THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1958

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 13th March, 1958

A special meeting of the House of Assembly was held at 11 o'clock a.m. today.

PRESENT

His Honour Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, C.B.E., M.D., C.M., *(Speaker);* Hon. Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS, Kt., C.M.G., Q.C., B.A., *(Premier);* Hon. M. E. COX *(Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour);* Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., *(Chairman of Committees);* Hon. R. G. MAPP, *(Minister of Communications, Works and Housing);* Mr. E. St.A. HOLDER; His Honour Mr. V. B. VAUGHAN, *(Deputy Speaker);* Mr. C. E. TALMA; Mrs. E. E. BOURNE; Mr. C. B. SEARLES; Mr. L. St.A. THORNE; Hon. D. D. GARNER, *(Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries);* Mr. T. W. MILLER.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

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

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Other Place an Amendment to the Bill entitled a Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1921.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Message No 5/1958 notifying the House of Assembly of several Acts which have been assented to in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

Message No 6/1958 informing the House of Assembly that Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to approve the extension of the present term of office of the Governor by one year until the 13th May, 1959.

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados, and the amounts received from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, for the period ended on the 31st December, 1957, in respect of the Schemes sanctioned by the Legislature

Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for ten months ended 31st January, 1958.

An account of the Transactions in Rum in the several districts in the island, for the Quarter ended 31st December, 1957.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Report on Employment in Barbados by G. E. Cumper.
Paper on the functions of the Labour Department.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

Resolution to place the sum of $38,683 at the disposal of the Governor-in Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1957-58, Part I, Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1957 - 58, No.78, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with the money Resolution of which notice has just been given.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921, was read a first time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS EXCELLENCY

Hon. Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, before the business of the House begins, I should like to say, in reference to Message No. 6/1958, informing the House of Assembly that Her Majesty has been pleased to approve the extension of the present term of office of the Governor by one year until May next year, that I think we will all agree that the present Governor, more than any other Governor - I hope he does not get offended - with the possible exception of Sir Alfred Savage, has endeared himself to the heart of every Barbadian. We realise that he came to us at a difficult time in the sense that we were emerging from the pure colonial status to self - government, and I have found with him, as I found with Sir Alfred, that he has worked conscientiously as a Constitutional monarch, has always expressed his point of view and if he did not agree with you he would tell you; but he has never endeavoured to be what you might call an old time Colonial Governor who pushed things down your throat. We have worked extremely well with him, and I was very glad to have the opportunity of telling the Colonial Office exactly what I felt about his being here and about his continuing. I think it is only right that we

of the Government, who see more of him than other people, should say how glad we are to know that in this difficult time when we have the Cabinet Government and the Governor no longer sits as Chairman of the Executive Committee, it is an extremely good thing for us that we will still have the benefit of his being in the island

If I may say so, though it sounds like vanity, if I happen to go to the Federal Parliament (though the hon. junior member for St Lucy said that I cannot get there) it is all the more reason why we should have as the Chief Executive of this island a Governor whom we trust and like and who, I repeat, acts as a Constitutional monarch. I am going to leave this island feeling pretty happy to know that there is not going to be a new Governor in what may be difficult times for a year or two. I do not mean what the hon. member who is smiling over there means; what I mean is whether there is a Federal election or not, as soon as you have a transition from the Colonial Governor running things, even as Chairman, to Cabinet system where the Governor no longer sits as Chairman, there is bound to be occasionally some difficulty arising, and it is an excellent thing to know that you have a Governor who is sympathetic to the people, who is sympathetic to the development of self government, and who will do his best to work with the people over whom he has the good fortune to preside, so to speak

I do not want to be too personal, but I know that there are some people who will not realise that Sir Robert is a very shy man; they may think that he is aloof when it is not really aloofness; it is merely that he happens to be a very shy man. It is not that he is upstairs or standoffish or anything of the sort; when you get to know him, you realise that far from being that type of man, he is as friendly as any human being can be.
11.25 a.m.
I personally am glad to be able to have taken part in making sure that he would stay here for a little longer time I have no doubt whatever that all of us who have to work with him would feel that we are working with a most cooperative executive official.

I do not think it would be right for me to let this occasion pass without paying this tribute to him. So often we pay tribute to a man on his obituary stone or we say in the church yard or at the cemetery what a good man he is. I think it is a good thing for a man to know that people whom he helped really appreciate the good things he has done and for that reason I have said what I have said. It is only for a year, but it is more conceivable or probable that in that year, in-asmuch as it would be a transitional period with him still at the helm, there would be no friction and Barbados would continue to set an example to the rest of the colonial world as a territory which is emerging from colonialism and running its own affairs. I have no fear knowing who is running the Government as the Queen's representative that Barbados would still continue to be an example to the rest of the colonial world.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, if I may address a word or two on the same subject as the Hon. and Learned Premier, I would just like to say that rare are the occasions when he and I agree or see eye to eye on any vital subjects or any political matter but this is one of the few occasions that we see eye to eye. We entirely agree that the extension of the term of office of the present Governor is a thing to which we cannot possibly have any objection. I do agree that he is an excellent representative of a constitutional monarch. Whoever the Ministers are, I am sure that he would loyally accept their decisions and regard himself as nothing other than the representative of a constitutional monarch and for that reason we are appreciative of the extension of his tenure of office.

Apart from that fact, he is well suited for such a role as Head of the Government, Representative of the Monarch, where there is Cabinet Ministry,running the country. His style is easy and pleasant, he is a good mixer and he would loyally support the decisions of his Cabinet and in that respect would fulfill the role of the monarch's representative as is the case in this colony.

Sir, may I in referring to that Message add that we on this side were happy at this time that there has been announced the appointment as Chief Secretary of this colony of Mr. Barton whom I have always found publicly to be a fine Secretary, and professionally (when I have to negotiate dealings with that office from my professional standpoint) loyal, and personally and in respect of all that, Mr. Barton has shown himself to be a very worthy man for the post of Chief Secretary and it is a great pity that his appointment was not made before now, that is to say, that it is so belated. However, we are still happy of its taking place.

Sir, let us bear in mind that as much as we appreciate or have no objection whatsoever to the extension of the term of office of the present Governor that as soon as that is over we are looking forward to a Mordecai of Jamaica or a Springer of Barbados being made a Governor of Barbados. Many years ago, that subject was addressed in this Chamber by me and I feel more strongly about it now than I did then that the time is ripe for a West Indian to be made a Governor of this colony.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am sure you have heard the hon. and learned Premier saying that I have remarked that I am sure that he cannot get in the Federal Parliament. Well, I entirely disagree with that remark because I have found that thousands of our followers say that they are going to vote for him to go to the Federal Parliament; they do not want him any longer in Barbados.

Sir, may I thank you for the privilege which you have shared to the Hon. Premier and myself to speak on this matter.

Mr. TALMA rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: I gave the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the Hon. Premier the privilege to speak on this matter, but I cannot extend it any further. I said so before I allowed them to speak.

Mr. TALMA: I did not understand you that way.

Hon. Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking permission just to say this. I did not refer to Mr. Barton because he is not a member of this House but I agree with what the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said. I am glad to know that the Colonial Office has accepted the advice which went from this side about him. I am not saying anything more. Let me repeat that the only reason why I did not refer to him was because he is not a member of this House. He served Barbados for a number of years and he deserves the reward which he now has got.

HOUSE RESUMES CONSIDERATION ON ESTIMATES

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day is to resume debate on the consideration of the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 1958-59.

Hon. Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: Mr. Speaker, before we get on to that I have been asked to do an amendment from the Other Place if the House will agree to dealing with that amendment first. I am told that it is only a marginal note to be inserted.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interfere but this is a Special Meeting of the House.

Hon. Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: With the greatest possible respect to Your Honour, the House does what it likes to do if the majority says so. The House does not work under any Companies Act where the law says that if you have a Special Meeting you should only do what is on the Agenda. This House can do all that it likes It can adjourn now for two minutes or it can take any subject it likes to take.
11.35 a.m.

There is no such thing as a Special Meeting. All that happens is that, according to the Rules, the House adjourns from Tuesday to Tuesday, unless in the opinion of the Speaker it is in the interest of the community to have a meeting before the following Tuesday. There are some smallminded people in this Island who ought to be drowned. (Mr. F. G. SMITH: Why do you not drown them?) Because I believe in law and order; that is the reason why I would not drown them. I wish to repeat, with the greatest possible emphasis, that there is no such thing as a Special Meeting of the House

Mr. SPEAKER: I also wish to emphasise that this is a Special Meeting, and the hon. member is out of order.

Hon. Sir GRANTLEY ADAMS: I am asking the House to vote on it, or I will walk out. (MEMBERS: Well, walk out.) There is no such thing, I repeat, as a Special Meeting of the House.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply on the Estimates for the financial year 1958-59, Mr. L. E. SMITH being in the Chair.

HEAD XIV - JUDICIARY

Head XIV - JUDICIARY - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $71,208 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, before the question is put, there are a few Items on which I should like to make some comment or obtain some enlightenment. I am speaking first of all, on Item 37, "Fees to Counsel assigned in Capital cases, $500." That will be found on page 38 of the Estimates, Mr. Chairman, and the amount to be voted under that Item - is $500. I notice it is mentioned that there has been an increase of $500. There have been a lot of complaints among Counsel who, have been assigned in Capital cases as to the inadequacy of the amount.

As you know, Sir, some years ago, the Counsel who was asked by the Chief Justice to conduct the defence of a person charged with murder, was required to do it free of charge That was so when I did one of them. Then these Counsel were paid an amount of £5 and subsequently, that amount was increased to £10 and at the last Assizes, it was not possible to get Counsel to agree to defend a person who is charged with murder for $48. After much consideration of this question by the Bar Association, an increase was made in that amount.

This amount of $500 will soon be inadequate if Counsel assigned in Capital Cases receive a minimum fee of $96 which the junior juniors are asking for their labours today. This $96 is hopelessly inadequate for the responsibility which is entailed and the sleepless nights which one has to undergo during the time when he is preparing the defence of someone who is on a Capital charge I am only throwing out that suggestion, because I would not like those who determine the amount of money which is to be paid in these cases to say that the Legislature has only assigned $500 for a whole year, and that $500 cannot be stretched indefinitely.

I will deal next with Items 38 & 39 "Inquests," for which the sums of $5,000 and $155 respectively are to be voted. I am sorry that the Hon. and Learned Premier is not here, but I know that a careful note is made of everything that transpires in this Chamber, by the hon. senior member for St. Michael. I should like to point out that the Coroner's Act is hopelessly out of date and the attention of the Crown Law Officers should be invited to the matter of bringing that Act up to date, and much more in harmony with the English legislation. The Crown Law Officers might well devote some of their time to the preparation of an up-to-date Coroner's Act for this Island, prepared on the instructions of the Cabinet to be put before the Legislature. As it is now, our Coroner's Act is hopelessly outmoded, and it is entirely inadequate for the purpose which it has to serve.

As regards Item 50, "Reporter, $350," which is provided for the Chief Justice, that amount is absolutely inadequate and insufficient. There should be one Reporter for the Chief Justice's Court, and now that we have three High Court Judges, at least two Courts are normally to be found sitting. The sum of $350 per year for a Reporter is not good enough, because it means that on occasions when both Courts are sitting, the service of the Reporter is sought, and he cannot sit in both Courts at the same time. At the moment, both Puisne Judges are sitting simultaneously and of what use can one Reporter be if only $350 is assigned for him to be in the two Courts which will be sitting for the whole of this month and his services will be needed? Is it just a cheeseparing action of the Cabinet in allowing only one Reporter for the Courts? The Judiciary of the Island will need one whole-time Reporter and another one should be available when both Courts are sitting simultaneously on those controversial matters on which they are sitting so often together - in matters which there are some important points in issue.
11.45 a.m.

Well now, Mr. Chairman, under Head XIV, Items 57 and 59, "Books and Publications" and "Text Books and Reports for Chief Justice," I quite appreciate that I might not be able to get very much help on these items from the members of the Cabinet present, because the Law is not their line, and it is a pity that when we started with the Head "Judiciary" that the member of the Cabinet who is most au fait with matters judicial and legal, has seen fit to leave this Chamber. I trust he is not indisposed.

I would ask the Leader of the House not to allow any distractions from anyone however close to him, because I am asking him to take notes and in due course supply us with the information.

As to Item 57 "Books and Publications" which includes cost of Law Reports, replacements of volumes and purchase of law journals, there is always a certain amount of uncertainty when this Legislature votes money for Law books as to where they are to go. I should like the hon. senior member for St. Michael, the Leader of the House, to tell me whether these particular Books and Publications - the amount for which was $1,000 and is now reduced by $500 - are for the Chief Justice's Chambers, for the Attorney General's Chambers or for the Law Library, and if he cannot give us the information - I would not blame him because I cannot expect him off-hand to give us the information - I should ask him to make a note because if they are for the Law Library they must go to the Law Library; if they are for the Chief Justice's Chambers they should go nowhere else, and if they are for the Attorney General's office, there is no other place where they should go. It seems that there is always some doubt as to where books should go, and we very often have understood that when we have been voting money in the Legislature that a certain vote was for books for the Law Library, but when we do not see them there we are told that they went to the Chief Justice's Chambers or the Attorney General's Chambers as the case may be. We want to know when voting money for books where these books are to go, and then if we do not see them in the Law Library, we will make inquiries as to where they are and why they are not where they should be, having regard to what they were voted for. As you know, the public should be made to understand that with the question of the Law Library in Barbados, there is for the first time this year a charge for the use of the books. This weighs very heavily against Barristers because each Barrister is required to pay the same amount per annum for the use of books in the Law Library as a whole firm of Solicitors, as I stated before in this Chamber. You have an idea, Sir, of how much Solicitors work for as compared with members of the senior branch of my profession, and they are required to pay the same amount as a whole firm like Messrs. Haynes and Griffith or Messrs. Yearwood and Boyce, for the use of these books in the Law Library. They pay the same as the hon. senior member for St. Andrew or myself and any other inpecunious member of the senior branch of the profession; the same amount is paid by one of us as a whole firm of Solicitors; so you should

let the public understand that when we vote this money for the Law Library, we are not allowed to use it free, and from this year we are to pay the same amount of money as a firm, because five or six Solicitors may use this Law Library for one sum and one Barrister has to pay a similar amount of money for the same services So, Sir, if the Leader of the House will make a note of these points, I know that in due course he will be as helpful as he can be in supplying the information. It is such a relief, Mr. Chairman, to find a Minister who does not dabble in intellectual snobbery and who realises the full sense of his responsibility in giving the Chamber the maximum amount of information which it is his duty to give.

As to Items 32 and 33, "Jurors and Marshals at Grand Sessions" and "Jurors and Marshals at Common Pleas,' we are required to vote $25,000 and $1,000 respectively.

You must, like myself, have received complaints from, in respect of, and by the Marshals in respect of their inadequate remuneration, and known that their agitation for a reasonable increase has been so persistent, so long and so completely unattended. We had a murder case which concluded yesterday and the Jury were locked up for the nights when that case was going on. The Marshals could not go home; they had to go to the Y.M.C.A. to keep an eye on the jurors to make sure that there was no contact with them. They worked from 4 p m. to 9 a.m. the next day when the Court resumes. Marshals have a serious duty to perform as watchmen to the Jury and unlike traditional Barbadian watchmen are not allowed to sleep; they are supposed to remain constantly awake to make sure that there is no contamination to justice by seeing that there is no attempted contact by any outsiders; so you can see what it is like. They get no overtime for that; they have to work all day in the Court calling witnesses and doing the normal routine and then at 4 p.m when the Court adjourns these men have to go to the Y.M.C.A. with the Jurors and remain there until 9.25 a.m. next morning to bring the Jurors into Court at 9.30 a.m. If they sleep they sleep at their peril. The decision of the Jury can be upset by the Court of Criminal Appeal if it is found that any communication at all was made to the Jury other than through one of the Marshals; so they cannot or dare not sleep. It is their job to keep awake and make sure that nothing goes wrong. They are amongst the most deserving sections of this community for proper treatment, and I commend their case to the Hon. Leader of the House hoping that he will have the matter brought before the Cabinet and sympathetically considered I think those those are the principal comments which I need make at this stage.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, dealing with Item 19, I think that the Judiciary is one of the most neglected Departments of Government, if it may be so termed, and to think that the Hon. Premier views his responsibility so lightly as to walk out of this Chamber, because the Speaker did not, like some of the other Party members on his side, give way.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is that to do with the Item?

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Will you please let me explain? When the Hon. House met today, the Hon. Premier was in his seat; Judiciary falls under his portfolio and he has left the Chamber because the Speaker would not be bullied by him, and the Opposition is entitled to get from the Minister reasonable explanations for any questions they might ask Let him go to Trinidad and try out that!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What has that to do with the Item?

Mr F. G. SMITH: I said let him go to Trinidad and try those Jimenez tactics; let him walk out when he does not get his way in the Federal Parliament.

. However, Mr. Chairman, you will notice that under Item 19, the sum of $192 per annum is allocated for travelling allowance for Marshals. The Marshals of the Supreme Court are forced to travel all over the island serving summonses and executions to parties, and of course in some cases they are forced to travel more often per month than the Ministers themselves; therefore I am suggesting to the Hon. Leader of the House that $16 per month for Marshals who are forced to travel in every parish, sometimes at night and sometimes having to return, is ridiculously low.

11.55 a.m

Of course, they may very well have their own Association which may very well negotiate with the Government about the matter: but my responsibility as a member of this House is to point out what I think is right or wrong, whether an Association is dealing with the matter or not. I have said that they have a lot of work to do and they have to travel all over the country.

Another point is this , - I do not want to stress it because the Assizes are still going on and I do not want to say that I am making out a case for jurors because I have to appear at the present Assizes. I have a responsibility to carry out on behalf of my constituents and I have a responsibility to carry out because of my profession and I am prepared to shoulder both. I wish to appeal to the Hon. Leader of the House that it is high time to look into the case of jurors who should be paid more money.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: With what are you dealing?

Mr. F. G. SMITH: I am dealing with Item 32, Jurors and Marshals at Grand Sessions. In view of the fact that wages have gone up and that some of these people are taken away from their occupation for weeks, I think it is high time that you consider an increase in the remuneration which you pay to them. Gone are the days when members of this House, Social Welfare Officers and Voluntary workers were not paid; therefore you could say that jurymen should not be paid You should see to it that jurors do not suffer financial loss when they are called upon to serve in the discharging of their civic responsibility. I am therefore suggesting to the Hon. Leader of this House that he considers an increase in their remuneration.

