con could be very different, but at this late hour when most of us are anxious to get away, I merely rise in order to present a few background remarks in connection with this matter before the House. Listening to the Minister pontificating with ponderous tones, one would have thought that the Government had demonstrated at the proper time its interest in the matter of protecting workers in local industries, and simultaneously had taken steps to promote the industrial development of the country. Now, the history of this Bill before the House and legislation to assist the textile and shirt industry to which the Minister of Trade draw attention is that only when the industries were faced with virtual extinction did the Government move to offer protection. The Minister referred to the fact that some time during last year they passed legislation to give a certain amount of assistance to these industries, by allowing them to bring in certain raw materials duty free, but he failed to say that

when they had moved belatedly to do that, some of the existing factories were going to close down, and the big new shirt factory in Bay Street had refused to open. It had a waiting list of nearly one hundred waiting for work, and refused to open its doors and provide work for the people until they got the concessions which other West Indian islands were given, nor did he add that Barbados had become the dumping ground for similar articles manufactured in other colonies which had been given protection of this sort, and he has also failed to tell the House now that in order for Government to consider it necessary to bring his Bill before the House, almost half the shirt factories in the island had closed down and the textile plant which one time employed three hundred was down to a staff of fifty.

10.10 p.m.

In other words, while he and the Government were moving in the matter, while the Ministers were continuing their sleek existence on their big fat salaries, the people whom this measure will protect by providing work for them, were walking about hungry and unemployed, and the Government was not doing anything about it. In the case of the biggest Shirt Factory in the Island, the doors were closed; every worker was sent home to idle, and then the Government decided that it should consider doing what Jamaica, British Guiana and Trinidad were doing. We were the dumping ground for similar articles imported from those Countries; a large amount of textiles were imported from British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad. When those Islands moved to protect their own industries, not one single article left this Island for those countries but an appreciable portion of what they manufactured came here.

The Minister of Trade has the unpardonable effrontery to refer to what the Minister of Trade in Jamaica has done and has called him his counterpart. There is this comparison between the two of them; one is an English thoroughbred racehorse and the other is an English donkey. [Laughter]. The Jamaica Minister of Trade has taken the most active steps to develop this industry in Jamaica; as a matter of fact, for the first six months this year, the Jamaica export industry has gone up to \$12 million which is above the figure for the whole of last year. When Jamaica took steps to impose its protective tariffs there was only one textile plant there; today, there are thirty which are working at maximum capacity, and they are employing the maximum number of people. There are thirty factories working at full capacity today as against three, when these steps were taken to protect them. But here in Barbados, one-half of the factories had to be closed down before the Government would consider merely copying what Jamaica, Trinidad and British Guiana have done.

There has been a drastic diminution of labour employed in the Shirt Industry and the Textile Industry because these local industries had to compete with cheaper goods coming from Hong Kong. Barbados is merely a small back-water of the world, and the organisation for protection has been so well threshed out, that it should not have taken the Minister of Trade in Barbados the time which he has taken, or which he pretended to have taken, to decide whether he would do what every other advanced country has done in respect of its economic progress. The United States of America, every country in Europe, Great Britain,—everyone of them has only been able to advance industrially behind the walls of tariff protection. While it may be true

that a shirt from Hong Kong could be sold in Barbados without this protection for 60c. or 70c. cheaper than the locally manufactured shirt, there are two factors which have to be considered. One is that the quality of the shirt, from Hong Kong is inferior, although the original piece may be somewhat cheaper better to find work for a person to do, and let him pay a little more for his shirt. As a matter of fact, if the shirt industry in Barbados had been given protection by the Government at the time when the Trinidad, Jamaica and British Guiana shirt industries were given protection, this industry would have been employing no fewer than 1,000 people. You will find that within a year or two from now, now that this industry has been given some sort of protection, a number of new industries will be opened in the island. Some of them which have been closed down, will start again, and the number of 800 odd people which the shirt manufacturers envisage will be employed normally, will be discovered to be a very conservative estimate.

10.20 p.m.

One expects that the normal channel of competition will operate so as to ensure that locally produced shirts are made available to people at the lowest economic prices: because in Barbados, as in other parts of the world, the struggle for economic existence is so great, and competition so keen, that if two or three big manufacturers endeavour to produce articles making normal high profits, you are bound to have a smaller independent man coming in and underselling them and getting a fair share of the market; so that we can rest assured that the normal course of competition will operate to keep the price of shirts manufactured locally at a reasonable level.