As regards Item 37, Fees to Counsel Assigned in Capital Cases, as the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said, to be charged with murder is one of the most serious offences under the criminal law of this country. When any person is charged with that offence, the brief is given to the most junior barrister if the defendant is unable to hire a lawyer . To offer a barrister £10 to plead a case of a man charged with murder is in the extreme an insult to the man who is trained and who is undertaking a very great task, which if not successfully carried out, if not done well, is likely to ruin his reputation for the balance of his career. If the barrister has not done a good job, taking the facts into consideration, the people of the country will form an opinion of his ability which might very well be unfair and which might hamper him for the rest of his days: and to do all that at the request of the Crown for £10 , ou can very well see is ridiculous.

Sir, if I were offered £10 for defending a man charged with murder, before I undertook to do it for that, I would do it free. I would not defend a man charged with murder for the paltry sum of £10. The Bar Council made representations to the Attorney General in this matter but after a few remarks which were a bit hostile by him, he not realising at the time that barristers are independent men and the only people who can discipline barristers are the Inns to which they belong, he came down and realised that the amount for the brief was too small. Of course, barristers feel that rather than do it for £10, they should do it free. Why should counsel be asked to defend a man for £10 on an offence which is the most grievous crime other than treason? I would like the Hon. Leader of the House in the absence of the Hon. Premier to tell us whether the Government is reviewing this matter. The Hon. Premier has left the Chamber in a huff and a buff like a mad wolf.

As regards Item 50, Reporter, for which the sum of $350 is to be voted, the Hon Leader of the Opposition

dealt with the need of a Reporter for the Chief Justice's Court. I can say from personal experience that it is very difficult in some cases in which Counsel may feel that an appeal should be made, to get a Reporter to take down the notes of the evidence because there is so little provision for it. In these days where you are going to get appeals going on to the Federal Supreme Court or to the West Indian Court of Appeal, it is vital and necessary that not only the Chief Justice himself but the two other Puisne Judges should have Reporters to take down notes of evidence and summing up, so that lawyers would be able to advise their clients whether they should appeal or not.

Very often, there is very great inconvenience caused in trying to get a Reporter at short notice to come into Court and take the Judge's summing up which may form the basis of your appeal. Many people have had to drop appeals because counsel was unable to get the summing up of the Judge.

As regards Item 47, Incidentals, if I may go back a bit, it deals with scrubbers and provides for the cleaning of the several courts.
The Hon. Leader of the House on the last occasion informed us of the reason why for a whole year the sum of $40 is only to be voted for the cleaning of the Belleplaine Court. As a matter of fact, not too long ago they brought down the sum of $4 a month which is based on three cents a square foot and then they came in with a vote of $90 a month for travelling allowance for Ministers. That is a ridiculous state of affairs. I should have something to say about the increase of $40 a month for travelling allowance for Ministers in my constituency. Of course, my honourable colleague saved her stakes by making a speech against it.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition dealt with Item 57, Books and Publications of which the note says: "include cost of law reports, replacement of volumes and purchase of law journals." The figure set down for it is $500 and that is a small amount. Law books today cost a great deal of money: and quite to the contrary of what some people may think and of which we have a body of opinion in this country that since the return to this country of a certain lawyer, all the other lawyers are dishonest or are idiots, I say that the test of a good lawyer is whether he can find his law. He finds his law in law books, and if he is a good lawyer he would know where he can find his law. A lawyer should be able to consult the greatest authority on law not only to be of service to his client but to assist the court which as a barrister he is bound to do. I say again that there is a great lot of misconception about young lawyers. They are either lawyers or not. Either they qualified and passed examinations or they did not qualify and did not pass their examinations The Hon. Premier has often said that there is a special place at Dartmoor for young dishonest lawyers.
12.05 p m.

As I say, the Premier should have been here, because I am sure that you, Mr. Chairman, would have given him the opportunity to explain anything in view of the fact that the whole judicial system of this Island is going to be changed. It is known that we are reorganising our judicial system, and we hope to have it in vogue sometime towards the end of July or early August. We are doing away with the Assistant Court of Appeal - I repeat that the Premier should be here and in a position to explain from his place in this House, these things to the country.

I know that the Chief Justice is working on this reorganisation which will affect completely the judicial set up as hitherto existing. The Police Magistrates are going to have greater jurisdiction and the method of appealing is going to be altered; there is not going to be any more Court of Appeal to which you can say; "I appeal." All of these things are matters which will affect the judicial set-up and the standard of justice in order to secure that justice is going to be meted out to the people of this country.

I am sure that if the Hon Premier were in his place, you, Mr. Chairman, would give him the latitude to explain things which are going to be radically changed. You would have given a chance to explain how and where people will have to go in order to get justice when this new organisation come s about. We have appointed additional judges and the position of the Magistrates will be altered. I think that the attitude of the Premier in walking out of the House when he knew that this Head of the Estimates would be dealt with is not only a matter of discourtesy to this Chamber, but it is also a matter of discourtesy to the people of Barbados. It is a matter of irresponsibility which you would not associate with a man of the Premier's experience in politics or expect from a man of his culture and training. He should be ashamed of himself.

Mr CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is going too far

Mr. F. G. SMITH: I know that I am discussing his behaviour.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is out of order.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: I am glad you have stopped me from talking about the obvious.

Mr. TALMA: The Hon. member who has just sat down has spoken on these Items dealing with the Chief Deputy Marshal and the Deputy Marshals and he has referred to the inadequacy of the travelling allowance allowed to these unfortunate men. I refer to the Chief Deputy Marshal -

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what Item is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. TALMA: Item 18.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That Item is fixed by law.

Mr TALMA: Well, I will deal with Items 32 and 33, "Jurors and Marshals at Grand Sessions" and Jurors and Marshals at Common Pleas," respectively. The duties of the Chief Deputy Marshal and the Deputy Marshals do not only apply to the Court of Common Pleas, but also to the Divorce Court, the Assizes and then there is the levying of Executions in respect of the Assistant Court of Appeal. I am putting the case on their behalf as I have done in the past, but which has gone unheeded. The Deputy Marshals are called upon to travel all over the Island and their travelling allowance is very inadequate. The policy of the Government is to pay the ones who have to travel, and who must of necessity travel, little or nothing; but others are given adequate travelling allowance. I am not referring now to the Ministers; as far as I am concerned, they can get $200 a month. That would not worry me. I am referring to the District Agricultural Officers and to these Deputy Marshals who are serving all types of notices and executions, whether it be in respect of the Court of Common Pleas, the Assizes or the Divorce Court, and levying all sorts of executions over £10. They are required to do this work and yet they are only given $16 a month travelling allowance, whereas, the other people are given 24 cents a mile, I think it is, for the first so many miles and so on.

Out of conscience, one would feel that since every Officer has benefitted from an increased salary and has had his travelling allowance adjusted - one would have thought that this Chief Deputy Marshal and the Deputy Marshals would have been assisted. Even if they are given $1 a day, that would be of much assistance to them, but not $16 a month; they have to go all over the island issuing these Divorce summonses and so on. I am glad that my colleague has seen fit to mention this matter and I give him my full support. I hope that the Hon. Leader of the Government will draw that matter to the attention of the Cabinet when next they are considering this question of travelling allowance.

The next Item on which I want to speak is Item 42, "Constables' fees and Staves, $400." These Constables are a forgotten class of people; however, in many respects, they are the backbone of the Police Force. They are, in truth and in fact, the reserve Force of the Police Constabulary, but they are a forgotten class of people. Whenever they are needed, they cannot refuse to come forward; in cases of emergency, riot or any other occurence like that, they are forced to come forward and they are given a pittance, but at other times, they are not given a retainer - $5 or anything like that. They are on the reserve list of the Police Force and they get nothing for their time; nevertheless, they are expected to keep healthy, strong and clean and be ready for action when called upon.
12.15 p.m.

Another point is that the policy in this respect is a conservative policy, because the policy nowadays is to induce a constable to arrest these poor hungry people about the streets to get a fee for so doing. In other words, there is the conservative policy where for a joint of cane there is an imprisonment of six months for petty larceny. I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that there is this parsimonious and conservative policy for constables, of all people, whom you have to rely on in cases of emergency, hurricane, riots and other times in assisting the police in making arrests, and you are only paying them 60¢. You are perpetuating the old conservative policy where when a constable makes an arrest, he will earn his fee that way. Only $400 has been allocated for compensating them for the entire year; the consequences are that they should be fed up by now. They have put several cases to Government which have not been considered, but I am hoping that the Leader of the Government at present, who will be in a higher role soon, will make a special note on constables and marshals and see that they are given fair and equitable treatment.

Mrs. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, under Item 47, "Incidentals" there is a vote of $4,830; the former vote has been increased by $630. Now, Sir, I see that there are several Courts to be cleaned and that the various amounts are:- Assistant Court of Appeal $470; Petty Debt Court $150; District "A" $450; District "B" $120; District "C" $125; District "D" $50; District "E" $110; District "F" $60; Holetown $55; Belleplaine $40 I can only imagine that Government must have some scale or method of paying these cleaners. I have been told that they are paid at something like 3c per square foot The first thing one has to take into consideration, and not in reply to the remarks by my colleague, is the size of these Courts. Is the Belleplaine Court as large as the other Courts? If all the Courts which are to be cleaned were the same size, I would say it is quite an injustice and unfair to the person whom Government gave $40 while others received $55 and in other cases more. My colleague said that I will have to answer to my constituents.

Mr. Chairman, I am not afraid of any accusation he is going to put against me nor am I afraid of my own constituency; I was bred and born there. I felt also as I said when the $4 per month was spoken about, that it was small. This Resolution which was voted for was not a Resolution only for $12. I defended myself against greater ones than the hon. member who thinks that it takes a University graduate to do these things; but it does not take that to make Commonsense.

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member can tell me now to whom the $12 will be paid at Belleplaine from January to March, he has been doing his duty to the constituency. I can tell you that he cannot tell me who is the cleaner to look after the Belleplaine Police Courts I did not ask the Minister why he brought the Resolution because I know, but I could not find anyone individual who looks after the Court. At present it is closed and nobody cleans it. What harm have I done to my constituents? Does his heart bleed more for his constituents than mine?

Mr. Chairman, it is good that out of humour one can with the privilege of this House speak of charges made against Government, but if we knew what was paid to our servants you would see how unfair we are

Mr. Chairman, speaking on Item 37 "Fees to Counsel assigned in Capital cases." $48 to defend a person in a murder case or any other charge in the opinion of my colleague is small, and one may ruin one's reputation as junior counsel at the Bar. I feel that he or she is given an opportunity of winning his or her spurs, and if that member chooses to throw away that opportunity by making a bad mess or bad case, it is his fault. What we do need is to regularise the fees of legal practitioners in this country, because they are preposterous at times; and if you can only hear the fees charged the very poor people whom they represent to defend some trivial cases, I can assure you, Sir, that some times you often hear remarks made that they have been swindlers instead of being Barristers. If the Income Tax Commissioner knew of all the fees they made, Government would get quite a lot more income tax. If you ask a lawyer to give you a receipt, he tells you that lawyers do not give receipts.

Mr. Chairman, I should like also to speak on Item 36, "Jury Expenses" I have been trying to discover how and on what method they select these jurymen. I am told that they are selected from the voters list; the Provost Marshal looks up the Voters list and selects the jurymen. Speaking for myself, I feel that the jury system needs abolishing completely, especially with jurymen sitting when it is a life and death matter like a murder case. It was brought to my notice just a few weeks ago that in the Session before this one or the next before that, there was a juryman who could not hear even if you had given him a hearing aid. No one knew he was deaf except the people whom he lived around. Perhaps they did not know that he was a juryman; but he must hear in order to be able to do justice to the person whose life is going to the gallows.

If the hon. member who is trying to interrupt me was listening, he would have heard that I was dealing with Item 36 under Head XIV.
12.25 p.m.

Well, Mr Chairman, as I was saying, there should be some method in selecting a person to serve as a juryman; I do not think the best method should be one in which you just look up the list of voters and select a person from that list.

I have heard my hon. colleague to remark only just last week that justice in Barbados is one of the cheapest things in the whole world. I do not know what he means by that, but I do not think a man should pay to get justice. To me justice should be something which you can get free. I do not know if my hon. colleague means that lawyers are paid too little; I do not know if he would explain what he means by that; but if he means that you should pay to get justice I cannot see with him. Sir, those are the few points which I have to make.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr Chairman, I am always amused when I find laymen dabbling in things they do not understand. The hon. lady member has made some statements of which she knows absolutely nothing. If a man cannot hear he cannot sit as a juryman Is the hon. member suggesting that every man who is called to be a juryman must undergo a medical examination?

Mrs. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. That is exactly what I said. A man was sitting as a juryman at an Assize Court and they did not know he was deaf; only the people living around him knew he was deaf. I said that I do not think the present method of selecting these people is the correct method.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: The method of selecting jurymen has worked here and worked in other countries: but there are occasions when a man is suffering from an impediment which is unknown to the Provost Marshal whose job it is to select a jury. In this community where people are unemployed and where $3 a day means so much to so many people, a man is forced to take the opportunity of getting some money; he may have been unable to work for years. What should happen is: a man who is suffering from deafness and is being selected as a juryman should go to the Registrar and say: "I

am sorry I cannot serve; I cannot hear." otherwise the Registrar would not be able to say whether he can hear or not.

I repeat that to suggest that a man who is charged for murder should be at the mercy of the youngest barrister to plead his case is simply ridiculous to the extreme. In some countries the most senior barrister is given the task. If I were put on a charge of murder, I certainly would not like my life to be hanging on the experience of the youngest member of any bar and I am sure my hon colleague would not like it if she were placed in that unfortunate position of being charged with murder. Of course, she would find the money to hire the most experienced lawyer.

As regards a cleaner being at the Belleplaine Court from January to March, that is immaterial to the principle. What is material is that you have agreed to pay that person, whoever she is, $4 a month, You have set down $470 for the Assistant Court of Appeal and $150 for the Petty Debt Court and only $40 for the Belleplaine Court. The Petty Debt Court and the Assistant Court of Appeal are courts which are just rooms in a building. It is nonsense to say that the Belleplaine Court is not the same size as the Assistant Court of Appeal or the Petty Debt Court of Bridgetown.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question I think I should reply to a few points, especially the point made by the hon. junior member for St. Andrew and other hon. members who feel that Government is doing an injustice to these workers. Let me say that these rates are the regular rates which are paid and there is no discrimination whatsoever. The people in Bridgetown are not getting a higher rate. These rates were fixed in accordance with the recommendation of Mr. Godsall at the time when all workers were given increases. To stand on the floor of this House and say that the Government is paying these people $4 a month is incorrect and most misleading. Of course, we all know that there are the Federal Elections just around the corner - and if it were the General Elections it would be the same thing - and, therefore, those persons interested in the campaign are prepared to use every possible means of propaganda at their disposal in order to try and influence persons who are not so knowledgeable on what is going on.

Now, if a man is getting $40 a month, it necessarily follows that he has to put in 26 or 28 days' work in that month This is nothing of the sort. This cleaner may only appear at this building a half hour twice in a week sweeping out, and then she can go away to her work as usual. This is not a fixed job for her. (A VOICE: Nobody said it was.) When you said they were working for $4 a month, surely you gave the impression that these people are working for the miserly sum of $4 a month which means to say. that they are employed full time on this job.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I am saying that they are getting $4 a month; I am not saying they are getting $4 a month for full time occupation.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am sure the hon. member would appreciate that we on this side know that the implication is that these people are giving full time service for $4 a month Why say $4 a month and not 3 cents a square foot? That is how it is calculated; it is not for a day, month or year on which it is calculated; it is three cents a square foot on which it is calculated, and as I have said, it is so in the Godsall Report. When that Report was being dealt with, and this was considered, nobody said it was inadequate or insufficient; it was accepted even by those who claim to represent labour. Not one word was raised against it
12.35 p m.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: On a point of Order. I hope the hon. member will appreciate that when the Godsall's Recommendations were passed, I was not a member of this Chamber.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am saying that the impression which has gone out that the Government was only paying $4 a month for doing this work is incorrect and misleading, and this is only being done for reasons of vote catching in respect of persons who do not know what is going on. It cannot take half a day to clean the place; I say again, that any person who cleans this place can go and work wherever she likes after the place has been cleaned. She can work at the hours which suit her; if she likes to do so, she can work at six o'clock in the morning before the Courts are opened, or she can work in the afternoon after the Courts have finished. Nobody is going to pin down this individual to work for this amount, as the impression has been given by those who are opposing this Item; As the hon. senior member for St. Andrew has pointed out, the amount varies according to the size of the various places.

The Hon Leader of the Opposition has raised the point about Counsel being employed to defend people, who are charged with murder, for a fee of $48. I am inclined to agree with what the hon. senior member for St. Andrew has said, that it is fame for any young lawyer to have to try to perform the impossible at some times, that is to say, to try to get off somebody who may be guilty of murder. If I should go a little further, when the hon. member says that the fee is an insult to the profession, I was being informed that lawyers are not supposed to charge any fees, because they carry a little bag aback of their gowns which is for the purpose that after they have successfully defended somebody and they are passing out of the Courts, you drop a little coin into that bag as a token of the good work which they have done.(Laughter).

You cannot really say on the one hand that the profession is so honourable and you carry that bag for the purpose I have mentioned, and at the same time say that it is an insult to the profession if only £10 is paid as the fee for representing somebody who is charged with murder; if the hon. member feels strongly about that, then he should remove that little bag from the back of his gown.

To be a little more serious now, the hon. junior member for St. Lucy has asked about the law books. That is covered under Item 7 "Books and Publications, $500." That is the explanation which I have to give on that particular Item. Various points were raised as to the adequacy or inadequacy of the amounts paid to the Chief Deputy Marshal and the Deputy Marshals for travelling and the suggestion is made that they should be at least put on the list of Officers who receive Travelling Allowance at the rate of so much a mile. I will promise hon. members to take up that point with the Cabinet. I think it was the hon. senior member for Christ Church who raised that point. The hon. junior member for St. Lucy also raised the point about the inadequacy of the allowance paid to the Marshals when they have to attend to jurors who are empanelled. I will also promise the hon member to take up that matter with the Cabinet. The hon. junior member for St. Lucy also suggested that the Coroners' Act should be brought up to date. I have also made a note of that and I promise the hon. member to bring it to the attention of the Cabinet.

Mr WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to Item 29, "Inspector of Friendly Societies", but before going to that Item, I should like to say that when the hon. member is speaking on the question of somebody being paid at so much a square foot, his conception of it is that because the price is 3 cents a square foot, if you have three square feet, then you can pay a person nine cents for doing the work. However, you must have a minimum which a person can draw for what work they do and not go on the basis of just paying so much a square foot. It is not true to say that in the Godsall Report - the Godsall Report, I would say was a hurried document rushed through the Assembly near the beginning of the last Election. How could any hon. member have discussed the Godsall Report in detail when there were so many pages to go through? I have spoken on that matter, even in relation to the jan-

itors at the Public Elementary Schools who are paid on a similar basis. When the hon. member says that we say these things for political purposes, I should like to say that he speaks on platforms and he says things and the Leader of the Party says that he can go to the Union when he comes back from the Federal Parliament; he says that he will go to the Wharf and lead a strike. Now what Prime Minister could do that? Could Mr. MacMillan get into a row with people? Because the Election is on, hon. members say things as if there is an angel over there who asks us to pray and we will go to heaven. They are talking about people's parents.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is going too far.

Mr. WALCOTT: When you see that somebody is saying something, because an election is on - you are leading an election campaign and you have people talking about other people's parents, which is nothing at all to do with politics.

However, Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with Item 29, "Inspector of Friendly Societies." This is coming under the Premier's portfolio; he is still President of a Friendly Society which does not pay any bonus when the year comes around. How are you going to have an investigation where the Leader of the Government is at the Head of a Friendly Society which is not paying any bonus? You have Friendly Societies coming under his portfolio and he is the President of a Friendly Society; what nonsense is this?

12.45 p.m.

You have now the Premier of Barbados as President of a Friendly Society It is true he wants the Trade Union to come under his portfolio if he can get it. Now you have a Friendly Society under the portfolio of the Premier of Barbados which does not pay its bonuses, and every year there is a question about it; this is something that should be rectified. The Premier has no right to be the President of any Friendly Society, and those are the things to which some attention should be paid. There is no point in telling people that they say things for political purposes. The janitors should have a minimum rate of pay and not merely paid at 3¢ per square foot. Do you mean that if he could only do ten square feet, he would only get 30¢? You talk about the Godsall Report; but did Godsall tell you to give the Attorney General a furniture allowance? Did he write a letter and say it should be done? I repudiate the idea of your. saying that we say something for political purposes as though these things can discredit you When you come on those grounds, they are too weak to walk on; you are stepping on ice which is cracking through, so I think the hon. member should answer questions without talking about people's politics.

Mr BRANCKER: There is only one thing I would like to reply to the Leader of the House on, and that is Item 37, "Fees to Counsel assigned in Capital cases." I should not like it to go on record without my having corrected it that Counsel is allowed to accept anything in respect of his success He cannot be paid for results and that is why his pittance should be put in the same packet to which the hon. member made reference; otherwise it is an offence for which he can be debarred.

The question that the sum of $71,208 be voted under Head XIV - Judiciary, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

POLICE

Head XV – POLICE was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $254,368 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, there are a few Items under this Head to which I will refer. Under Item 9 there is to be voted $2,715, "Allowance to Detectives."

Now as to that, Sir, I would let the Hon. Leader of the House know so that he can pass it on to the proper quarter that a case came under my notice the other day that a particular Detective who is on a criminal charge was allowed with that charge pending to leave the island. He was sent out on some mission when there are so many other hundred members of the Force who might have been sent out on a similar mission. He was a Detective and was allowed to go out of the colony while a criminal charge against him was pending and as a matter of fact, not determined, and I think that that matter should be passed on to the proper quarter by the Hon. Leader of the House to ensure that it does not happen again. If a policeman happens to be a favourite of the Officers, he should not be given the opportunity, however short the time, to leave the Island when in a similar case a civilian would not be granted a passport to leave the island while a criminal charge was pending against him. I know of cases in which civilians are not allowed to leave the island with an ordinary charge of careless driving pending, far less a charge of inflicting bodily harm.

Now as to Item 43, "Instruments etc. for Band" $1,800, and Item 44, "New Instruments for Band," $800, it is a matter of pleasure and gratification that I will vote that money, because there is no doubt about it that the Police Band is doing a superb job in this Island, and I am sure that if a vote is taken as to the most popular public officer in Barbados at present drawing public funds as a whole time officer, Captain Raison would get three times as many votes as any other individual in this island. He is doing a marvellous job not only for music but for the entertainment and enjoyment of the poor people of this island, when he insists, as no other man has done, in going around the island and not confining his activities like certain members. We know that certain Ministers confine their activities when it comes to roads and standpipes to their constituency If you take Captain Raison with these instruments for the Band, you will see that these instruments go all over the island entertaining people and brightening up the lives of the people who live in these districts.

I am very happy to support this vote and I assure Government that if we had to vote more money, I would take pleasure in voting any reasonable amount under this Head

Now, Sir, there is Item 48, "Subsistence allowance to N. C. O.s and men" for which we are invited to vote $1,800 , to pay Subsistence Allowance to N.C.O's and men on special duty and attending Court of Grand Sessions and other Courts.

Now, Sir, as to "other Courts," this time I am sounding a note of warning. We are asked to vote an allowance to N.C.O's and men on special duty not only attending the Court of Grand Sessions but other Courts, and it is my experience that these men do not attend other Courts with the punctuality which one expects and which one is entitled to demand. Time and again as a practitioner I find myself in a country Court at 10 o'clock, and fifteen minutes, half an hour, or forty minutes go before the policeman for whom we are providing subsistence allowance for attending Courts puts in his appearance They come casually or if they happen to remember, or if they have to catch a bus, or find it difficult to get one; they plan to get a bus which would get them there at 10 o'clock. We are voting this money, but I would like to sound a note of warning that it is necessary in the interest of justice that policemen attending Courts other than the Court of Grand Sessions, which we know they would attend punctually because they are scared of the Chief Justice, do so punctually and not when they find it convenient to turn up. I never countenance any slackness with a public officer, just as when I see efficiency, I say it should be properly compensated.

Under Item 49, there is the amount of $21,000 to meet the cost of upkeep of motor vehicles, and it is stated that there is an increase in petrol allocation.

Now, Sir, a lot of traffic accidents are caused in this island, because drivers feel and many say to me "look how the Police vans are driven " They take their example from the Police and feel they can do the same

thing, but the Policemen are not charged in the Court for speeding though a private individual is charged It is a bad example to set. I know one of the officers who is one of the most reckless drivers in this island. Some are very careful, but one is as bad as Colonel Dickens in his day when it comes to speeding
12.55 p m.

It is their business to set an example in careful, conscientious, tenacious driving I say that of all the Police; I do not mean merely the van drivers; I include certain officers who drive their cars They all should set some example to the public. They are regarded in this island as the worst class of drivers to be found on the roads of Barbados, and on top of that, they are immune from prosecution. I know of only one case of a policeman being put on a charge for speeding on the highway. The sergeant who brought him up came from the parish of St. Thomas and the particular private who was charged was not on the best terms with him. Because of that, the Sergeant - Barabbas, as he was known - decided that he would bring this case for speeding against the Private. The Private won the case in the Assistant Court of Appeal when he was given leave to appear in the Court personally in the matter.

I am suggesting that sooner or later, you will have a very serious accident taking place in the parish of St. George because Police motor cycles are tested by policemen on the Constant Highway to see whether the speedometers are working correctly and they are tested at speeds of 40, 50, 60 and 70 miles an hour. It is on such an important highway as that on which you have these cycles tested out. It is also on Constant Road that these Police Motor cyclist s speed behind a motor car which is alleged to be doing 60 miles per hour and these police motor cyclists come into court and say that after speeding behind the car over a certain distance, they passed out the car in order to stop the driver. They have to pass out the car at a greater speed than what the car is doing. All that is done on Constant Road. They test out the motor cycles to see whether the speedometer is working correctly and according to the stop watches which the other two policemen have in their hands. I am asking the hon. Leader of the House to check up on the matter. When a serious accident takes place, I will not say that "I told you so," but the members of the public may say so. I am saying that that method of testing the speedometers of police motor cycles is very, very bad and should be discontinued by th Police on the instructions of the Cabinet without delay.

Now, Sir, as regards Item 65, we are asked to vote $1,128 for Bicycle Allowance to Writservers. I am advised that that money is inadequate and there are many cases in which writservers work in hilly districts which cannot ordinarily be done by one with a push bicycle. I think it is high time that such policemen as can ride motor cycles - and there are many policemen who are appointed writservers nowadays - should be called upon to do writserving in these districts The very Police motor cyclists could do that. I think that is reasonable and it would not cost anything more and it would be much better than their speeding behind people. You get these Police motor cyclists riding on the Speightstown road behind a motor car and they do 70 miles an hour or anything like that to pass out the car. I say again when something happens, you cannot say that you have not been warned. It is for the Government to consider the matter. Sooner or later a serious accident is bound to occur.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr Chairman, I am speaking on Item 34, Furniture. In the note to the Item it is stated: "to meet the cost of maintenance of furniture at all Police stations and offices." It is a fact, Mr Chairman, that at these stations the policemen do not have chairs inside their rooms to get a seat or even to take off their boots. They have to sit on their cots or kit boxes. Is it not reasonable if you can provide the Attorney General with furniture at a cost of $2,500 that we can also make an attempt to provide our own police stations with furniture and the policemen with a chair inside their rooms? I feel that the time has come when the Government should review its policy in order to provide policemen at the various stations with some means of comfort. In Bridgetown, policemen might be nearer to their homes and will not have to spend very much time in barracks; but when a policeman is sent to Belleplaine or a District Police Station, it is not convenient for him to reach home in a half day or in a four hourly period.

This is not a luxury; a policeman should have it. I hope the time will soon come when a Government with any liberality about it would say that this is a humane request

As regards Item 50, Maintaining of Persons in lock-ups, are you suggesting that this increase is due to the increased cost of biscuits? We would be greater criminals than the men put in lock-ups if we in this House of Assembly go on perpetuating the policy that all a man who is put in lock-ups needs is biscuits. You arrest a man this morning at 8 o'clock and you carry him over to the Police Station. His case may not be tried at 10 o'clock and he may be kept in lock-ups for the whole day. Do you mean to say that all you give him is biscuits? Is he a dog? How can you reasonably say that in this year of grace all that you are giving to a person who is in lock-ups is biscuits? You are perpetuating the same tenets of colonialism which were handed down to us three hundred years ago. You are giving a man in lock-ups in this year of grace biscuits and salt fish when he is entitled to a proper meal Even if a man is convicted of murder, and is awaiting death, he is entitled to a meal of food just efore he goes to the gallows.
1.05 p.m.

He is still a human being; because he is a prisoner, it does not mean that he is not a human being. We are not asking you to take him to the Marine Hotel or to Sam Lord's Castle, but he is a human being and he is entitled to food. I cannot see how you can come down in this year of grace with a system like that.

Now, Mr. Chairman, my favourite Item, is Item 70, "Labour to assist Police artisans, $1,060." Last year I mentioned it and I will repeat it again this year. The Note says: "To pay wages of $5 per week each to four persons who assist Police Artisans." I should like to ask: On what basis are you saying that these people are working? How are you justifying this payment of $5 a week? How do they work with the Policemen to get remuneration as $5 a week? You cannot pay people this kind of money and then tell them about Mr. Godsall's recommendations; if a man is working with you every day of the week, how can $5 a week be sufficient for him to live on? How can you expect a man to be honest when he is getting $5 a week? Such a man is likely to commit a crime, because after he has finished working with the Policemen, he will have to commit a crime.

I wish to make this statement, election or no election. I feel that these people who are kept at the Police Station should be entitled to something better. The Government is now furnishing the Attorney General's house; therefore, I think that they should furnish their own places. I would go further and say that they should furnish the quarters of the Police Sargeant, if he must live at the Police Station. If these Police Officers must live on the premises, then these premises should be furnished quarters. (VOICES: Hear! Hear!) A Police Sargeant should not be required to buy furniture to be carried into the Government's quarters. In any Government house at the Police Station, the Police Sergeant should be provided with furniture; you should treat them just as you treat everybody else.

At the Lighthouses now, the Keepers have to pay rent for the places in which they live. The Lighthouse Keeper has to pay his rent; at one time the Nurses' quarters were regarded as a part of their emoluments and the value of these quarters was added to their pension when they came to retire. I am saying that if you have done something for an Oficer who is not required to live in a Government house, then a Police Sergeant who is required to live in Government quarters should have furniture provided for him.

I know that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew would not make any remarks abour prisoners being in a lock-up, because his livelihood is a question either of

keeping you out of prison or sending you to prison. He will know more about that matter than I know about it. We do not want to condone crime, but at the same time, if a man commits a crime, he should still be given food; to give him biscuits is not enough. He is not a dog; I have a dog and I give him more than biscuits. I should like to say that this is an unfortunate practice to which an end should be put: and to these other people, they should be paid something on which they can live.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I am speaking in connection with Item 4, "Director of Music," and Item 6, "Inspectors." We have a Director of Music for the Police Band; that manner of describing the Officer who was formerly known as the Conductor of the Police Band has been adopted for more than a year. When I look through Item 6, I still see these Police Inspectors. To my mind, I think that the Police Band is such a grand Institution now serving the entire Island that the time has now arrived when the Police Band should have an Inspector of its own.

There is another Department in which an Inspector ship has been created. I know that in the Police Band an Officer has had on occasions to act for the Director of Music and no one can say that he is not a man with some qualifications in music. He possesses a Diploma from the Victoria Institute of Music, and since then, this non-Commissioned Officer is being regularly called upon to act for the Director of Music and he discharges his duties faithfully and efficiently. I do not see, therefore, why this Officer in his own right should not be promoted to an Inspectorship. When Captain Raison goes on his long leave - and he has done it twice that I know about this responsible Officer carries on at State functions and in rural districts and the Band goes around playing its happy tunes in the outlying villages of this Island, and every citizen of Barbados realises the good work which continues to be done in the absence of the Director of Music. While I see that in another Department an Inspectorship has been created, it is not so with the Band. I am wondering why there is this delay in this matter. When you think of what music means in this day and how musicians have to be trained, those of us who can appreciate these things will realise that the Police Band should have an Inspector by now. As the position is now you have a Director of Music, then Sergeants, then Corporals and everybody else is a private; but you now have an Inspectorship in the Fire Brigade.
1.15 p.m.

This has been kept open too long. The office should be filled and I am bidding Government to make some investigation into this matter because I think that representation has been made. I do not know who is keeping away somebody from being promoted and by doing so is really not serving the man as well as he might be, and consequently, the island is not served as well as it might be. I think, therefore, that as far as the Police Band is concerned, there should be an Inspector. Captain Raison has been in Barbados for a very long time, at least over a dozen years, and he has not been able to do that work alone. I think that Government should see to it that the structure is so changed as to include an Inspectorship.

Under Item 32, "Clothing and Equipment, ' there is provision for a uniform allowance at $150 for Police Officers and uniform for N.C.O's and men. This also includes provision for purchase of raincoats for personnel of the Force

Sir, quite recently, I was alarmed by some news I have been hearing that a certain policeman, a Corporal at that, was not supplied with shoes when the Medical Officer in charge recommended that he should be given. I understand that the Officer appeared on Parade barefooted and when he was asked the reason, he tried to explain that there were no shoes issued to him. We are passing a lot of money here now for uniform for officers, and I think it is most regrettable that in a place like Barbados when the Police doctor recommends that a policeman should be given shoes, they are not given to him; nor could he get the money to get his private shoes half soled. That is a stigma on the Police Force and a disgrace to the island. I understand the matter was fully investigated; I talked with one of the Police Sergeants and he told me that a lot of it was absolutely true. I do not think that shoes are ever hard to get in a place like Barbados, and the Police Department ought to be able in case of a shortage to commandeer shoes from any store in Broad Street. When a Police Corporal has to appear for inspection bare footed, I think things have taken a rather strange turn. Whoever has to administer this vote and whoever is responsible for the regular issuing of the items of clothing to policemen should see to it that policemen never appear for duty without having all the necessary items of uniform, and in good shape at that.

I do not think that anybody could hope to make any sort of convincing excuse that a policeman in 1958 has to appear for inspection without shoes after having applied and on the advice of his Medical Officer that he should be issued with a certain type of shoe; I do not think that any reasonable time should elapse before such an item of clothing is given. You cannot hope to excuse that in Barbados, and I hope that the Leader of the Government, who I believe knows about this instance - and I hope like myself he has been told how much truth there was in it - will look into this matter. I happen to know the Officer personally although I did not talk to him, but a Sergeant who knew a lot about it told me that there was a lot of truth in what I had heard. I do not think this should happen again because when this money is voted and it is not enough, the Police authorities should make out their case; but at that there should never be any delay, because I am sure the Police Department can get these items of uniform.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I should like to deal with Item 50, "Maintenance of Prisoners in lock up' to which there is a note which says: "Increase due to increased cost of biscuits."

The hon. senior member for St. Peter has drawn to the attention of the Committee that it is ridiculous in this age and with our standard of progress just to offer prisoners biscuits. A man is presumed to be innocent until he is proved guilty, and of course the hon. senior member for St. Peter is a bit scared that they only get biscuits in the lock up because some time ago he ran the risk of being in the lock up himself when he might have been hauled before the Court for threatening the life of the Premier of this country. I can see him quarrelling about the biscuits therefore in the lock up, because he might have eaten some of the biscuits, but he escaped.