As the hon. junior member for St. Peter has said, the organisation representing the workers anticipates similarly that you ensure that the workers involved get the maximum wages which the industry can afford to pay. It is not good enough for the Barbados Minister of Trade or the Government of Barbados to follow slowly behind Jamaica, Trinidad and British Guiana in matters of this sort. If they look around their constituencies and see what is happening, they will see that Barbados is merely a dumping ground for articles manufactured elsewhere in the British Caribbean. They will also have noted that the Jamaica Government is not prepared to commit that country to a West Indian Customs Union, not even when Federation is established; the reason being that Jamaica under its present leadership is determined to be the most industrial country in the area and is not prepared to surrender that position under any consideration whatsoever, and, furthermore, is not even prepared to support the Customs Union in the West Indies until such time as Jamaica has reached the goal which she set herself in industrial development. By that time her industries will be so well established that there can be no fair competition from any new industries established in the other islands. Then, Customs Union or no Customs Union, Jamaica will be the workshop of the Federation; work will be available for her people in Jamaica and we will be the poor people of the Federation. It suits Jamaica and Trinidad well in their race for maximum industrialisation to have a Government in Barbados and a Minister of Trade like the one which we have. There is no part of the British Caribbean, anywhere in the other Islands, that industries similar to those which we are considering want to be established and had to be closed down and employees sent home in order

for the Government to begin to give them the preliminary concession needed to put the industry on an economic footing. Both in the matter of raw materials being brought in duty-free and in the manner of erecting additional tariff barriers against a similarly produced article from outside, the Barbados Government has lagged so far behind and moved so slowly in comparison with what our neighbours have done that it seems to be the case of assistance being given too little and too late.

It is, Mr. Speaker, a matter of the deepest regret that at this time of the development of industries in the West Indies, when all the other colonies are so firmly established on the road to advancement, we should have in control of the colony's economic advancement a Minister of Trade who is an individual so obviously a mistake in his position that the position should be rectified at the earliest possible date. He has no vision, no policy, no enlightened conception of what is needed and not even the ability to copy what the other islands are doing until many years after they have done it. If it were to be argued that in these matters,—the concession to industries and to taxation, or duty free concessions, or protected tariffs—the Barbados Government lagged behind because the principle was wrong and when they took other steps they produced the same results, there may be some excuse for the laxity and delay; but when fully two or three years behind they follow on without any change, then there can be no excuse. If we had a Bill before us which would provide protection to the locally established textile and shirt industry other than in the manner proposed in this Bill, well, then, there may have been excuse if people employed in these industries had to go home unemployed and starving for weeks; but when in September, 1956, this Government takes steps in the same manner as Trinidad and Jamaica did some months before—in some cases years before, which is the only logical step to take to protect industries—well then, Mr. Speaker, all we can say is that there is no greater curse which could have fallen on the country than to be afflicted at this period in West Indian history with Ministers of the Government like those which we have.

10.30 p.m.

Mr. ALLDER: We all have our various economic theories. Some theories are that a tariff introduced in one country might benefit the population and in another it might not benefit the population so much. The arguments which I have heard put up by various members and the arguments which I have heard put up by certain sections of the public over the past few weeks have not convinced me that an amendment to the Customs Tariff Act is definitely in the interest of the public. It is purely an investor's amendment. It might be good, Mr. Speaker, for Jamaica which has a textile factory which produces raw materials and then turn them into piece goods and then the finished garment. I do not know that we have a textile factory here. That suits Jamaica and it also suits Trinidad because Trinidad has a textile factory and a garment factory. It is true that if Barbados had got ahead in industrialising itself simultaneously with Jamaica and/or Trinidad, we might have been able to introduce a Customs Tariff to protect the local product from outside importation. It is clearly seen in the West Indies that since we were not able to industrialise this island that we were left to be merely consumers of these West Indian colonies. A few years ago when federation was first talked about, I felt that it would have been a good idea that Barbados, because of its

limited land resources and the adaptability of its people, should have been made the Hong Kong of the West Indies in respect of industrialisation. That has by-passed us; the others have attracted the industries to their colonies and we are left merely as consumers. Well, since we are left in this predicament, what is the best thing to do? We have a large population here of which about sixty per cent are unemployed: only 40% of this population are employed permanently and some of a very seasonable nature, but all the people in the colony have to purchase the products of these shirt factories and textile factories, as the member for St. Philip has said. Both the employed and the unemployed have got to purchase by some means or other the items produced by these factories, but while it is true that all of them do not have the employment it therefore brings us to this point: it is very requisite for us to assist in creating a monopoly for a firm which already has monopolies in the other parts of the West Indies, a firm which has succeeded in using its things in Trinidad? They have got a Tariff Act there against the importation of shirts whether they come from Hong Kong, Japan, China, or Barbados, and that means whatever we produce in this island is not going to Trinidad or Jamaica or to those places which have put up tariffs already. While it would help the industrialisation and the investors in accumulating wealth overnight, that method reduces the spending power of the public. The Elite Shirt Factory is a highly influential concern in Trinidad and it seems to be becoming the West Indian octopus in industry. They have succeeded in Trinidad and, I believe if they have not gone to British Guiana they will soon be there, and will make the rounds with the argument that industrialisation means employment for more. It sounds nice and it is a good thing if you succeed with it. In a big industry like the cement industry and the oil industry and things of that sort, if you can get them to come to this island where you know that thousands and not hundreds of people can be employed, yes; let the same but not a little shirt factory that wants monopoly of this market. As a result they are bringing pressure to bear on those concerned so as to get an amendment to the Customs Tariff Act which would drive trade into their hands at the expense of the public. We have a lot of unemployed people about who would be glad to buy a 75c. shirt; there are many big men we see around the streets daily wearing \$1, five shillings and \$2 shirts. A lot of able-bodied men have to depend on buying them because they cannot do better; but you are going to make it prohibitive for them to continue to buy cheap shirts partly under the disguise of providing a couple of jobs for a dozen people and the evil is not that they cannot sell their goods. I am told that with the modern machinery which they have, one machine can turn out dozens of shirts per day—a machine which with one cut cuts out dozens. They have over produced by the modern methods of making shirts, and like every industry, if you over produce beyond the capacity of the consumers, you have to close down for a period; and besides that, Sir, their method of marketing the goods has also retarded their business, because what happens? If I had a couple of dollars and wanted to be a shirt peddler, I could not go to that country myself and get them to sell me one of two dozen shirts so that I could walk around and sell them; they would have to sell to a firm like Messrs. A. S. Bryden all of those shirts, and then somebody bigger than myself would have to go to Bryden and buy up some; then I would have to stand by until he came out and buy

a dozen at a considerably high price before I could get them for sale. That is what would happen.

10.45 p.m.

You cannot give concessions to industries unless they are willing to play the game; they cannot eat their cake and want it too. They do not sell small people goods, and of course, the big firms who might have been getting Commission of their imported goods, do not want to lose that trade, because they have been dependent upon it for years. While they may have started to patronise local people, they are not willing to realise the outside trade which they have been carrying on for many years. The tendency in Barbados, as far as these industries are concerned—and we can remember how many were introduced here—is that a few shareholders and directors manipulate the business in such a way, that they must get the greatest amount of money in the shortest possible time, so that when they are rich, they just pale out. We had a beer factory at Cane Wood which failed; we have a cotton-spinning plant controlled by the Government situated at the Cotton Factory. I want to say this: You cannot ask the Government to close its doors to outside manufacturers unless you are going to guarantee a continuous or permanent production of all the goods which the factory produces to keep abreast and to suit the needs of the population. When locally-manufactured under garments are put on the counters of the Broad Street and Swan Street stores alongside of those which are made in Canada, America and elsewhere, naturally, a person will compare these garments and select the best. I have bought dozens of these items and lost a lot of money on them.

I have been taught by experience that we must keep abreast of the production methods which are practised in other Countries. There are unfortunate young women who are exploited and others who are looking for employment; I have succeeded in getting employment for some of them. You will find that a firm wants all these concessions from the Government: exemptions from Customs Duty on machinery and so on, but the Directors and Managers gets \$600 and \$800 a month; such firms take all the profits and pay them out to a couple of big bosses who are at the head. I have met some young women who have to travel from St. John to Bridgetown to work in order to receive \$5.00 a week in this modern day! How can you give concessions to such Firms? It is a fact that these young women are paid \$5.00 a week, and if the Minister wants to get the facts, I can give them to him, there are people who are getting \$5.00 a week in Bridgetown when the people at the top get \$400 and \$500 a month.

We have to take into consideration these young women who have to travel from the Country to Bridgetown; they do not want to remain unemployed and in order to keep out of trouble, they pay as much as 44c. a day for transportation. Although they are paid such low wages, the business is still going on. It is not good enough merely to give these Industries this protection. While it is true that the granting of concessions might enable a Firm to employ about 100 young women, you have to look back and see what wages are being paid. We have to see whether firms are producing under a system of monopoly and possibly paying unfair prices and wages. Those are the things which we have to watch. The Hon. Minister must take a firm stand in these matters; it is not everything which sounds sweet or smells sweet which can be accepted.

10.50 p.m.

As I have said, this bit of Legislation might be beneficial in Trinidad or in St. Lucia but it does not always necessarily mean that it will be beneficial in Barbados or Antigua.