I am sorry that the Hon. Minister of Social Services is not here because at least whatever else you may say about the hon. junior member for St. George, there is a spark of humanity in him. I think an inspection of the lock up itself would reveal that when a man is arrested, he is forced to sleep on hard board; sometimes he is forced to sleep on a few planks put together and invariably ridden with chinks A man may be in the lock up with the knowledge that he has committed an offence, but I do not see why a man who is convicted and sentenced and goes to Glendairy Prison should have a better treatment than a man who is arrested on a charge and taken to a cell or lock up. What is worse, at District "F" where the breeze blows cold, there is not a piece of plank to sleep on, but cement. With the transport system, there is the system with the police of limiting the stations to so many gallons of petrol per month. As a matter of fact, I know of cases last year where the Police Sergeant of District "C" could not go to cane fires because his ration of gasolene had run out for the month. That is nonsense.

I am not saying you should give a man a Simmons bedstead, a four poster or an antique bed with springs, but if you assume that a man is innocent until he is proved guilty, he is entitled to something more than biscuits and hard board on which to sleep with holes in between and ridden with chinks; and therefore I am asking the Leader of the House to ask the Minister of Social Services to

pay a visit to the various lock-ups in the Island of Barbados and see the conditions that exist there. I am not suggesting that they are not kept clean; but at the same time if a man is forced to spend a night there, he should be as comfortable as is humanly possible for the night.

Item 65 is to pay an allowance of $2 per month to 47 Writ Servers.

My hon colleague wanted to know earlier in this Committee what I meant when I said that justice in Barbados is very cheap. For a fee I would explain to her what I really meant; but the Writ Servers of this country are forced to do unnecessary work under the bad judicial organisation that there is. I will give an example or two.

In Barbados, when the Court makes an order against a man for a child which is illegitimate, or if the Court makes an order against a man who is married and therefore an order for the support of his children, that man can run all over the island to avoid the executions that come out every four weeks, and it is the duty of the Writ Server to hunt all over the country looking for him. In England that does not obtain; as soon as the Court finds him to be the father of the child, he must leave with the Court his name and address, and the lady only has to send it there, go to the Court and prove that she has sent it and the Court will make the order.
1 25 p.m.
In Barbados we can only make an order if the putative father or a husband swears to the affidavit that he has been served with a summons. It would avoid a great deal of worry in this country where there is a great deal of illegitimacy and marital unhappiness if the putative father or the husband was only called upon to leave his name. A great deal of hardship is caused to the woman because the writserver cannot find the man and it puts a lot of unnecessary work on the writserver and work which can be avoided. Imagine that you have a man in Boscobelle who is forced to support a child through the courts. The woman has got to walk up to District "F" to sign the order and then the writserver has to hunt all over Boscobelle to find the man. If the woman could take the address to the Clerk, the writserver would be saved that unnecessary trouble and the woman would be saved the unnecessary task of walking up to the Court to see if the writserver was able to summon the man. That is something which I would like the Hon. Minister to consider. The Hon. Premier could have taken up this matter with the Chief Justice if he were here and he could say whether there is any merit in my suggestion or at least we would know what he thinks about it.

I want to know what happens to the police horses when you replace them? Have you a home for them? Do you give them away, sell them by auction, or do you give them a nice peaceful death or a pension? As I see it, these two horses which you are going to acquire are for replacement purposes; therefore I suppose that either two horses have died or that they have got too old to do their work. I would like the Hon. Minister to explain what happened to these horses which have rendered yeoman service to the Police Force.

As regards Item 70, Labour to assist Police Artisans, I have already drawn it to the House that it is not part of a policeman's job to clean the Station. You are robbing people out of work when you call upon them to do that. I have been to the Permanent Secretary to see about it and the practice is still continuing. If I were a policeman I would not climb any ladder to whitewash any building because it is not my job.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of Order. Did I hear the hon. member to say that he went to the Permanent Secretary of my Ministry?

Mr. FG. SMITH: I went there because it was something to do with public works. I may have gone to the wrong Department. The Permanent Sceretary did not say that I went to the wrong place but he listened to me and agreed with me. It is not part of a policeman's job to climb a ladder and whitewash walls every time the Sergeant hears that there is an inspection coming up.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: May I ask this question Mr. Chairman? Did he say the Permanent Secretary agreed with him? This is a policy matter which concerns cleaning and I do not control cleaning. If he said that he came to my Ministry, then I am asking him if he said that the Permanent Secretary agreed with him.

MR. F G. SMITH: I do not know of any policy in this matter

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Answer the question.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: As far as I know, a policeman is in what I would call a semi-military organisation and as such, he can be victimised in some way or the other if he does not carry out such orders. To make them whitewash police stations which is not part of their duties is wrong. Let them make up their cots and the room in which they sleep. It is not part of a police woman's duty to scrub out the ambulance when she picks up a drunk at night. I am asking the Hon Minister in charge to see that these odd jobs by policemen are discontinued. The policemen do not complain because they realise if they complain they would not get two or three stripes, but I can say for a fact that they are grumbling because of this practice. Give a man who is a painter two days' work to whitewash the walls. I am drawing this to the attention of the Hon Minister in charge and if I go to a station again a d see this practice being continued, I will come back in here and move a motion for the adjournment of the House and I am going to raise a noise about it. I repeat, it is not part of their duty to whitewash walls. If a policeman quarrels about this, see if they would enlist him after three years.

At Item 36, there is $2,700 to be voted for the upkeep of animals. We know of an occasion where a man was selling puppies which had been the progeny of a police dog. I wonder if that practice is still continuing If I had an Alsatian I wonder if I could get a freeness from having it sired by the Police dog or what it would cost?

What the hon. senior member for St. Peter said is true about a Police Corporal losing his promotion because of the fact that he was not properly supplied with shoes by the Force, and that has happened in spite of the Police Act stipulating that the Police should be properly armed and equipped at the taxpayers' expense. There are one or two features about that matter which should be brought to light. While it cannot be denied that the Police Corporal acted a bit indiscreetly, I still feel that the punishment imposed on him was a bit too harsh because the Police Medical Officer recommended that the Corporal should not wear boots but should be given shoes. Because of his failure to wear boots, it was termed as an inability to carry out his duties and that merited the severe punishment of depriving him of his promotion in the Force. As far as can be ascertained, that was his first major breach of the regulations of the Force.
1.35 p.m.

He was a Corporal for some time - for about five years - and as far as can be ascertained, this was his first major breach of the law. Of course, the main charge against him was that he failed to report to the Superintendent in charge of the area that he was not inspecting the pickets at night. When he wanted his shoes halfsoled, it took a considerable time on account of the red tape. It was known at the time that a certain man used to come from St. Lucy through Speightstown and it was a one way street at a certain hour. This man was alleged to have approached his friends in the Force and they had the whole thing changed around. At 8.30 o'clock, when the one-way sign went up, and he was travelling in that vicinity he found it convenient to go around the town He made representations to his friends who had the authority to make the change with the result that if you go to Speightstown, you will find that the whole system of one way traffic has been changed so that the people from St. Lucy can go straight through instead of having to go around the town. It was felt that the same corporal was the man who objected to it and who knew the real

reason why the one way street in Speightstown was changed around. There is a lot of rumour, but there is never smoke without fire.

I feel that it was too great a punishment for this Officer in this particular manner. What is even worse is that the Officer made representation to the Commissioner of Police to be represented, and he was refused, the Commissioner of Police saying that there was no precedent for a Policeman to be represented before him in a matter which involved possible dismissal as well as demotion. Could that be in keeping with the elementary principles of justice? It has happened before that a policeman has been represented by Counsel before the Commissioner of Police; if it is not so, it is high time that Policemen who have been brought up on charges which might very well involve their demotion or dismissal, should be represented by Counsel if they so desire to be represented. To refuse Counsel the right to represent a Policeman before the Commissioner of Police when Counsel can represent Civil Servants and when in any judicial enquiry Counsel can represent workers - to deny Police men that right is something which should be taken seriously. The Commissioner of Police has the right to take evidence on oath and he refuses a man the right of being represented by Counsel! That cannot be fair. I am sorry that the Premier is not here. He boasts that he is the only Premier in charge of Police in the area. However, I know that in the case of other Police Forces, Policemen can be represented by Counsel and the Government should see that Policemen here have this right. It is high time that Policemen should be allowed representation by Counsel in enquiries before the Commissioner of Police, which might involve dismissal or loss of status.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, in connection with Item 89, "Cots, $1,075,' I am wondering whether the Hon. Leader of the House would make a note of this: The note of this Item says that this amount is for building of 50 cots. I would like to find out in respect of these cots and the building of them, whether it is proposed to have them built by the Policemen, whether it is proposed to advertise for tenders for building them, or what? I am just asking the Hon. Leader of the House with what information can he supply us as to the building of these cots. I want to know if tenders are going to be called for, if the Policemen are going to build them or if they have already decided upon some individual to do this work.

In respect of Item 28, "Scrubbers and Cleaners, $1,104." Members of the Police Force, quite rightly in my opinion, object to being called upon by Officers to wash off their private cars. The Police Vans and the Jeeps should be cleaned by Policemen, but the Inspectors should not be calling on them to wash off their private cars. These Inspectors are paid Travelling Allowance and Salaries with which they cannot have any complaint, and they should pay some poor person to wash off their cars. Up to this morning, I saw a Policeman doing that, and I saw the Officer whose car was being washed off around here just now. He is assigned to see that we do not talk in the corridors or that nothing goes wrong in the precincts of this building. However, Policemen should not be called upon to wash off the cars of Superintendents and those of other Officers. Let the Hon. Minister make a note of that.

As to Item 36, "Upkeep of Animals," $2,700 the Note says that it includes provision for food and medicines for dogs and so on I should like to find out what is the Government's policy with regard to the purchase of the offspring of these animals. Is the offspring of these dogs the property of this Department, or of the Governor-in Executive Committee? Will the offspring of these dogs be sold or given away? And if they are given, away who is to give permission with respect to that? If they are sold, what becomes of the money, resulting from the sale of them? I am glad that the hon. and learned junior member for St. Andrew reminded me of that matter.

Finally, as the hon. senior member for St. Peter has reminded me of the Item. "Maintenance of Prisoners in lock up, $200, ' I should like to say that the position is even worse than he has made it. It is the custom of Policemen, if a warrant is to be served, for them to wait to execute that warrant on Saturday afternoon, especially if they see that a Bank Holiday is coming up on a Monday, where a person will be kept there until Tuesday morning. That innocent person, who has to be proved guilty, has a warrant of arrest served on him and he has to remain there from Saturday night until Tuesday morning maintained in the lock up with just the provision of biscuits and water.
1.45 p.m.

Of course if a relative turns up with some food, he is allowed to have the food, but if the relative does not know at which particular station he is confined, a person who in the eyes of the Law may be innocent is kept for a long week-end on nothing but biscuits and water, because there is still the old-fashioned relic of the days of slavery and of the days of political conservatism At least it is not known by that name today but it does the same thing, and you see it in respect of this and other Items. I should like some information from the Leader of the House.

Mr TALMA: Under Item 35 there is an amount of $12,000 for the purchase of fodder for Police horses.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not think the note is at all satisfactory in that it is just a general note, and does not indicate how many horses there are and what is the expenditure per month I think it would be wise if a break-down were given to this House as to how this $12,000 is being spent. I am not attempting to attack the keeping of Police horses as Mr. Allder, a former member, did, but I am really very interested to know why you should spend such a substantial sum on this question of paraphernalia when the figures would reveal that a horse costs very much more to keep than a retired postman. You will find that they spend more than $28 or $30 a month on one of these horses whereas a postman who served 25 or 30 years gets $28 a month and he has a wife and family. This is a waste of taxpayers' money in the paraphernalia and fuss exhibited at Parades and so on and is not essential. You have two or three motor cyclists for the Governor, and this money which is poured down the drain could be utilised in increasing the pensions of the ones who are a forgotten lot. I refer to the pensioners who have not benefited in the recent salary scale revision and who are receiving a little pittance and never get consideration given to them. I am not referring to old age pensioners but to Government pensioners whose cases have not been revised and who have received little or no benefit from the present Labour Government.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid I will have to get most of the information asked for and pass it on to the members. There are one or two points on which I think I can reply, and the first is Item 70 to pay wages of $5 per week each to four persons who assist Police artisans. As far as I have been informed, these persons are boys who assist in transportation at the Police Department. They are not full-time workers; and so this money is given to them as pocket money. They are more or less recruited from the Boys' Club, and as I said this money is not by way of salary but rather as pocket money. The argument that paying these persons $5 a week is inadequate can otherwise never hold water.

The hon. junior member for St. Peter raised the point about the appointment of an Inspector for the Band. I really do not know what is going on in that respect because as the member will appreciate that is a matter for the Establishment I should like to say for myself that I wholeheartedly support the view expressed by the hon. junior member for St. Peter in that respect and on that particular item. As I said, as soon as the information is given to me, I shall pass it on to the Committee

The question that the sum of $254,368 be voted under Head XV – Police was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PRISONS

Head XVI - PRISONS, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $62,162 be voted under this Head

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

Head XVII - INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $39,875 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

FEDERATION

Head XVIII - FEDERATION, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to insert two items. Item 2 - $2,400 and Item 3 $14,740

I beg to move that the sum of $17,140 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I should at this stage register my protest against this $2,400 which is inserted for fireworks. Why should you think in this age and the standard which we have reached that we can only celebrate the opening of the Federal Parliament by sending up fireworks in the air? I see the hon.senior member for St. John nodding and by that I know he is in agreement with me. For five or fifteen minutes on the Garrison Savannah you see a puff and hear a buff in the air and $2,400 has gone down the drain; then people will start to walk back down the Garrison Hill and that is over. Why not give ten scholarships with this amount?

You have $640,000 set down for Federation. That is what the Federal Government is levying on the unit of Barbados as its contribution to Federation. That is fixed at mandatory level and now you are asking for $2,400 for fireworks. Why should we be spending money in this country in this way? Why do we not spend it in the way we ought to? Fireworks are allright on 5th November. Let the Flying Club put on a Fireworks Display at the Garrison Savannah if they want them. I am asking the Hon. Leader of the House to consider whether it would not be wiser to use this money for some better purpose (Hon. M. E. COX: You are smallminded.) If it were your $2,400 would you say that we are small minded? Would you spend that in fireworks? You are providing $2,400 to go up in smoke in five minutes when people around here are starving, walking about and cannot pay all their income tax. You say I am small-minded to talk about $2,400 for fireworks. Surely, I would never spend that amount in fireworks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 2 o'clock, I declare this House adjourned for three quarters of an hour. 2.00 p.m.

On re-assembling,

HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE ON THE ESTIMATES

Mr. SPEAKER: When the House adjourned, it was in Committee on the Estimates for 1958-59.

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

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be much longer. As I was saying, before the adjournment, I am utterly opposed to this idea of fireworks.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The House has already voted this sum on the last occasion. It is not anything new; it is a revote. The hon. member is reflecting on a vote which has already been put to this House.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister could not be right because we are voting it now; we are voting again on it. Do you mean to say that you cannot cut it out? I am entitled to say that I am not voting for it. I am against it especially when I see here the sum of $640,000 as our contribution at mandatory level for the Federal Government.

Dealing with Item 3 (new) West Indies Festival of Arts for which the sum of $14,740 is to be voted, I appreciate the fact that a great deal of fuss is made of what should be the first contribution to West Indian culture to be witnessed in Trinidad. I am throwing out this to the Government. They seem to think that for some purposes the Opposition exists and for some purposes the Opposition does not exist. In attending conferences on Federation, the Government feels that the Opposition does not exist, but when it comes to forming a quorum, Government seems to think that we do exist for that purpose. I am suggesting that Government should at least consider the possibility of sending a delegation from this House for the opening of the Federal Parliament. (A VOICE: They have decided that already. They are sending Mrs. Bourne and Mr. Searles.)

Mr. SEARLES: Mr Chairman, I rise on a point of explanation. Let the hon. member who said that forget about it: Whether this House sends candidates from here to the opening of the Federal Parliament or not, I, C. B. SEARLES, will be going.

Mr. HUSBANDS: The hon. member is naming himself.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: He is getting £550 a year; therefore he can go.

VOICES: Shame, Shame!

Mr. F. G. SMITH: He got up and told us that he is going to Trinidad whether a delegation from here is going or not. If he is being personal to himself, why can't I be personal?

Sir, I hope Government will consider sending a delegation from all parties in this House to attend the opening of the Federal Parliament so as to represent the people of Barbados. The amount of $14,740 seems quite a large sum: but from all reports, I understand that the Festival of Arts is likely to be a show worth while seeing. I know that the other islands are sending various artists and other persons to make it a success. I am only against the sum of $2,400 for a Fireworks Display here.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Head XVIII, Item 2, which is a revote of $2,400 made in the Supplementary Estimates, 1957-58, No. 12, I remember on a former occasion, speaking in this Chamber on a similar item, that I expressed great concern about voting money for such purpose at such time in the history of the development of Barbados. I would never vote one half-penny of this $2,400 for fireworks. At best, these fireworks will be bought and they will be exploded somewhere in St Michael. The taxpayers come from all over Barbados; therefore, some of them will see their money go into the air in explosives while others will not even have that privilege.
3.00 p.m.

It is of little cheer to us in Barbados to witness such a display at our expense. The average Barbadian will not be amused like this; I do not think you could even amuse the Ministers by such a prospective display of exploded light. In the dark days of Barbados when there was little artificial light, people might come out of their dens and be glad to see such a display of explosive light, but not today. This money could be spent for many purposes which would be more desirable than how it is proposed to spend it here. I am not going to make any suggestion at this stage as to how this money could be better spent, because the Government knows. I understand that some hon members have suggested that Scholarships be provided with this money, but it was said that this would mean recurrent expenditure. Some of the taxpayers are not going to have the privilege of seeing this display and many of those who witness it will not be interested in it.

I am wondering if these explosives fireworks and incendiaries would not be let off somewhere up Bay Street on the Esplanade; I am wondering if they are catering to the people who live near Hastings, people who live in a district which is nearest the possible centre from which these lights will be shot off, and it may be for their amusement. I am wondering if the Government has any special reason for amusing the people of Hastings; certainly, this display will cause me very little amusement and no appreciation whatever of $2,400 of the taxpayers' money being spent in this way. Does the Government not realise that the people have grown up and grown out of this nonsense? If any member of this House agrees to spend any amount he or she likes to spend in promoting some displays at their home, that is all right; but do not ask me as a representative of the people of St. Peter , very few of whom, if any at all, will agree to expense themselves to journey to the Esplanade to witness this display of nonsense - do not ask me to agree to the expenditure of this money. I am voting "No" on behalf of my constituents; I am not voting for myself. The Government can know that in plain language.