I am told that they have their warehouses full of goods. What more do they want? This is a small community. If you put machinery in your industry which has the capacity of one which would accommodate a place like Jamaica with one and half million people, or Trinidad with six hundred and sixty thousand people, or British Guiana which is a big country, that is your business. What must we do? People here cannot always go into town and buy \$5 or \$6 shirts. It is a god send that sometimes they can get a dollar bill from home and go into Bridgetown and buy a Japanese or whatever shirt it is for five shillings or two dollars according to the needs of the individual. Now, you are going to make it impossible for those people to buy that kind of shirt and you say you are protecting a business house because a couple of young women are employed there. The benefits to be derived out of a couple dozen young women are not as great as the benefits which would accrue to the whole Island if the people were permitted to purchase cheap shirts from overseas. We do not care who make them whether they be Japanese or Russians; we want them here because the people have not the means to buy all the necessities of life; therefore, whoever can send us cheap shirts and food and cheap materials for housing, we do not care who they are, we should be willing to accept them.

This is a farce. I believe in industrialisation, but not in the type of industrialisation which ultimate aim is to carry up the cost of living on a hard pressed community. If hon. members study it carefully, they will see that no benefits are to be derived by what is being done by this Bill other than the benefits which the Directors and employees of that firm will get. It is surprising that sometimes when there is something which can clearly be seen as beneficial to the masses, you have to fight to get it; but something like this—you will just hear two voices and they will run down here with it. The only persons whom this Bill is going to help are the Directors of that factory.

Government talks about protection of the workers. Let me say that formerly every village had a couple of seamstresses who used to make shirts to suit their neighbours. Many a time I have had shirts made by those women when I was a youngster, and I do think that all of us have had shirts made by those women. Now, places like the Elite Shirt Factory have driven away the prospects of those young girls to whom their parents used to give a machine and learn the profession of dressmaking and they have destroyed all the opportunities which those girls depended upon. Now, you do not get a Singer machine in every other house, because those women are crying out that they cannot get any work to do with their machines. What is happening is that the big factories in town are making shirts and under garments. These young women are saying: "we have to sell our machines, or go to England or get a lot of children." Those are the facts.

If you study these things, you will see that this Bill is not so rosy from the point of view of the community. Tomorrow this Bill is going to become law. I know it is going to pass the Legislature, and those people who are going to benefit from it know that it is going to be passed already. They are sitting in confidence knowing full well that this Bill is going to pass this House tonight. Mr. Speaker, do you not know that the Regulations which this amendment is going to provide have been in operation for weeks now? I have heard from a man in the gallery some-

time ago that he was accustomed buying the type of shirt which I described just now to work in. It is a round neck, blue or white "T" shirt. He showed me another one and said that as soon as one wears out, he goes and purchase another. He then told me: "Imagine the Bill which you all have now brought down affects me because when I was accustomed going into Swan Street and buying that type of shirt for seventy-five cents, now I have to pay one dollar plus something for it." You can see by that that these Regulations are in operation already. These people only have to hear of Government's intention and the change takes place overnight. That is dangerous and it is because of the bad constitutional setup which we have here, where you get all factions sitting down and deciding policy which is not always in the public interest. You telegraph too long your intentions to have legislation instituted, and the only people who do not get any notice early are the people who are least able to bear the reaction of such legislation. There is a lot of strategy which these industries work out and they are always playing politics. They play on the ignorance of their employees and use the very employees as weapons to drive the Government and the Legislature to give them what they want. They start off by telling the girls that the warehouse is already full of shirts, and so they can afford to go home for two or three weeks; and they say that because they know that that is the time that it will take for that stock to be sold out. They tell them that but at the same time they are not going to tell them the real cause for sending them home.

11.00 p.m.

You tell them you want a concession from Government, they would not give you, and you cannot carry on. I am speaking from what I know. You tell them you would be willing to employ three times as many girls, but you want a concession from Government, because Jamaica and Trinidad have given the same concession, and therefore you are afraid you have to close down, and, if you need them in the future, you will call them back. Those girls will always be called back because as soon as the surplus stock which they had stupidly manufactured and had in their warehouses was sold out, they would have to bring back the girls. They do as much want to run that factory as the unemployed woman in Carrington's Village want to get a job because while she suffers the pangs of hunger she also suffers the disappointment of not getting the profits of her labour at that factory. With the conditions which obtain in this island in respect of factories, customs duties, etc. they came and put down that factory at a cost of \$700,000 and after they did that of course, everybody's eyes were turned there looking for employment and then they purposely started to take names of girls who were there every morning after; they had set their hopes that high; they refused to open that Factory and started to claim a concession from Government which they were given. They knew that the Customs Tariffs or Customs Duty, would be this, that or the other; they knew the conditions of labour, and competition against which they had to run the Industry; and they brought their money, purchased a property, installed machinery and kept it closed down and said they were not going to open it. That is what happened. Then they came here with some Bill or other wanting a concession which you gave them, then two concessions, and now they want three.

The Government in New York had to fight hard to destroy monopolies in the city of New York. We cannot afford to build them up here and let other opportunities be closed by these big monopolies in this small Colony where many of the citizens were

trained to be what they are today, and where industrialisation in homemade industry was indulged in and caused many of us to be where we are today. High School on floats, making them in her door. Gradually these opportunities are being destroyed and we are bound to reach the stage when half dozen people will play the tune, and everybody in the population has to dance. It might be said that it is inevitable, but we need not gallop to reach there. If we see the Hotel Industry can bring us money, and I feel it can, let us have it, because you will get a lot of buildings going up, a lot of carpenters and masons and people of that sort will get employment as well as taxi drivers and domestic servants. That stands to benefit the community more. But this is a half cent industry that you do not even know about. You will give them protection now and compel the importers in Bridgetown to refrain from maintaining contact with Exporting Houses in other countries on whom we have depended for materials for all these years, and then suddenly some Mr. Director will decide "I am not worrying with Barbados again," pull up all his roots and go overseas, and you are left to reconnect yourself to the manufacturers with whom you have been dealing all these years. I might be stupid, and am willing to bow to more logical argument, but that is as I have seen it, under the disguise of industrialisation and the protection of industries or manufacture of goods in the West Indies or Barbados.

You have an example in England where cement is manufactured. The man who digs the raw material out of the quarry with which cement is made lives at a higher standard than the man in the West Indies. It is put into the factory which is handled by workers whose standards of living are higher than ours; those workers can drive to work in a big car, send their children to College, have a refrigerator in the house; then it is brought from England, possibly it travels hundreds of miles on train and railroad, and again handled by workers whose standard of living is higher than that in the West Indies. You bring it by ship and land it here in Barbados for a reasonable price. The cement is now made in Trinidad by workers whose standard of living is comparable to ours or slightly different. Are we able to buy that 2c. per bag less? Mind you, it used to be made in England thousands of miles away, and come out here at high-priced salaries to those who had to bring it, but now it is made in Trinidad, and they bring it here by schooners and we know the wages of the Schooner crews. Are we able to buy it 15c. or 23c. less? Don't you see something is wrong? Take the soap industry for instance — and I hope the Minister would not sneer at the points I am making, but take them seriously because I have made a study of them. We thought when we made it here, we would be able to buy it cheaper. I have heard hon. members in this place arguing about items produced in Barbados which are sold cheaper in British Guiana than in Barbados. I think the hon. member for St. George made this point his theme for some time, and I have reasons to feel that he has the facts, otherwise there would not have been a repetition by him; but it does seem that there is something wrong, and those concerned do not make their demands unless they have the approval of some of the members of this Place. I regret very much that there are not sufficient members who are thinking similarly to myself on this issue, as they would either try and make out as they have been making out or shift their business to suit the competition which we have. It is asking the consuming public to undergo too much sacrifice so that

a small number of people can benefit, and I prefer whatever legislation is enacted, that it benefits the majority and not the minority.

11.10 p.m.

When this Bill becomes Law, the Firms will start and add 25c., 50c. and 75c. according to the cost of every additional shirt which is passed over the counter. While you should give employment to a couple of dozen young men and women, I would like to be in a position where I would be able to know that hundreds and thousands of dollars would not be taken out of circulation and put into the pockets of the Directors of these Firms within a period of a year. A small increase in price might look slight, but it involves 230,000 people, the majority of whom cannot do without wearing a shirt; and there are millions of these garments which have to be bought yearly, and which would have to carry the imposition of another 25c. or 50c. according to their valuation.

What is more, an Act like this when it is passed, will put more profits into the hands of the business houses, because every time you carry up your Customs Duties, the profits are put up as well as the c.i.f. duty. These business houses work on a percentage basis, and when they are finished, they stand to benefit more than anybody else. They are all shrewd in the method of handling their business; they liquidate every small commission agent or every small wholesaler. I am told that they will only sell to a big firm; they do not want to sell to the small people; they say that their minimum sale is 12 gross, and it is impossible for a small man to make such a purchase. It is well known that many a small shopkeeper cannot buy by the gross; the hon. junior member for Christ Church knows well what I am saying. You cannot buy 3 dozen shirts unless you are going to pay for them at the higher cost. You will find that there are a lot of business men in Bridgetown who are saying that they want protection against some concern, but we know that it is only when these people find themselves with a large surplus, that they will sell out to the retailer. You cannot expect to have millions of items and to gain on every one; why do you think that some of the Stores in Broad Street have sales occasionally? Where a shirt costs \$7.50 they will sell you for \$1.20.