I am not interested in whether the people of any other parish or constituency agree to any such thing which they have never seen. Can you imagine, Mr. Chairman, people from Orange Hill going to the Esplanade to witness that display? If they are dark up there, it might cheer their hearts to have this display; but in St. Peter, there is sufficient light to show us that this is a waste of money. No man, woman or child in my parish will agree to this expenditure. This expenditure represents a sum of $200 for each parish, and why do they not bring some of these fireworks down to Maynards, or to Endeavour? Why not explode some of them on Hackleton's Cliff or on Mount Hillaby, which would be a more central site? The Government must be thinking 200 years backward; much as we appreciate Federation, the coming into nationhood, much as we appreciate that, we do not feel like voting for this $2,400. Such a display is not good enough. We are hoping for a display of unanimity on the part of the West Indian people; we would hope that there will be the absence of insularity and that there would be a feeling of oneness. However, the display of these fireworks does not touch the meaning of Federation, and it is only a question of putting money into the pockets of the people who sell these fireworks. We want real and lasting joys; we do not want any such Federal toys.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr Chairman, there are occasions when the writer of the Notes to these Items, whether he is the Permanent Secretary in the Office or otherwise, is accurate; this is one of the occasions when he is strictly correct. In the amendments to the Estimates which we have had circulated to us, we have under this Head, "Item 2 (New) - Parliament Day Celebrations $2,400". Then there is the Note to the Item which states this: "Revote of the provision of $2,400 made in the Supplementary Estimates, 1957-58, No. 12 (Resolution No. 55/57) to meet the cost of a fireworks display on Federation Day, 1958. It is now proposed to stage this display on the occasion of the inauguration of the Federal Parliament.'

It is a good thing that we have an intelligent, and impartial man like you in the Chair, one who takes no sides with any Party, because otherwise, there would be an attempt made to rule us out of order and there would be a tremendous row taking place. This sum of $2,400 which was passed in the Estimates was in respect of Federation Day and the Minister does not make any difference between Federation Day and Parliament Day. We are not now questioning whether we should vote for this $2,400 or not, and other speakers have already dealt with the point rationally and intelligently. This idea of fireworks belongs to the past centuries; it does not belong to the present century and particularly in a country in which we cannot find money to do so many obviously necessary things. As to the celebration of Parliament Day, we would like to be celebrating it all over the Island by providing more Scholarships for Government-aided Secondary Schools. In the parish of St. Peter, some could go to the Coleridge-Parry School: in St. Andrew, the Alleyne School: St. Michael, the Combermere School: and in St. John and St. Philip, the Lodge School.

3.10 p.m

You should let that £500 be spent on something of permanent value and for people all over the island. I understand that the Fireworks will be discharged so that the people at the Ministerial Buildings will be able to derive the benefit. I would never be deceived by these lights or with any light when it comes to spending £500 just to allow the Ministers, the Permanent Secretaries and their typists to stick around there one night late, and perhaps with the Canteen working under Teddy Jones, for the sake of spending money collected in tax from people all over the island. This is a stupid, puerile, fantastic waste of public funds, and we could never as a socialist Opposition agree with a waste of money such as this when we are told continually that there is no money to do certain things. There was a lack of money when we dealt with the Lodge School van, and there is no money to do the things that are essential.

I wonder who is the business firm supplying these Fireworks. Could it be K. R. Hunte and Co Ltd.? I would not be surprised. Whoever it is, there is no justification in asking us to discharge £500 for a Fireworks display in this 20th century. It is an absolute and complete waste of money and a thing which would constitute that which is unfair to the other ten parishes of the island, because this Fireworks display can be seen in St. Michael, possibly in Christ Church, but certainly in no other part of the island. It is not suggested that the money should be so divided that each parish should have some; you, Mr. Chairman, might have some in Sugar Hill and my colleague and I might have some for Josey Hill. Certainly as a speaker pointed out, our children need some light, but that light would be too temporary to be of any permanent benefit to the people of St. James, and certainly not justifiable to the taxpayers of this island to contribute their hard earned £500 for that purpose .

If the hon. member in charge of this Resolution decides not to withdraw it, we certainly would consider it our duty to force it to a division, and then our consciences would be satisfied. It is a matter then for other members who perhaps might not have consciences.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I think the arguments induced by the hon. junior member for St. Peter are more than groundless. The member started off by referring to the money as taxpayers' money, and that these taxpayers would not all be able to see the display; but I think he will agree that physically, all the people could not see the display. There are over 230,000 people in this island and if you had a display at the Garrison, could you bring everybody to town and lift out every old woman who is crippled and take them there to see it?

We agreed by a vote of this House which was passed on 30th July, 1957 to a Resolution for $2,400 for a Fireworks Display for Federation Day. It was voted of the

House: and therefore if it is criticised it is against the Rules, because the Rules of the House say that you cannot criticise a vote unless you are going to make a motion to have it rescinded. The hon. junior member for St. Lucy referred to members on this side as not being able to understand because he said that the only time an Addendum was written properly by a Permanent Secretary was on this occasion when the Item said "New, ' but if he looks at the Resolution which we passed some time ago to which I referred, he will see that when we passed it the Resolution read "New." It is bound to be "new" because no provision was hitherto provided for this particular item. So while the member may gratuitously refer to His Honour the Chairman as being able to understand and not members over here, I think there is a Latin phrase which says: aliquando bonus dormitat homo.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Apart from the quotation which nobody knows but the member himself, it is very good that the Hon. Minister ended by giving some Latin quotation which may be his Latin quotation because we did not even hear it well; he seemed to be in a hurry to get away with something which would not be heard. He could not understand it even if he read it somewhere in a dictionary, because he would not know if the translation is right, but be that as it may.

The Hon. Minister said that what I said was groundless because it is physically impossible to bring the 200,000 people of the island together in one place to see these celebrations. Now I never said that; I said something which he would not mention. I also said that there are twelve constituencies in this island; we are spending $2,400, and it would be fair if each constituent part of the island could be provided with a spot from which the residents of that constituency might be able to see these explosions. Now we are hoping in this way to celebrate Federation and we would like not only the the metropolitan parish to benefit by these celebrations, but the entire island; and that was one way of having the entire island witness some part of these celebrations, or the fireworks part of these celebrations. Therefore I said it was a rather unrepresentative way for us to go somewhere west of the Government Headquarters and show off these lights. I said too, that in this day of grace and of real light, people did not attach any importance to the sight of Fireworks as they did years ago when they lived in dens at night and where they saw no light. In fact they can see artificial light and other light, and they are no longer interested in witnessing such explosive lights; even in the parish of St. Lucy there is much more light now than there used to be.
3.20 p.m.

The hon. member set out to make my submission appear groundless by twisting my argument. I know as well as the hon. member knows that 200,000 people cannot witness these lights. He would hope that I would try to let it fall, but if this is something which the whole island must witness, opportunity should be taken to let every member of the public see it. Do not tell me that the average man in Speightstown is going to pay two shillings to go and see illuminations which are going on elsewhere. It is quite difficult to make them think that way. They too must grow up and try and catch up with the people. I am asking the Government to grow up and try to catch up with the people. What they are thinking of , the people regard as being backward. We do not want these fireworks; we do not appreciate them and we are saying that the people do not appreciate them either. If you had to take a vote on it throughout the island, I am sure you would get a rather adverse comment. You know it too: so you cannot hope to justify it. This is just your wish; the people do not want it.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I am not replying for the Hon. Leader of the House, but hon. members will recall that I handled the Resolution making provision for this Fireworks Display, and the hon. junior member for St Peter set off these same damp squibs then as he set off now. I am sure that the hon. member will get an opportunity to see the fireworks because not only would a Fireworks Display be staged in Bridgetown but we intend to have some of them set off in Speightstown so that his constituents would be able to celebrate in that way and express their feelings of joy in that way. All of us do not get satisfaction in the same way.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister who has just sat down is giving me the assurance that people in St. Peter would be getting a chance to see part of the Display. Personally, I am in sympathy with the hon. member and members of the Government, but we of St. Peter do not want this thing today. We would like the $2,400 to give to the old Coleridge Parry Fund to help run scholarships.

Sir, I have very little hope, and the assurance given me has not changed my way of thinking. I am still as the Hon. Minister described me- a very damp squib and I care to remain that very damp squib.

Mr TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, it appears that the Hon. Minister does not quite appreciate the point of view of this side of the House on the matter. It is no argument that when everybody goes in St. Peter and somewhere else there would be opportunity for them to see fireworks. Our contention has never been that we object to it on the ground that the people of St Michael alone would enjoy it we object to it on the ground that it is fireworks on which the money is spent. We feel that the people of this Island – the coloured people - have long ago passed the stage when they can be excited by fireworks or by flags. We have long passed that stage. The point is this: if you say you are going to celebrate Federation Day and you say that you are going to spend $2,400 on it in addition to what you are spending otherwise, it is far better that the amount spent, should be spent on something which symbolises the day itself and which would leave a permanent record among the people. If on that day we are having a procession of the floats which are being prepared at the moment by Mr. Ishmael and $7,000 are going into these floats, the people would appreciate that because they know that some labour and material have gone into the building of them and they represent the handicraft, the arts and all of the history of Barbados. If they appreciate that, that sort of expenditure is justified: but to ask on top of that for $2,400, perhaps for not more than one hour's entertainment for fireworks, is unrealistic.

We on this side of the House argue that that money should be for scholarships and it is based on a very simple consideration. The more young people , especially children, whom you can get associated with the idea of nationhood, the better it is for the nation itself; and, therefore, you want to leave a permanent memorial of the opening of the West Indian Parliament in the minds of young people. I see no reason why half dozen scholarships are not given to some of the secondary schools, if not all, for children to benefit from them. I know that the hon. senior member for St. Philip will say that it is recurrent expenditure and that it would cost more than $2,400. But Federation is recurrent and you scarcely want to argue that the recurrent expenditure is based just on the rewarding of scholarships or that that is really too much to spend on the people. That Party which always ignores the Opposition should be well advised that what we are urging upon them now is something which would redound to their credit if they had thought of it first It is not that they do not think that what we are suggesting is right; it is so good that they cannot use it because it comes from us. We oppose these fireworks not because we do not wish the opening of the West Indian Parliament to be fittingly celebrated, but because we feel the fittest kind of celebration for the occasion is that scholarships should be given to young children to enable them to benefit out of federation. The Hon. Leader of the House affords us much pleasure with his facility in quoting dead languages incorrectly. My own scholarship is not what I would wish it to be and is not on par with his but since he spoke, imperfect as I understood him, I think I could appropriately answer thus: *omnium concensu capax imperii nisi imperasset.*
3.30 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I should just like to say this: Even on sober reflection – I do not mean that hon. members have overdrunk themselves – I think they will and must admit that neither the hon. junior member for St. Peter who has changed his colours after he has been elected, nor the hon. senior member for St. Lucy could claim to be speaking for the people as such. This Party is the Party which speaks for Barbados; it is the one Party of whom it could be said that it is speaking for the people and, therefore, the others could only be speaking with a minority voice. If you are telling me that the people do not want this, what do you have to prove to us that the people do not want it? Is it merely because you say that the people do not want it, that we must accept that they do not want it? When have the people expressed the view that they do not want it? The only occasion upon which I have heard that is now from the hon. junior member for St. Peter - I do not know for whom he speaks- and the hon. junior member for St. Andrew who has a small minority. If they can tell me that the people have expressed their views on this matter, I should ask that this sum be taken out.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I cannot see how the hon. member could argue that they speak for the people when statistics show that more people voted for this Party than the ones who voted for them. (Hon. M. E. COX: We are still the Government) We know that. In England, the Labour Party had more seats with less votes than the Conservatives; the hon. member should know that. I want the Hon. Leader of the House to know that we do not represent breadfruit trees or yams; I am in here because people voted for me. Even if I am not speaking for the entire community, I am speaking for my constituents in St. Andrew. I do not know who gave me their 1,200 votes and therefore, I have to assume that the people voted for me .

Another point is this: when people vote for you, they do not tell you to do this, that and the other; they leave things to your discretion, and you may very well do something with which they do not agree Therefore, when we say that the people so not want this thing, it may well be that we are speaking for the people.

. Mr. HUSBANDS: The Hon. Leader of the House has made some reference to me in his remarks and he has said that I have changed my colours. I have never changed my colours.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of order. I withdraw the remarks .

Mr. HUSBANDS: I appreciate that very much; it is very fitting that the hon member has withdrawn those remarks.

The question that the sum of $17,140 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative, the Committee dividing as follows:-

AYES: Hon M. E. COX, Hon. D. D. GARNER, Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mrs. BOURNE, Messrs. HOLDER, THORNE, SEARLES, T. W. MILLER and VAUGHAN -9.

Noes: Messrs. HUSBANDS, DOWDING. F. G. SMITH, TUDOR and BRANCKER - 5.

HEAD XIX – ECCLESIASTICAL

Head XIX - Ecclesiastical - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $55,368 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Under this Head, I am speaking on Item 3, specifically, "Rectors, $5,040." May I enquire from the Hon. Leader of the House what decision, if any, has been arrived at in respect of the continued appointment of these Rectors and the Bishop and Vicars? In other words, can the hon. member tell us about the state of disendowment and disestablishment of this Church? We are being called upon to vote these amounts. At the present time in St Lucy the appointment of a Rector is to be made, the present Rector having been appointed to the Rectorship of St. Peter. I have already been canvassed by at least two or three persons in connection with my support in the appointment of this Rectorship. I am wondering if any headway has been made and what is the present situation in respect of the disendowment of the Anglican establishment.

You see, Mr Chairman, we are asked to vote this sum of $55,368 under this Head, and we are surely entitled to some explanation as to when we will cease to be required to expend this amount of money from the Public Treasury for the running of a Church to which all the people, or perhaps most of the people, in this Island do not belong.
3 40 p.m.

.. Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I can only tell the hon. member that negotiations are going ahead rapidly.

The question that the sum of $55,368 be voted under Head XIX - Ecclesiastical, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

EDUCATION

Head XX- EDUCATION, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,629,458 be voted for under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, with respect to Item 65, "Barbados Scholarships," there are just one or two enquiries which I would like to make and I hope the Minister will have the information available. I should like to know the number of such scholars now holding scholarships at Universities abroad and the amounts which are currently paid to such existing scholars; and secondly, are there any cases of persons not receiving the full allowance but who are perhaps in need of it at the various Universities? I will tell you what I had in my mind.

It has come to the notice of some of us that certain requests have been made to Government from Barbados Scholars now abroad in Universities with respect to the difficulty which they are finding in making ends meet. There are some of them, I understand, who, though not getting the full allowance are not given any reason why it has been held from them, but who are still suffering great hardships due largely to the increase in the cost of books and other equipment which they use for studying, and also the cost of tuition fees and other things at their respective Universities. It is an important matter, because for the last ten or so years now we have increased the number of scholarships; it is a matter, therefore, of public interest what is happening to these people. I therefore hope the Minister will be able to give us some reply on that, or perhaps the hon. senior member for St. John, who I understand is now becoming familar with these problems. I want to assure him that there is no catch intended in the asking of the questions, but we have received some communications from the parents and other people of these scholars and would like the position cleared up. I want to know therefore, the number of existing scholars, the amount paid to them, and whether Government is prepared to do anything to meet the requests of these parents and the scholars themselves who are finding it difficult to exist on the present scale and who are not getting the maximum.

While I am on my feet I should like to ask a question about the Island Scholarships tenable at Codrington College. The point about that is that we would like to know what they are doing about these and whether this money

which is to be voted is for the maintenance of scholars now there or if it is for the maintenance of scholars who perhaps had been sent there before Codrington College was completely taken over. The information is a little obscure and we would like to have it clarified.

Now the most important feature comes in Item 54, "Nutrition Scheme.' I noticed, much to my amazement when I read it a few days ago, that we are to spend less in this coming financial year than in the last year under the milk, sugar, foodyeast, biscuits and so on for the Elementary Schools. There may be a good reason, Mr. Chairman, for that decrease, and I suppose that Government must be congratulating itself on having to spend nearly $7,000 less this year than it did last year; but I view it with a certain amount of alarm, and would be very interested to hear the reason for this quite substantial decrease in the Nutrition vote. I hold the view that instead of spending less on nutrition there ought to be more. Perhaps the Minister would be good enough to tell us whether the school population has decreased in the last year or so, and if so what is the anticipated decrease or lessening of numbers likely to be. To me it is an alarming thing that less, rather than more, is being spent on nutrition.

Of course, the point of view of my Party is very well known on this matter. We would like to see an expansion of the whole nutrition scheme to cover the giving of the hot mid-day meal, and the only compromise we would make on that is to suggest that if Government feels that the finances of the colony could not bear the strain of an island-wide scheme, then at any rate you could introduce it in those parishes of the island which have schools, the parents of whose children are among the poorer sections of the community. I do not know that it is a good thing now to see a decrease in the nutrition vote, because we tend to think that with these matters there should be more being spent instead of less. If the Minister has the figures at his command, he might tell us what the present population of the elementary schools is and what it is likely to be within the next year or so. If the level of the school population is the same, would he tell us then whether less is being spent on milk and biscuits because the cost of these items are being reduced?

I would like to know that, but on the general issue of the nutrition scheme, we would certainly like to see it increased rather than cut off in order to have more and more children taking part, and also an experiment in those schools where the children are from the poorest homes introduced to the hot mid-day meal schemes.

Mr. F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I shall not be very long. The Hon Leader of the House is in such a good mood this evening, I promise him that dissatisfied as I am with the Report on Combermere School and the glorious white-washing which took place, I shall not raise it this evening, because I think I have said enough on it. Of course, I make no apology for any public utterance which I may make either in this Chamber or outside, which would keep that gentleman going straight for some time.

Dealing with Item 61, Sir, I suggested to Government some time ago that it is very hard on the teachers who are forced to be in training at Erdiston College to pay $40 a month for Board and Lodging as long as they are there. What I suggested to Government was that they should make it possible to lend teachers some sort of money or at least to refrain from deducting the $40 for now until such time as they have qualified, because I have known of instances of teachers, who go to be trained at Erdiston College, with wives and children, and they have to pay $40 to Erdiston College, $40 for a house, money for electricity and water, and when it comes to food some only have as much as $5 left.
3.50 p.m.