The Hon. Minister of Trade has brought down this measure, and I actually accused him of being too weak, or not well enough informed as to the things which concern his portfolio. This Bill will not benefit the community as such, and when I say that it will not benefit the community, I do not mean the couple of persons who can get a guarantee by legislation; I mean the thousands of people who have to pay the increased value for shirts because of this Bill having been brought down.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, we have heard quite a number of lengthy speeches tonight and I do not intend to make another lengthy speech at this late hour. My Party still stands for the encouragement of industries [Mr. ALLDER: Naturally] on the ground that this will create more jobs for people. We are not going back on our stand because we feel that the Government is certainly galloping in that direction; however, we would like to see the Government hold out more encouragement to industries to come here. When I speak of industries, I will say that we do not foresee any heavy industries coming to Barbados until we can discover greater sources of power. We want to be doing for ourselves what we are paying other people to do for us and they are sending up their prices. Let us put our people to work; and we are only going to do that if, on every occasion, a new industry which is just getting on its

feet can come and put its case clearly to the Government and say: "This protection is necessary for our survival."

It is either a question of our paying a little more so as to protect an industry which will put people to work, or a question of our paying less and then there is no industry which will create new jobs as simple as that. In protecting an industry we have to see that that industry is put on a good footing, that conditions of work will be favourable and we must make sure that that industry is capable of producing the type of goods to the satisfaction of the consumer. We want to know that these industries will be in a position to stand on their feet and be able to compete with markets from outside. Unless we do that, we will continue to be the consumers instead of being the producers. We are now moving into a Federation, and I foresee that unless we hurry up and attract to these shores several industries, we are going to find that we have been drawn into a Federation with Jamaica and Trinidad having been industrialised, and that the industries will have been so established that no industries would be attracted to Barbados.

11.20 p.m.

They will have a protected tariff for the region; and inside of the region there will be no tariff customs union, but a free flow of goods between the area; and if we do not have our industries established before that time, we will never get them. We will continue to produce sugar, rum and milk. We may have a hotel industry but not as things are going today because we are not encouraging people to come here. Whether Government is afraid of some speech or of the speech which they may have just heard, this Government certainly does not encourage capital to come to Barbados. If we are going to treat industries like what the hon. member said in his speech just now, do you think they will come? In Trinidad and Jamaica industries are encouraged to remain and others are encouraged to come in.

I am going to ask a few questions which I will like the Hon. Minister of Trade to answer. Can he tell me tonight whether this is an increase of duty from 10% to 17% (British Preference) and 20% to 27% (General) plus a surcharge of \$5 per dozen shirts? Is that the entire surcharge which will be made? Why I ask that is because in our existing tariffs today, there is an overall 20% surcharge. Is that 20% surcharge to be added to this or is this \$5 per dozen shirts to take place of that 20% surcharge?

I also noticed in this Bill that there is no clause making it retroactive. In other words when this Bill is passed, is it that from that day the duties will be increased? I am told that the Comptroller of Customs has held up the duty paying on shirts that are in the warehouse and in the bonds until this Bill is passed. I do not know on what authority he should have done that because the last Bill was withdrawn from this House and in this Bill there is no mention of any retroactive clause. I am sure that the Hon. Minister can also say whether it is the intention that this duty paying of shirts will be made retroactive. I do hope that that is not so because those persons who have placed orders in the past and who have goods in the warehouse should be allowed to take them out. Any genuine orders before that day should be given that consideration. This protective tariff is not meant to be punitive. It should only come into being from the time it becomes law; therefore, to impose this duty on goods that have been ordered in the past is, I think, unfair. For that reason, I feel that this Bill is more appropriate than the original Bill which was withdrawn.

As regards the exemption of shirts, the cost of which will be less than \$12 per dozen, I do not know whether it is possible today to get shirts of that value. I have heard it mentioned that it may refer to children's shirts. I understand that the cheapest workman's shirt — a khaki shirt — is sold for \$1.47 or thereabouts. If that is the selling price, I am sure that is over \$1.00. If that is correct, that clause of the Bill can easily be taken out, because it would appear as if that is only a bit of window dressing. I may be wrong. If you are unable to buy shirts under the value of one dollar each, I would say that you should delete that clause because it would just give the feeling to workers that you are really trying to keep down the cost of his shirts when that is not really so. Again, I would say that I am not aware of it. I have heard some members say that it is possible to get shirts at that value.

I do hope that the Hon. Minister will let me know something as regards the meaning of this surcharge of \$5.00 per dozen shirts and would tell me whether that is in place of the 20% surcharge that now exists on the general tariff.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of saying a word on this Bill until I heard the remarks of the hon. member who has just spoken. We are all getting sleepy but he made use of words which sound very strange to me as a businessman. That reference in the first part of his speech — that you want to attract industries because they provide employment — and his philosophy on industrialisation are not only strange but farcical. I do not believe any industrialist or commercially minded man in the community will accept that as a philosophy for industrialisation. We have seen this race for establishing industries in the West Indies, and particularly the move for getting industries in the other colonies that we are probably willing to encourage any type of industry with the hope that something will happen on its establishment for the good of the community.

For an industry to flourish, it must have, in the first place, the basic means of acquiring the raw material. The Manchester Mills have more or less thriven on the enslavement of the colonies from which they draw their stores of raw material and cotton. Manufactured goods are also produced by the same people; therefore, whenever you are thinking of the textile industry, wherever textile is concerned as the primary product, it is always a question of slavery.

However, that is beside the question. You can probably correct the G.A.T.T. agreement in the hope that it will work for the good of the nations but it cuts right across the fundamental and early principle of G.A.T.T. to correct the type of cartel of flattering ourselves in the blackmail that we should do everything to attract industries.

Government is offering this industry some more protection. That industry will be favoured under the guidance of the people who make these garments. What is more is that all that machinery was bought by Messrs. DaCosta and Company, Limited. It was lying down idle, in decay and rusting.

11.30 p.m.

I do not want to criticise the Minister, nor am I saying that he should have postponed the Bill. I am a member of the Party, and whether it be right or wrong, I have to go along with it. Only rats desert a sinking ship, and I am not the type who would get outside and criticise it, but that does not mean that he is right on this, and in the industry concerned. The basic material seems to be the control of the raw material used in the concession, but in providing this protection to the industry, you must examine the

decision and see what you are doing. If the garment factory finds that their profit is made available, they must plough it back into the industry. Today, we are thinking of shirts, but they are thinking of rompers for the little baby, because it is the order of things, and you are going to ask three quarters of this community to support this particular Bill because you want to satisfy yourself that you are giving 100 people employment.

There is some argument in which you talk about Jamaica; I have seen cloth manufactured in Jamaica and they have paid some attention to it. We know that granulated sugar is manufactured and used in England and even sold to us, but we will eventually manufacture it here. The Hon. Minister knows that there will be a brief duration of all these things with the establishment of Federation. That is our unfortunate position, and that is why I was worried about his argument to justify the existence of these Tariffs; but in his speech, the Leader of the Opposition did throw a shaft of light on what is in itself a flaw, and that is where we want to point out that it must militate against the best interest and social interest of the community, because we know it must be short lived. With these remarks, I want to support the Bill.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I have been accused of galloping too quickly in one instance, galloping too slowly in another, and the worst is that I have been galloping in all directions. But I think as a Government, it would be criminal if we failed to make a move at all and decide on a policy such as this and not to have come down with this Bill. The speech made by the last speaker was a farago of nonsense, because if this is short lived . . .

Mr. MILLER: On a point of Order. I take objection to the remarks made by the hon. member in referring to my argument as a farrago of nonsense . . .

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The hon. member cannot make another speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is making a point of order.

Mr. MILLER: I take objection to his remark because of the folly of his simple mind. I just take the exception and am hoping it will get some longitude where necessary and not latitude, because I said nothing personal. What I said was that in the unfortunate rush for industry you look away from essentials.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I am saying he has centered his whole argument around the short life of this industry anyhow. If we cannot prevent federation from protecting an industry from outside competition, we had better try to get it done now even if it is short-lived. Federation is still a year off and under a Customs Union the early birds catch the best worms. That strengthens more than ever the necessity for a Bill of this kind. I would never agree to protecting an inefficient industry because only the consumer is hit in that case; therefore if the industry cannot compete within the federation, I say now is the time to offer local workers a chance. We would still be faced, Mr. Speaker, in a federation with high duties, as a protection against imports from outside, and faced still with unemployment. The hon. member has really demolished his own criticisms of the Bill. At this stage I really cannot reply to the hon. senior member for St. John. He has ventured into waters in which he has drowned himself. I say this absolutely nothing to do with making monopolies. There are seven of these garment making factories, and you cannot make regulations before you bring down an Act. Why doesn't the hon. member stick to facts?