If Government can bind themselves down to the position where they lend money for two years to teachers and they pay back so much, then I think Government deserves the gratitude of the teachers and for a long time. Of course, I think the teachers have always been sympathetic to the Government in power, but our job is to argue for people whether they are sympathetic to our opponents or not and for what we think is right and fair. I ask Government whether it would be better to do something about that, because I know some of these teachers are experiencing great hardships for the two years that they spend at Erdiston College, especially since you have provided accommodation there so that they must be in residence for the two years. I am therefore asking Government to consider that seriously.

A matter which is worrying me is as regards Item 47, Upkeep of School Gardens on which I can refer to it better. My experience in driving around this island from time to time is that there are schools which are placed in positions far removed from the villages. If you take the School at Clifton Hill, you will find that the children who go to that school are from villages which are far removed from that school. Now, the children who live in Prout Village have either to go to St. Augustine, St. Matthews or Clifton Hill. That village has grown up considerably and houses have been brought from the back to the front, and I am sure you will agree with me that it is difficult for little children who have to go on to school at the age of five years - and some parents who are conscious of their responsibility send them at four years- to walk all that distance to school.

I am suggesting to Government that they establish a committee to consider removing some of those wooden schools which are far removed from new villages which have recently grown up and setting them on lands which are nearer to the villages. I am not accusing Government of building schools away from the villages; I am saying that there are one or two schools which are far removed from villages and I have drawn the example of Proute Village where there is no school in the area. Clifton Hill is not a large village when compared with the surrounding districts: I have had the misfortune of seeing children from Dist. "F' soaked by the rain walking down there. Why not set up a committee or get the Director of Public Works along with the Minister of Education to see whether you cannot remove some of those wooden schools to more central places? I think the hon. senior member for St. John agreed with me. He knows that villages have grown up almost overnight which are far removed from schools with the result that if it is a rainy day the children cannot go to school.

Now, what I would like Government to do - and I am speaking on Item 30 - is to appoint Truant Officers if Government cannot at this stage go in for compulsory education. I think that Government should see to it as soon as possible in the absence of compulsory education that they appoint three or four Truant Officers and give them travelling allowance or some sort of reasonable salary to see that as many children as possible attend schools at all times. You might argue what you will: but during the crop season you will see that the children who ought to be in schools are heading canes in the country districts. If you carry out a check, you will find that in the crop season especially, children are staying away from school for one reason or the other. You should see to it that you appoint one or two Truant Officers. Even little Grenada has one or two Truant Officers, and their job is to see that as many children as possible go to school and that would be the first step towards compulsory education which is a 'must.' We are very fortunate in this country that we have a high standard of education. I know that high standard of which we boast is fast slipping. Let us stop the loopholes which are gradually wrecking the structure upon which we pride ourselves. We should not have in this country a system of education which in the process of time would be far inferior to that of which we now boast.

Speaking on Items 38 and 39, Mr. Chairman, I think you will agree that Relief Teachers' salaries have never been healthy although I am glad to report from my own investigation that they are getting paid promptly. However, it is not adequate enough. When a boy spends years and years at a Secondary school in order to get certificates either at Ordinary or Advanced Level, it is ridiculous to offer him a salary which is lower than

a carpenter or mason. When a boy's father spends money on him to educate him, it is ridiculous to ask him to go into school where his influence is to be felt to teach children when he is getting a salary lower than a carpenter or mason. I think it is not fair to the boy or girl and Government must always bear in mind whenever the economy of the country can stand it that the salaries of the Relief Teachers are something which they should keep constantly under review.
4.00 p.m.

I have seen the Report of the Committee which enquired into the circumstances connected with the appointment of Mr. T. C. Hill as an Assistant Master of Combermere School and there is one comment which I want to make as regards Combermere School. I want to say that when a man can write to the Press stating that he did not sign a cheque when the evidence before the Commissioner showed that he did sign it a d he is still placed back on the Governing Body of the School and that met with no absolute condeemnation by the person carrying out the enquiry - I think it is a sad day for public life in this colony. When a man can write to the Press and say that the people's representatives are all liars, when he should know whether he had signed the cheque or not - and no where in the Report can you find a public denial of it - and he is placed back on the same Board, then public life is now beginning to wane. I am not going into the Report, but it is unsatisfactory in most respects. One is rather surprised to find that somebody with a judicial training could submit a Report like this. When you find that lumber is carried away from somewhere, you appoint Mr. Justice Ward, but when you want whitewashing you appoint a Police Magistrate who is depending on promotion from the powers that-be. You now appoint a Police Magistrate who is on the lowest rung of the judicial ladder, and you want the people of this country to believe that you want to be fair; but when you want a Commission to enquire into the loss of the money, you appoint Mr. Justice Ward. Why did you not get a High Court Judge to enquire into the matter of this appointment? I do not want to go into this matter, because, for me, nobody with a judicial training could have written a Report like this. I think I have said enough on the matter.

Education is one of the most important Items in this Budget and it is one on which money, if well spent, will bring dividends in the long run. We have been hearing for a long time about the appointment of a Minister of Education and it is of no use voting money on various Items if somebody has not got the time to see that the policy of this Government is being carried out. In view of the importance of this Head and the lasting effect which the policy of education may have on this country, I am wondering if the Hon. Leader of this House will tell us if the Government is still wedded to the idea of appointing a Minister of Education who will supervise this expenditure. I want to see that the highest standards are maintained and I am not interested in whether the Minister of Education is the hon. junior member for the city or the hon. junior member for St. James. Whenever I find that people are not getting value for their money on the educational system which allows me to stand here and say what I am saying now - as long as I find that the system of educational is still producing men of your calibre, Mr. Chairman, men who can preside over this Honourable Chamber, then it is all right; otherwise the trouble starts. I am not quarrelling about the money which is spent on education; but the Minister who is in charge of it has not got the time to run it.

Barbados is the only country in which the Minister of Education and Finance is a super man, a king maker or a man maker, because you cannot do both of these jobs. We can have the problem solved, because the Government has given the assurance that one of the backbenchers will be soon rewarded. However, the hon. junior member for St. John has thrown away his chances by going to the Federal Parliament. We must take this time of the year to ask questions about Departments We have a record Budget and there are certain things which we must criticise, because we have the facts. I think the Hon. Leader of the House will agree that this is an occasion when all aspects of Government expenditure should be scrutinised When this Budget has been passed, the authority will have been given for the expenditure of millions of dollars.

Mr. VAUGHAN: Mr. Chairman, I have to endorse, as far as the matter of Combermere School is concerned, everything that has been said about that enquiry by the hon. junior member for St. Andrew. The half has not been told about that; I have more than the half to tell of it, but this voice prevents me from doing so. It is a bad thing that I cannot say it; this enquiry has been more than scandalous. Hon. members have been held up to public ridicule as responsible people for questioning things up there, and we were more than right; as a matter of fact, we did not go far enough. We have been held up, as responsible people, to public ridicule, and I am very sorry, Mr. Chairman, that I cannot say more about that Combermere School on account of this voice of mine. The Premier has been misinformed where Combermere School is concerned; he has been misinformed, and he cannot do anything unless he has been properly informed.

With regard to Item 49, "Repairs and minor extensions to Schools, $62,500," I should like to say that one of the most valuable extensions to Schools is to revert to the practice of giving the Headmaster of every School a residence at the School. Education is a whole-time responsibility and you cannot treat a Headmaster or look upon him in the same status as you look upon a clerk. A Headmaster may live some ten miles from his School and he has to go out from his home in order to catch a bus to go to School.
4 10 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of order. I should like to know on which Item the hon. member is speaking.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I am speaking on Item 49, "Repairs and Minor Extensions to Schools,' and I said that one of the extensions to schools should be...

Hon M. E. COX: On a point of order. There is no question of building houses for Headteachers under this Head. This is to do with the maintenance of old schools, and not with building houses for any schoolmaster

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I realise that for myself, but the hon. member was only making suggestions.

Mr. VAUGHAN: I said that one of the extensions should be to make residences for headmasters.

The next Item is 77, "Library Scheme for Primary and Secondary Modern Schools."

Secondary Modern Schools need a lot more equipment for their success; it is an entirely new scheme and everything is not yet as up-to-date as it should be. Personally, I think that the Government has made a mistake in building so many Secondary Modern Schools before being ready for that type of school. In other words, they went ahead too far multiplying Secondary Modern Schools without laying the foundation for a sound and proper one to succeed. They should have tried with one or two, give everything they needed to make Secondary Modern education something real, and then after it had proved a thumping success they could have gone on with it as a policy. As it is, they are going too fast without making Secondary Modern education what it should be.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Speaking on Item 1, "Director of Education," I notice that for some time now that office has not been filled.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That Item is fixed by Law.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Let us go on to Inspections. You cannot be evasive enough for me.

Quite recently, Sir, I see that the Vice Principal of Erdiston College has had to assist in inspections.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what item are you speaking?

Mr HUSBANDS: I am speaking on Item 61 - Erdiston College.' Quite recently I understand that the Vice Principal of Erdiston College has had to be called in to assist in inspections in Seconcary schools.

Now, Sir, it seems to me that there is a lot lacking with reference to secondary schools. Not very long ago I had a conversation with a member of the Education Department, and he gave me to understand that his Department found it very difficult to commit itself to the number of inspections to secondary schools that might be considered necessary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Item 61, Erdiston College, is concerned with the maintenance of Erdiston Training College, Domestic Staff, salaries and so on, and not inspections to secondary schools.

Mr HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I was saying that quite recently the Vice Principal of that Institution has had to be used in the inspections of secondary schools, and I am saying that it is a pity that such an officer should have to be seconded for such inspections. The Department should have enough officers to use for such purposes without having to draw from the staff of Erdiston College, and I regret very much that there must be an insufficient number of inspectors to do inspections in secondary schools. I think that is a serious matter.

When I was a schoolboy, inspectors were able to carry out inspections in the junior forms once a year. I remember old Bill Emtage from Lodge School used to come to Coleridge once every year; and in every school in Barbados inspections could be carried out every year. Now that we spend so much money in education, it is regrettable that you have to take a man from Erdiston College who has a responsible job there and use him for assisting with conducting inspections in secondary schools. I hope that that matter will soon be remedied If we were to fill certain appointments that seem to be lying open for a long time now, such as the Director of Education, we might possibly find a solution, and there is no reason whatever fo r us to have an appointment lying open months and months after the former holder has retired. It is really not economic, and must make matters very difficult for the new Minister of Education whoever is to be. That is a thing which I very much regret. There is a lack of qualified suitable inspectors to carry out inspections in the junior forms of secondary Government-aided schools, especially in this day of Federation when so much is needed for us to get the Federal idea across to all types of schools, especially primary schools. We cannot go on living in the same old insular fashion. Our boys and girls cannot continue as they were taught twenty, thirty or forty years ago, to know every town, cape and bay in Asia, and not know what are the islands in the Caribbean; knowing all about King John the First and nothing of Henri Christophe and people of West Indian importance. There must be a new approach to the teaching of History and Geography in our schools today, and unless we have our Department properly filled and until we stop believing that we can keep jobs open without having them filled for a year or more, our education must suffer.

4.20 p.m.

At Item 52, Sports, the sum of $200 is to be voted. It is very little although I am glad to find that it has been increased by $56. Year after year, I have been trying my best to bring home to the Government that spending $200 a year for the holding of athletic sports for primary schools is not enough money to bring representatives from the 126 schools to one focal point at Kensington Oval. They must spend on apparatus in training the athletes who are required to go to Kensington. If you tell me that $200 is enough for that, I cannot begin to understand.

There was a time when I had some responsibility in training teams that used to compete once a year in this particular event and I think it is lack of thinking on the part of the Government, and of the Education Department more so, to put up year after year and to ask us to agree to $200 for this purpose. You may excuse politicians who do not really know much of the matter, but certainly not the Department of Education. Sir, I take very little consolation in seeing that is just this little increase to $200. That is nothing approaching what is adequate.

As regards Item 55, Second Grade Schools, I see the Coleridge-Parry is being given a grant of $57,702. As long as I remain in this House, I will ask the Government to see the necessity of inaugurating a Cadet Corps at the Coleridge and Parry School. As I have said sometime ago, $240 is what is allocated for the maintenance of such corps but, obviously, if you want to establish a corps, you will have to spend more than that.

I do not see why the boys of the Northern parishes should be at any disadvantage to the boys of the southern part of the Island, St. Philip, Christ Church, St. Michael and even St. George, where they have the Lodge School, Harrison College and Combermere with cadet corps. I think that the parents of St Lucy, St. Peter, St. James and St. Andrew who send their children to the Coleridge Parry would appreciate, as the parents in the other parts of the island, the inaugurating of a cadet corps at the Coleridge-Parry school.

I will speak on Item 75, Roadways, because what I am going to talk about is the school yard of the St. Peter Girls' School. As a matter of fact, it is actually a roadway because the St. Peter's Girls' School is situated butting and bounding a roadway known as Dragons Alley, Speightstown, and the public makes the yard of the St Peter Girls' School a roadway. The people walk right through the school yard and go out through the other end of it on to the street That schoolyard is just sandy yard and the teachers of that school take some of the classes outside for outdoor exercise and for lesson teaching.

I think, first of all, that the yard should be made more private and that it should be some hard court or there should be some grass on it; it should not remain just sand as it has been for years and years. It is now ten years that I have been worrying this Committee on this thing. Not only that it should either be turned into grass pasture or a hard court, but it should be protected. As I have said, the public has made it a highway and it should not be allowed to remain so indefinitely. I think the Hon. Leader of this House will remember when I used to sit very near to where he is sitting that I asked him to have this thing remedied. It still remains to be done and I hope it will soon be done. May I say, Mr Chairman, that it is really gratifying to me to see how happy these Ministers feel when we are drawing these things to them. Unlike what another hon. member who spoke before me may believe, I know there is a Minister of Education who is not in the House today: but the Hon. Leader of the House, I daresay, is holding his papers for him and I think it is his responsibility to pay some attention to the few strictures we have made on this Head.

Mr. SEARLES: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to be very long; I am coming straight to the point. I am speaking on Item 49, Repairs and Minor Extensions to Schools. The note to that item reads as follows: Under control of Public Works Department Repairs and extensions carried out after consultation between Departments of Education and Public Works Increase due to the erection of new schools and increased cost of maintenance in old schools."

When the Five Year Plan was talked about on the floor of this House, it was suggested in that Five Year Plan that St. Silas would get a new school. I have not seen any preparation being made to have a new school. (A VOICE: Look under Capital Expenditure.) I notice that some members of the Public Works Department went there and made some measurements with the object of repairing the school. We have before us today the disestablishment and disendowment of the Anglican

Church. (A VOICE: We, whom?) We, the members of the Labour Government, do hope that it will come to fruition. I chance to have family in the Anglican Church. I say it would be a good idea if Ministers of the Gospel would realise that the Ministry is a calling and not a profession. 4.30 p.m.

St. Silas Girls' School is a hybrid school, belonging to the Department of Education and to the Church. If you are making any alteration to that School, it must be the idea of a new School altogether. Let the Church handle that School and do whatever they like with it. I am suggesting to the Government *(ASIDES)* Well, the Hon Leader of the House has said that there is provision in the Estimates for a new school and, I therefore, am not going any further with it; but I must say that this Government has to be complimented in spending over $3 million on education today, which is practically one-seventh of the expenditure of the colony; we are to be complimented on it. I do not think that any member of the Opposition could say that this Government is not doing anything for education. (Mr. TUDOR: We are spend ing the people's money on it.) Mr. Chairman, it would have been better for some of us if, instead of going to a University, we had remained in an elementary school, because we would have commonsense and we would be able to appreciate things much better. (Mr. TUDOR: You can say that about the Premier.) The hon member would appreciate that there is more sense in what some of us have not said than there is in what we have said; *(Laughter)* I am not going to use any Latin phrases; many adjectives govern prepositions and I do not suppose that many of us would be able to repeat them. Let us realise that education is essential; we cannot get away from that fact and anyone who would put a stumbling-block in the way of anybody being educated is not only a tyrant, but an oppositionist to anything constructive. Everything should be done in order to encourage education; the State should see to it that every child in the community is educated.

When the hon. member was speaking about compulsory education just now, that should have been here long ago. That was in the Government's manifesto since 1944, but the Conservative element in this country --

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must give the number of the Item on which he is speaking.

Mr. SEARLES: I am prepared to stop now, but I will come back on the floor of the House when the other Resolution is being dealt with.

Mr. THORNE: Mr. Chairman, I think that the average person in this House will realise that I ought to be deeply interested in this matter of education. I do not want at all to be guilty - -

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what Item is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. THORNE: Item 38, "Supernumerary Teachers;" I want to congratulate the Government on the step which they have taken, thus far, to increase the number of Supernumerary Teachers; it is something which is long overdue, but it is better late than never. I want to see the Government go a step further and have a sort of short scale introduced for these teachers and not keep them at a common rate all the time. If such a scale were introduced, it would come as an incentive to these teachers and, I am definitely sure, it would produce handsome dividends.

In connection with Item 39, "Relief Teachers," I have been of late a bit worried in that I have been given to understand that there has been introduced a change in the method of the staffing of elementary schools. Only quite recently the procedure was to staff them on the basis of roll and I have been given to understand that the Department of Education has reverted or intends to revert to the old system of staffing on the basis of average attendance. That is a retrograde step, and it will be productive of very poor results. Staffing on the basis of average attendance does not allow for the fact that all the children on the roll will not, at some time or other, be attending the school and therefore all would not be attended to by the teachers What is more, when children are irregular in their attendance at the school, it makes the task very difficult for the teacher and therefore, I do not see why we should go back to the old-time system. It is better to stick to the system of staffing by the roll.

As to Item 54, "Nutrition Scheme," I too, like some other hon. members, have been a bit worried about the reduction in the amount of the item here and I am wondering if it were not possible to use that reduction to obtain a better grade of milk for the school children rather than cut it off. I think it would have been more sensible to use that difference in cost to get a better grade of milk for the children. (A MEMBER: Cow's milk.) It is not always possible to get cow's milk.

There has been a lot said from time to time about this matter of free secondary education. I am one of those who believe that people would like to see free secondary education become a reality. I know that it would be a very costly affair and I would expect the Government to go about this business in the context of the revenue and not try to overspend.
4.30 p.m.