Mr. ALLDER: On a point of explanation, Mr. Speaker, what I said was that the business houses in Bridgetown knew the intentions of Government to have the Customs Tariff Act amended and they started weeks ago to put up the price of shirts. We pay more for them today than we paid when they started to sell during the past two or three weeks and I suggested that regulations should be put in the Tariff.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: He did not know what he was saying at the time. The Regulations have already been passed? Is he saying that?

Mr. ALLDER: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I did not say that. What I did say, Sir, is that here it is we are passing an amendment to the Customs Tariff Act, but that regulations which are contained in this amendment have already been implemented by business houses in Bridgetown. I did not say Government had implemented them because they have started to carry up the price of shirts.

11.40 p.m.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: It is unfortunate; he means they are taking advantage of the fact that we are bringing down this Bill on their shirts, but I have had no information to that effect.

As a matter of fact, my information has been to the opposite. I must say that this is the first occasion on which I have heard anything about that. This is not a revenue-raising Tariff; this is a protective Tariff. Anyhow, I will make enquiries into the matter.

As to the question of the additional surcharge, that is laid down by Law and it should not come into this matter at all. Instead of 20%, it would be really 24% under the Revenue Aid Act. If the hon. member will look at the original Bill, he will see that the surcharge was 24%. This Bill brings it back to the figure of 20%.

Other hon. members who have spoken and who have subjected me to personal attacks are not now in their seats, and therefore I will not worry with them. I say that people in this industry are claiming that if we do this thing for them, if we give them this assistance, they will be able to employ up to 600 people. In the face of the present unemployment situation, could we ignore the claims which have been put up to us? Could we ignore these things? In Canada, I interviewed two Industrialists who hope to set up factories in these parts, but do you think they will come here if we do not give them protection? The Government cannot allow people to do nothing or starve. We have to do something to protect and encourage these industries; they do not come in just by our crying: "Open Sesame, come to Barbados and help us in our plight."

As regards the hon. junior member for St. Peter, it does appear that whenever he sees me, it is a red rag to a bull. Poor chap—

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister must not refer to the hon. member in such terms.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I want to point out that the hon. member has said that this Government does not follow other Governments in the area, that it does not encourage Trade Unions and things of that sort, and he refers to what the Minister in Jamaica is doing. Well, the Hon. Minister in Jamaica is doing exactly what we are doing in this Bill; in Jamaica they encourage industries, and the Minister has recently set up a Wages Council in the hotel industry in the best interests of the workers.

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

The two Clauses of the Bill were called and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

11.50 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1956

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take Items 7 & 8.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister for Communications, Works and Housing: to move the passing of the following Resolution to approve the Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Regulations, 1956.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, this is a small Resolution. As the Addendum to it explains, under the Wireless Telegraphy Regulations 1940, persons on whose premises wired receiving sets are installed are required to pay a licence fee of five shillings per annum. The Governor has decided to waive the fee and this Resolution seeks to give effect to that decision.

I may point out that it is an error to say "the Governor has decided." The word "Governor" should be deleted and the word "Government" inserted in its place because it is the Government that has decided to waive the fee.

For some time we have been approached by people who felt that the existence of the fee of five shillings paid by people who are desirous of installing these wired sets created a bit of hardship and caused some embarrassment in the installation of those sets. In view of the fact that the Government would like everybody to be informed of not only what happens in the outside world but more particularly in so far as local news is concerned, the Government had decided to waive that licence fee; so this Resolution seeks to give effect to that decision.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO REPORT ON RESOLUTION FOR \$2,000

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing: to move the consideration of the Report of the Select Committee appointed to report on the Resolution for \$2,000.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, the Select Committee appointed to go into the question of a Resolution before the House for \$2,000 to provide for amplifying equipment to improve the voices of the members of the Legislature met and reported. I will read the Report. It is as follows:—

The Select Committee appointed to consider and report on a Resolution to place the sum of \$2,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1956—57, Part I — Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1956—57, No. 21, has the honour to present the following Report.

2. The Committee met on the 31st August, 1956, when the following members were present:—

Hon. M. E. Cox (Chairman)
Mr. F. C. Goddard
Mr. J. A. Haynes
Mr. F. E. Miller

3. The Committee begs to report that after careful consideration it deems it advisable that the arrangements be made for a practical demonstration of the means of the amplification recommended in the Addendum of the said Resolution.

The Committee feels that before we commit ourselves to the expense of \$2,000 for permanent in-

stallation of this amplifying equipment that a demonstration test should be made and the Government Electrical Inspector has indicated that it is possible for him to get a demonstration for this House after which hon. members will be able to decide whether or not they intend to have it installed permanently as this Resolution sets out.

I beg to move that the Report of the Committee be adopted.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until this day week Tuesday, 18th September, 1956, at 3 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.