I have noticed from a Report submitted by the Department of Education that there are as many children going to Private secondary schools as they are going to Government-aided secondary schools. The difference is very small, if any, and the actual figures quoted are 3,750 attending Government-aided secondary schools and 3,944 attending eleven private secondary schools. What is more, the Report states that these eleven schools have been approved by the Department of Education as being fit to take the examination. I have to commend Government on the fact that it is at present paying 83.9% of the total cost of maintaining those children who attend the secondary schools. 83.9% of the total cost of secondary education in these schools is met by the Government, and I am wondering whether Government would consider the idea of subsidising the cost of the eleven private secondary schools to the tune of 83% in so far as reducing the school fees which are paid by the children who attend these eleven unaided secondary schools. The amount of money would not be very great and would more or less enable Government to get away from the charge of not providing or being interested in providing more free secondary education. *(Cheers from Opposition.)* If a child at one of these schools is required to pay $15 a term, I am wondering if Government could see fit to pay part of that $15. If they could pay 40%, 50% or 60%, it would be a very great help to the parents who are trying their very best to get what all of us desire - a very good education for our children

I am only making a suggestion; I am not saying that Government can do it. I am saying that within the context of the revenue, and what is more, I would be inclined to suggest further that in as much as Government has seen fit to increase the rates on the charge for such liquors as whiskey and so on, they could put an extra cent on your drink of rum, increase the cost of rum and take that money to pay these extra costs. *(Cheers from Opposition)* That would mean simply that when a man is drinking his grog, he would also be contributing to the cost of education, and in fact I would be prepared to drink a few more grogs myself. *(Cheers from Opposition.)*

Now as you will discover, I was only making a suggestion to show how that could be done.

Now with respect to Item 75 for the improvement of roadways leading to schools, I know it is a positive fact that there are roadways leading to certain elementary schools which are very terrible death traps. At the moment I have in mind the roadway leading into the St John's Mixed School, and I am wondering whether Government would be prepared to take immediate steps to remedy the terrible conditions which exist there. Any time you are entering or coming out of that school, you are running the risk of incurring some broken limb or other. I am sure it would not cost much to put that right. There are several things which one can comment on but I do not want to prolong things and use up too much time, therefore I wil stop there for the present.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, before the question is put, I do not think that any of us on this side of the House could allow this moment to pass without congratulating very warmly the hon. senior member for St. John who has so lucidly and fearlessly put forward what I thought until now was the policy of the Democratic Labour Party. We do agree with him that a case can be made out for free secondary education, if not in its entirety, at any rate in a stage process. It is true this is no new argument: but he gave it a new freshness and new forcefulness when he drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that 83% of what is required now to keep secondary schools, is found by Government, and he went on to argue that since the private approved secondary schools appeared to be doing as much as Government Schools in this island, Government should turn its attention to doing something for them and he suggested a subsidy to the tune of 83% to the fees which are paid by pupils of the private secondary schools On our side we would go further and emphasise that as an immediate measure the fees now charged for examinations in these private secondary schools should be borne out of the Public Treasury; but I am glad that a member on that side, and the particular member at that, should have found it necessary to emphasise what is the position of the people of this colony on educational matters, and I wish to tell him that he has to be careful lest his forthrightness stands in his way of having an opportunity to implement the policy which he has expounded to us with such clarity and forcefulness, and if it be so that he survives the whipping which he is certain to get, we will give him unqualified support for any of the individual measures which he expounded here this after oon.

Mr F. G. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Item 41 , in view of what the hon. senior member for St. John has said, I should like to compliment him because I think he has expressed views which all progressive Barbadians should share. In view of the fact that he has said that the Report published by the Department of Education shows that there are more children attending the eleven approved private secondary schools than attending Government-aided schools, I should like the Hon. Minister to give us the assurance that on this question of providing the cost of public examinations for aided secondary schools, Government will consider paying the entrance fees for children at these private schools.

I can only assume, Mr. Chairman, that if the Government or the Department of Education has approved of these private secondary schools, they must be of a standard which merits their approval, and since these schools are educating not foreigners or people from outside, but the children of Barbadians who are paying taxes to the Treasury of this island, it is only fair that for all public examinations, Government should pay their entrance fees. Of course, Government may think that the schools would send up candidates who would just go up for the sport of it, although I, for one, cannot see any headmaster of a private secondary school sending up candidates willy-nilly ; they would send up candidates of whom they can boast and publish in the papers that they have 100% passes whether it is one or two, and therefore Government should seriously consider paying the entrance fees for examinations for students of these private schools.

4.50 p.m.

As a matter of fact, in some cases, if Government does not want to do that because of the fear expressed by the Hon. Leader of the House some time ago, it should let the parents pay the entrance fees, and if the child passes in certain subjects, Government should refund them such fees for the subjects they pass; that is to say, if a boy pays examination fees for seven subjects and he passes in five of them he should be refunded by Government the examination fees for the five subjects which he passed. I do not think that it is too much to ask. You are giving it to children who through no fault of their own cannot get into any Government aided schools, and because those schools are overcrowded, his parents have to push their hands in their pockets and pay for him. This is a very bad form of discrimination. You are discriminating by opportunity and by luck. This is a case where the hon. senior member for St John can make a change in matters educational. Do you know that is a fact that although the Department of Education approve of private secondary schools, they cannot control the fees they charge? I am not saying that the Heads of Private Schools are ruthless.

If you look at the figures, you will see that Government receives as school fees from the Government-aided secondary schools the total of $158,000. This represents 17% of what is being spent on Secondary Schools aided by Government. It is this 17% which we on this side are saying should be given up so as to make free secondary education. Abolish the fees altogether, have an entrance examination and pick the first 600 children and give them free secondary education. As I have said, you only collect $158,000 in school fees from all the secondary schools, then Government is forced to give $779,284 as a grant in-aid to them and which, as the hon senior member for St John says, works out to 83.9 per cent. If that is so, you can give 100 percent: you will only have to give $158,493 more . You say that you expect $141,000 from the increase in alcholic beverages and tobacco imported. You can give these children free secondary education and I say again that it is not fair to the boy or girl who is not fortunate to get into a Government-Aided Secondary School and who has to pay between $15 and $20 for term fees to pay examination entrance fees when the boy at Combermere is only paying $8 a term. It cannot be fair: and therefore I agree with the hon. senior member for St. John who suggested the subsidation of approved private secondary schools to the extent where all the children should pay fees of $8 a term - those which are in the class of Combermere and St. Michael Girls - and $24 a term in case it is a private secondary school of the standard of Harrison College or the Lodge School. In that case it would be fair to the parents of all children who go to these secondary schools. I think it is a good suggestion which has come from the hon. senior member for St. John and I only wish he had a more receptive audience on Monday Nights in Fairchild Street because what he said just now is worthy of consideration by a Socialist Government.

I hope the new Premier would give this matter his careful consideration. I understand that when it comes to the time for that party to choose a Premier that it is going to be a matter of king making and king breaking. I say that in passing. I think this matter of free secondary education should be given careful consideration. As a matter of fact, we on this side are saying that it can be done but they have said that it is too costly. Why don't they set up a committee of economists or tax experts to see whether it is too much for them to do? If the Government is serious about it, let them appoint the Permanent Secretary, an educationalist and somebody else with certain terms of reference to look into the additional cost in the implementing of (1) compulsory education, and (2) free secondary education. If the Committee reports so much and so much, then anybody can say it is not possible for Government to undertake it at the moment, and it would absolve the Government from the charge of not making a start because they would be able to say publicly and honestly that this is what the Committee reported and then the Opposition could not attack them on it.

I will like to compliment the hon. senior member for St John on his very able speech on this matter and I would like to see backbenchers getting up if they think Government is right in doing this or that and saying why they think the Government is right: but do not let them sit down like dumb sheep and say nothing at all. That is why I respect the hon. junior member for St. James for getting up just now and saying something. Backbenchers are not there just to support measures. This is Parliament; this is freedom of speech and it is for a backbencher to show the ability which he possesses.

Mr. THORNE: Mr. Chairman, just for the sake of putting the records right, I am forced to draw the attention of this Hon. Committee to the fact, although I appreciate to a certain extent the compliments which they have been trying to shower on me as a result of

what I put before the Committee just now, that it is necessary for me to point out that they are not striking the same note as I was striking. They are striking the note of free secondary education but I have been striking the note of more aided secondary education. I know that free secondary education is an impossibility but I am advocating more aided secondary education. You can therefore see that we are not on all-fours. Moreover, what I have said is that in order that we may get more aided secondary education it would be necessary for us to levy a tax.

.. Mr. WALCOTT: I am not concerned with complimenting any person. The last hon member who spoke got up to put the records straight and you can very well see, if he is supposed to be groomed for a Ministry, what we can look for from him.

. Mr CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member let me know the item on which he is speaking?

. Mr WALCOTT: I am speaking on any item. The motion is that the sum of $1,629,458 be voted under Head XX - Education and I am speaking on that.

. Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking to the hon. member. Other hon. members when they get up to speak quote the particular item on which they are about to speak for the benefit of the Chair, and if you are going to differ from that I am asking you to come back to it and quote the item. You cannot expect to talk on the entire amount of money to be voted

. Mr WALCOTT: You speak on the amount to be voted, you do not vote Heads or Items; you vote the amount of the Resolution. What is before you is a motion for an amount of money to be voted. It is not that Item 78 be voted under this Head; therefore, if I choose to deal with a particular Item I may do so but if I so choose to speak on the amount to be voted under this Head, I am within the rules. This is just like a Resolution.

5.00 p.m.

Mr CHAIRMAN: I am not telling you that it is different. I am only asking you to be a little co-operative and give the Chair the number of the particular Item on which you want to speak.

.. Mr. WALCOTT: I am not dealing with any specific Item. Why give an Item with which I am not dealing? I am speaking on the amount to be voted so as to make a comment on the whole amount.

. Mr CHAIRMAN: Then, you are not voting whether you are in favour of it or not.

. Mr WALCOTT: At the end of my speech, you will see if I am in favour of it or not. I have a right to speak on this Head and to reply to remarks which have been made by the last hon. member who spoke; it does not matter which Item it is. The hon. member said that free education at this time is impossible. If that is the view of the Minister of Education, he is just making a statement when he is not in a position to say that free secondary education is not possible. What is the difference between free secondary education and the type of education which you are now giving? What is the difference in money? The difference between what you regard as free secondary education and what people are getting now, is $158,000. In what position are you now to say that this island cannot afford free secondary education? Are you in a position to make that statement in so far as money is concerned? I challenge that: it is a matter of your own mental approach to the matter.

. There are a lot of people who would like their children to be educated at the secondary schools if they could be accommodated, and that is very different from saying that you cannot afford free secondary education. Because you are providing milk and biscuits at the elementary schools, it does not mean that every child cannot be provided with milk and biscuits at home; or it does not mean that every child is in need of milk and biscuits. What is more essential to my mind, is that in Barbados you find that this Government has been in power or some time and they are working under the old colonial system of not providing for compulsory education in elementary schools as a reality. What you find in Barbados today is that you still have children who can leave the schools at the third, fourth or fifth standard and I am saying if you have something which is compulsory, you can compel every child to have the mental elementary tools which they should have in order to carry them through life and prevent this growing despotism which is going to take place. Anybody can come along and say anything where the people are uneducated and I want to say that you should make it clear that every child should go to school up to the age of fourteen years. Can you allow a boy or a girl to be out of school without having the best elementary education, to go out in the street and have somebody to snob him or her, because they have not got the equipment with which to carry them through life? If you are making me pay income tax, then you should have compulsory education. Let us have compulsory education so that the excuse cannot be made that people are not able or they are too poor to send their children to school. The result of that is, that your school accommodation is not as much as it should be and this laxity suits you, because you have not got down to the problem of accommodating the school population.

As the position is now, if all the children of school age went to school until they attained the age of fourteen years, there would not be sufficient space for them. You have not got down to the requirements of education, so that every child can receive it. No child has any right being born in a community and unable to look forward to being educated to the full; what is more, secondary education is not what it used to be. If in the next few years, you are going to have any employment, boys and girls who are going to secondary schools must do it, but that cannot enrich your whole community. It is not a question of making people feel that they are better than anybody else; it is a question of enriching the whole community. It is not a question of making anybody say that Mr. So and So is not capable of being the Premier, because he did not go to this and that school. This whole community is being nursed on the basis of ignorance because if you take a census of the working population, you will find that the working population - and when you talk about Barbadians being educated they only went on the average to third or fourth standard at the elementary schools. If you do not spend money on education, how are you going to build a nation? Are you going to build a nation of bricks? In every walk of life in Barbados today, where you have to look for equality in a population of 200,000, we have not yet evolved a system where we can say that a general education is provided for the people. Why is it that all the men required for the services other than the technical services, the community cannot afford to absorb? We cannot have all scientists, because we have not got the scope for them; therefore, the boys would not adopt that type of education; but do not tell me that where 3% of the total population would go to the secondary schools, the other 97% being found in primary schools - do not tell me out of that 97% you do not know how many of them do not get full education in the elementary schools!

5.10 p.m.

You are still basking in the sunshine of ignorance, and that is the sort of thing we get when you go around the country talking to these people. You talk to a community that does not know how to cast a vote; they think that when they cast one vote you multiply it by five. Why is that? It is because at each election, you think that education means getting on a public platform and talking to people, when you do not give them the tools to go to school long enough.

.. Do you know that if you had started with free education in secondary schools instead of carrying on with the buses, it would cost less than what you pay in recurrent expenses to maintain the bus service?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is going to buses.

Mr. WALCOTT: The Hon. Minister of Agriculture need not touch any person because if I had a film in here to reproduce him in this House as he was in his last session, he would tear it up. I have never been in that pentecostal mood where I shake and shiver. I am only drawing a comparison to the Minister to show that he can do it at this time. That argument was used before; but I still feel that if the amount of money which is required to carry out free secondary education is compared with the recurrent expenditure on the buses which you did not pledge to take over, you would see that the argument is far-fetched. This whole idea of saying that you do not have a policy for free secondary education is an olo-time idea of yours that as long as a person can pay for something, you do not provide it. You can say that in certain things, but not in education; you must draw a halt. It is just like medicine; you do not tell a man that you do not provide a hospital because you believe he can pay to go to the United States; you provide a hospital for all. You do not tell a man that because he can pay when he is sick that there is a penalty on those who are rich and better off of paying for all sickness. Similarly in education, providing a man with tools in this world is not something on which you must make an imposition. I do not subscribe to the view that you cannot do it, but you have not got down to showing how you can do it. You are giving the idea that in the past boys had to pay school fees to go to Harrison College; it is not the same boy, the same community nor the same circumstances, because the postman and the labourer are sending their sons to Harrison College; but they are not in the same age group as their counterpart twenty-five years ago. He is struggling to do it today because he feels this is the only investment which he can give his child, and therefore he gives him the tools of knowledge. Do not try to give us this idea that you cannot provide these things when you have not thought of a way of doing them. This is part of the conservative policy which you are perpetuating. I maintain that compulsory education might be a sine qua non of any progressive Government in this age of ours. This is a question of necessity, and those of us who represent rural communities see it around us. The people in agriculture cannot do enough for themselves on a mental basis as they should be able to do. Does it not strike you that something is wrong? It is time that you get down to the basic requirements of the community and lift it up and do not talk about spending money on adult education afterwards. Send any boy to an elementary school and let him get the full benefit of education and you will see the difference that these boys would make as compared with the half-baked ones who can read and write but cannot reason. Therefore there is a thirst for knowledge when they leave school and a yearning for the things they did not get; the half-baked ones feel that they are out of school already, and as long as they can get a shilling or money to buy a car or a house, life is finished with them. So let us get away from the idea that you cannot provide compulsory education for the children in our schools or free secondary education, because it is something which we must aim at and which we can do now.

You are taxing the people more in this same budget as a means of creating surpluses for running the colony. If you were in the United States, what would you do? They have very wisely cut down on surpluses to stop a recession. We are pointing out to you something that you can do under your fiscal policy, but you think that it takes a Lord Keynes to do that. What the hon. senior member for St. John has said is something which is symbolic of a party without a driving force or policy, because he has enunciated his views, but not the policy of his Party. If they want to get down to the business of governing this country, it is time that they open their branches and wings and breathe what is taking place in the community and symbolise the growing aspirations of this community, and not perpetuate what we regard as a dying ember.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I think I should say a few words in reply to some of the points made by hon. members, although I do not intend to deal with each point,

The first point is on Item 54 which has been reduced by $6,000. The hon. senior member for St. Lucy wondered whether the population was reduced. I can answer that without getting any information, because our population is increasing every day; therefore there will be an increasing number of children. The reduction, however, is due to the fact that there has been a reduction in the cost of milk.

Now my colleague, the hon. senior member for St. John, fell into what I considered was a trap when he suggested that that money could be used for buying a better quality milk. I am sure that if he compares the $6,000 against the amount of $141,787, he would see that on a tin of milk it would work out - although my figures might not be strictly correct in that this Item provides for biscuits as well - to less than a quarter cent per tin in reduction. If you work it out, you will see that the amount would be so small that if you attempted to purchase a more expensive kind, you just could not do it. 5.20 p.m.

We are satisfied, Sir, that the milk now provided is up to the standard. As you will see from the note, it is not only imported milk which is used but also cows' milk, so in that case there is no point in saying that you should spend that money in better quality milk.

Now, as regards the Barbados Scholarship, the hon. senior member for St. Lucy said that some of these scholars are not getting the full allowance. The allowances, as he would appreciate, run between £400 and £600 per annum. These allowances are fixed by the Director of the British Caribbean Students Union and it all depends on the courses taken by students. However, the matter is being examined and perhaps soon I may be able to tell the House what we decide to do.

As regards the point about Erdiston College and the teachers there with families who have to remain for two years and pay for their boarding and lodging, those teachers are given the opportunity to borrow money to finance themselves for the time they are there. I should say that there is a scheme which provides for loans to be made to those teachers, especially those with families, so that they would not feel the weight of the burden during the time they are in training.

As regards Codrington College, I understand that no money has been spent since the ecclesiastical courses have been abandoned. This is a temporary provision provided in the Estimates.

Much has been said about secondary education and I think the bone of contention rests upon the fact that there is no free secondary education and the policy that Government should pay the examination fees for students who take their examinations from Private Secondary Schools. As far as that is concerned, I have already reported that to the Cabinet when a Resolution was passed in the House on the last occasion. I am not prepared to say whether the Cabinet is prepared to agree with the suggestions made by some hon. members.

. Now, I think I explained sometime ago the fallacy of the argument used by the hon. senior member for St. Lucy who said that if the Government were to just add $ 58,493 to the amount of $937,777, we would have free secondary education. That is a fallacy and I will attempt to show how it is a fallacy. In Government Secondary schools today those pupils who pay fees contribute $158,493; but those children who go to Government aided Schools are a small percentage of the number of children who would like to take advantage of secondary education. On the other hand, we have quite a number of children attending private secondary schools. They have got to pay fees; and those fees, as I understand, are by far higher than the fees which are paid by children who go to the Government aided secondary schools. If you say that you are going to establish free secondary education in this Island, then those children who go to private secondary schools are entitled to go into the Government second-

ary schools and get theirs free. (A VOICE: But the Government Secondary schools cannot hold all of them.) That is exactly what I am trying to say. You say that we can have free secondary education because the fees which are being paid now are so limited that you can give the negligible percentage to those children who want to go to those schools. That would never be free secondary education.

Before we can establish a free secondary education scheme, you have got in the first place, I submit, Sir, to get teachers trained, and simultaneously with the training of teachers you have to build schools. You will have to train teachers to take over; and when you establish those schools, then this free secondary education must be available to all children in the island. You cannot say you have free secondary education, as it is so limited that only a few children can take opportunity of it; it would not be free secondary education. Due to the limited amount of money which we have to spend, we cannot build more schools, and therefore the bulk of children would have to go to other schools and pay for the little secondary education they get there. Will you be able to satisfy the people that you are giving free secondary education simply because you say that the children who now pay fees should not pay any fees? That is nonsense. It has no foundation whatsoever but because of the fact that children have to pay - those who are able to pay - then they will get the opportunity of going into Government Aided Secondary schools and getting free what is offered. As I have said, if it must be free secondary education, it must be free to take care of all children. Just as your elementary schools are free, so you will have to apply with equal force to the secondary schools if you want to make the job of free education not to be a farce.

Mr TUDOR: I cannot allow the Hon. Minister to get away with that. I sympathise with him because before I was convinced that it could be done I had the same opposition to it and the same arguments he now uses. I am going to put to him a point of view which might help him. First of all, in the days before school fees were abolished in the elementary schools, persons argued that you could not abolish those school fees.

5.30 p.m.

They did so when the people who paid a penny or four cents a week for their children would be at a disadvantage in that the influx of children that would clamour to go into the schools when the fee was abolished and who could not be accommodated - that influx would bring about some difficulty to the people who were not wise enough to see in those days that something must always be done for the first time and argued strongly against the abolition of the school fees. However, everybody discovered that nothing which had been prophesied had come to pass.

. Now, the elementary school children receive their education out of the Public Treasury, the only difficulty being that we have not got sufficient schools in which to accommodate the children. The same argument holds good with free secondary education. If you abolish the school fees, obviously, you will not be able to accommodate all the persons who would want to take advantage of it. It has never been suggested by anybody who advocates free secondary education in this Island that, because you have free secondary education by abolishing the fees, you are in duty bound to admit school children of secondary school age in this Island to the schools which cannot accommodate them. The Government is contemplating the extension of secondary school buildings and the building of more secondary schools and they would have to provide more school buildings for the accommodation of children when they have abolished the school fees.

. Another point which goes hand in hand with that is this: the people whose children now attend the private secondary school are suffering under the difficulty that while they are paying for the education of their children, they are also paying for the education of other people's children who attend Combermere School or Harrison College through the taxes which they pay. Therefore, if you abolish the fees, you are at least making these people understand that they are also entitled to the subsidy which you would give to the private secondary schools. That is the whole point. I want to emphasise this: it does not mean that you have to make people understand that as from a certain date, every child of secondary school age will get into a secondary school; whatever children the existing schools are accommodating will be taken in. I imagine that the number will be something like 7,500, which is a sizeable proportion of that population which is of the ages between 11 and 16 years. The one argument which I have to clinch that argument is not an argument either from statistics or from accommodation available: not even the argument about the actual cost of the thing. The one argument which is convincing is that it is something which you owe to the people and something which is not to be looked upon as a privilege. The fact that we have grown up in a society in which the majority of the population have enjoyed secondary education, is taken to mean that it is something which you should have; but the people who cannot pay for it, are not entitled to have it. It would be a greater gesture in the direction of changing views in this Island if those who now go to the secondary schools would have their school fees abolished, and those who now go to the private schools could have their school fees subsidised; it would be a greater gesture of democracy than what the Minister now argues; which is that because you hve not got sufficient schools in which to accommodate the children, you should not abolish the school fees. People would not quarrel with that; people will realise that, in the present circumstances, even if they had the money they could not guarantee to get in the child, because the accommodation is limited. If we accept that view, if you tell people that you are abolishing the school fees, they would expect to see that each child, no matter who it is, has a fair chance of qualifying for entrance in a particular school and that no discrimination, apart from the failure to reach the approved standard, would prevent a child from getting in. Therefore, the argument that it is farcical to abolish school fees because you cannot get 10,000 children to school is a one-sided argument. On the point of abolishing school fees and being able to carry on the projects which you have to do, even in these present circumstances you should get the population accustomed to looking forward to the benefits which you are providing and the people themselves would prepare their children for scholarships and qualify them for entrance. Since the policy with regard to the Government-aided schools would be geared and adjusted to the policy which I have mentioned - the subsidy to the private secondary schools - everybody in the community will understand that more places are available in all secondary schools of various types, and every year with the new school buildings going up and the new facilities provided for teacher training, the community will find itself becoming more and more accustomed to the idea, and it will do something for the Government which the Government is not prepared to do now.

Without being in any way prompted, the people of this Island will accept the idea that a child should only have the type of education from which he can benefit. The people would become interested in diversifying the type of training provided; there will not be this rush which now exists to get into Combermere School or Queen's College, because of the mistaken notion that that is the only avenue to success. The whole problem will be levelled off.

The arguments which we have used on this side of the House are arguments which will stand. Let them not be afraid to do a good thing, because they do not know how it can be done. You cannot have it this year, because there is a change of policy; but for the last ten years, over $1 1/2 million have been taken from the people of this colony in excess of what was required.

5.40 p.m.

It would have been a simple matter, if Government had been interested in free secondary education, to have laid

aside at least $2 million of these surpluses for that purpose. A considerable amount of that money could have been devoted to the erection of a new school; another portion could have been devoted to teacher training; another portion to the subsidy which you yourself recommended should be paid to private secondary schools. Had you done that, you would now be boasting that it is your policy, and you would be wondering why it is we had not thought of it. You have still got to do it now because the time has come when the people of this island will demand it from whatever Government is in power; and I should just like to say before I sit, Mr. Chairman, that the Barbados Government imagines that it is doing the people of this island a good turn by making it appear that they are solicitious after the pursuits of the island and saying that they have to watch very carefully every penny which they spend. That does not go down with me because people are not afraid of a Government which spends money on them, provided that in every expense there is a rational and sensible explanation to be given. If you went to the people of this island and said to them that as from a certain date you proposed to abolish fees in Government-aided secondary schools, and at the same time to give a considerable subsidy to the schools which are privately run and of which your Education Department approves, and if you told them that you were doing it because the time had come when more and more people ought to have the benefits of secondary education, Mr Chairman, they would support you, because each person would feel that even if his own child is not now benefiting from the proposed reforms, at some future date the child or some other child younger than the present one will benefit. That is how people think, and they would not feel their money was badly spent if it was spent in these ways.

I advise Government that before they turn down the scheme as being impracticable, and before they say it is something which belongs to the distant future, they should have themselves properly advised upon it and make an experiment of it, even in a limited way, and they will see that it recommends itself to them with as much force as the proposal to abolish the fees in elementary schools recommended itself to the people who opposed that measure some 20 or 25 years ago.

The question that the sum of $1,629,458 be voted under Head XX - Education, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

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

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $646,911 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Head XXI - SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE, was called.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Head XXII - PUBLIC LIBRARY, was called

Hon M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move the sum of $30,900 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to draw your attention to the fact that there is no quorum, and ask you to instruct the Clerk to ring the Bell.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

MEDICAL

Head XXIII - MEDICAL (1) DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $36,592 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Head XXIII - MEDICAL (2) GENERAL HOSPITAL, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr Chairman, I am asking leave to add to this Head the following: Item 111 (New) - Office Equipment $350; Item 112 (New) - X-Ray Unit $5,400; Item 113 (New) Motor Vehicle $3,000; Item 114 (New)- Refrigerating Units $9.070; and Item 115 (New) Crockery $3,840.

I beg to move that the sum of $916,849 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that

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

5.50 p.m.

HEAD XXIII — MEDICAL (3) MENTAL HOSPITAL

Head XXIII - MEDICAL (3) MENTAL HOSPITAL, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $255,021 be voted under this Head.

Hon D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD XXIII — MEDICAL (4) – LAZARETTO

Head XXIII - MEDICAL (4) LAZARETTO was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $23,695 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD XXIII – MEDICAL (5) BOARD OF HEALTH

Head XXIII - MEDICAL (5) BOARD of HEALTH, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $19,335 be voted under this Head

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD XXIII — MEDICAL (6) BACTERIOLOGIST AND PATHOLOGIST

Head XXIII - MEDICAL (6) BACTERIOLOGIST and PATHOLOGIST, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $13,685 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD XXIII — MEDICAL (7) HEALTH CENTRES

Head XXIII - MEDICAL (7) - HEALTH CENTRES was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $148,393 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD XXIII — MEDICAL (8) MATERNITY HOSPITAL

Head XXIII - MEDICAL (8) MATERNITY HOSPITAL was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Sir, I am asking leave to make an addition to this Head of a new Item, Item 26, (New) - Water Heater - $400. That would bring the total to $20,277 I beg to move that the sum of $20,277 be voted under this Head

Hon D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS

The SUMMARY of MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the Summary of Medical Departments as amended stand part.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD XXIV — BARBADOS REGIMENT

Head XXIV, BARBADOS REGI MENT, was called.

Hon M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $55,053 be voted under this Head

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD XXV — PUBLIC WORKS

Head XXV, PUBLIC WORKS, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to amend this Head. I am asking leave to increase Item 51, General Hospital by $750, bringing the total of that Item to $22,020. Also to add Item 70 A. (New) Barbados Museum and Historical Society $1500: Item 84 (New) Government Crane $2455: and Item 85 (New) - Cabinet Chamber, Government Headquarters $5000. This will make the total to be voted to $400,808.

I beg to move that the sum of $400,808 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD XXVI — PENSIONS

Head XXVI, PENSIONS, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $1,090,462 be voted under this Head

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD XXVII — CHARGES OF DEBT

Head XXVII, CHARGES of DEBT was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $776,435 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD XXVIII — SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS

Head XXVIII, SUBSIDIES and GRANTS were called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am asking leave to amend this Head to add increases of $2,236 to Item 26, Barbados Council of Women; $8,000 to Item 30, Family Planning Association ; and the insertion of two new items - Item 42 (new) Applied Nutrition Unit, $240, and Item 43 (New) Barbados Council of Women, $2,700. This brings the total to $340,549.

I beg to move that the sum of $340,549 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

HEAD XXIX — MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Head XXIX, MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES, was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am asking leave to amend the figure of Item 9 from $6,146 to $6,952.

I beg to move that the sum of $752,571 be now voted under this Head

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

6.00 p.m.

HEAD XXX — INLAND REVENUE

Head XXX - INLAND REVENUE - was called

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $420,210 be voted under this Head.

Hon D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $420,210 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXI — LABOUR

Head XXXI - LABOUR - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move tha the sum of $581,030 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $581,030 be voted under this Head, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXII — HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Head XXXII - HIGHWAYS and TRANSPORT was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, under this Head, I am asking leave to insert a new Item, Item 25 (a) (New) - Construction Superintendent - $3,528. Provision is made for the salary of this Officer on the scale $3,528 x 144 — $4,392. This will now make the total to be voted under this Head $1,303,177.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $1,303,177 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $1,303,177 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXIII — CIVIL AVIATION

Head XXXIII - CIVIL AVIATION was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $130,280 be voted under this Head.

Hon D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $130,280 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXIV — ELECTRICAL INSPECTION

Head XXXIV - ELECTRICAL INSPECTION - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $11,920 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $11,920 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXV — HOUSING

Head XXXV - HOUSING - was called

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $117,740 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $117,740 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXVII — PEASANTS' LOAN BANK

Head XXXVII - PEASANTS' LOAN BANK - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $28,429 be voted under this Head.

HEAD XXXVIII — OLD AGE PENSIONS

Head XXXVIII - OLD AGE PENSIONS - was called.

Hon M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $845,500 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $845,500 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXXIX — STATISTICAL SERVICE

Head XXXIX - STATISTICAL SERVICE - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $12,097 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $12,097 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XL — WATERWORKS

Head XL - WATERWORKS - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $961,280 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $961,280 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XLI — SOCIAL WELFARE

Hon. M. E. COX: Under this Head, Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to insert the following Item:- "Item 14 (a) (New) Sports Officer and Coaching Services - $7,140."

The note explains that this amount is to provide for the salary of a Sports Officer and a Cricket Coach, travelling, stationery and incidental expenses. It is the Government's intention to engage the services of Mr Everton Weekes to coach the young boys in cricket and in other sports. We hope that we will be able to obtain his services very soon. The amount to be voted under this Head will now be $18,595.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: I now beg to move that the sum of $18,595 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $18,595 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XLII — CONTROLS, SUBSIDIES, ETC.

Head XLII - CONTROLS, SUBSIDIES, etc. was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: In connection with this Head, Mr. Chairman, I should like to inform the Committee that the Government has decided to remove the subsidy off pickled meat. As you know, Sir, we have been subsidising pickled pork-feet, ears and neckbones and things of that sort at a cost of $66,000 a year. The Government has decided to abandon the subsidy on these items and to pass on that amount of money to the subsidisation of more of Dark Crystals sugar; that amount has proved to be insufficient and there has always been a lot of dissatisfaction as to the short supply of this sugar in the Island. The Government has therefore decided that, with the amount of money which used to be put to the subsidisation of pickled meat, we would subsidise a greater number of bags of this sugar; and I think you can safely say that we will get 60,000 bags of this sugar subsidised this year. We hope that those persons who use this sugar will find it convenient to purchase a greater amount of it than used to be purchased when only 40,000 bags were subsidised.

I beg to move that the sum of $307,703 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question that the sum of $307,703 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

6.10 p.m.

CONTRIBUTION FROM REVENUE

Head XLIII - CONTRIBUTION FROM REVENUE.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $750,000 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

POST OFFICE

ANNEXED ESTIMATES - POST OFFICE was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to increase this Head by $6,000, and I therefore beg to move that the sum of $323,350 be voted under this Head

Hon D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmawithout division and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move tha this Sitting be now suspended for half an hour.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: 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.

6.20 p.m.

On re-assembling,

HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting of the House was suspended, the House was in Committee on the Estimates, 1958-59.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair and the House resumed Committee on the Estimates, Mr. L. E. SMITH being in the Chair.

HOUSING

Head - HOUSING was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $1,126 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

WATER SUPPLIES

Head - WATER SUPPLIES was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that sum of $293,469 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that

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

MEDICAL SERVICES

Head - MEDICAL SERVICES was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $140,000 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

EDUCATION

Head - EDUCATION was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $860,803 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

AGRICULTURE

Head - AGRICULTURE was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr Chairman, I am asking leave to increase this amount $955,600 to $967,600. That is an increase of $12,000. My motion therefore is that the sum of $967,600 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative on the declaration of Mr. Chairman, "I think the 'Ayes' have it."

Mr MOTTLEY: Do not put it yet.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have already declared it.

Hon M. E. COX: If you do not mind, I would ask that it be re-committed.

Mr MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am only suggesting when you are dealing with the Estimates that it would be much better when making the declaration to turn your face to us.

Hon. M. E. COX: If the hon. member would give way Mr. Chairman, inasmuch as you said that you declared it already - -

Mr CHAIRMAN: How do you mean: "if you said that you declared it already?" Did you not hear me declare it?

Hon. M. E. COX: I am sorry I said it like that, Sir. I beg to move that this Item be re-committed.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that

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

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $967,600 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr MOTTLEY: I thank the Hon. Leader of the House for the courtesy of recommitting this Head. As regards Item 4, Cheapside Market, for which the sum

of $72,000 is voted to convert the Cheapside Bond into a market, will the Hon. Minister tell us something of the plans? What does he propose to do there? This comes under the portfolio of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture. I really would like to know something more about this Item. As you will recall, there were recommendations sent in as a result of a request by Government for various sites around the City suitable for markets but before I say anything more, I would like the Hon. Minister to explain the matter. If this vote is for the conversion of the Cheapside Bond into a vegetable market, surely you must have some plans.

Mr. BRANCKER: Before the Hon. Minister explains that, Mr. Chairman, can he also tell us something about the small holders tractor service? I understand that there are complaints that this service is not adequate to all parts of the island and only in one or two parishes is this service being made available to the peasants. I would like the Minister to explain what is the policy of providing this service to the peasants all over the island and whether there are enough tractors to serve the small holders or whether there is an adequate number of tractors. There are these complaints by peasants that the service does not seem to apply to them.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Chairman, as regards the question asked by the hon. senior member for the City, I should like to tell him that this money is for the renovation of the present market which is now known as the Rum Bond. Now that the Central Market is completed, it has become obvious that that cannot take all the hucksters off the streets; therefore you will have to make provision for the other hucksters. We are renovating this Rum Bond into a new market so that we can put the remainder of the hucksters in it.

As regards the question asked by the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, I should like to tell him that so far as the peasants tractor service is concerned, only a pilot scheme has been operating in three parishes. Unfortunately, before my taking over this Ministry, a heavy tractor was ordered and it is not suited for this type of work. It can not be done in the manner which one would like unless one is in the know.' We have also tried to get around to the economics of it and the adaptability of the tractor service, but it is not so easy as hon. member may think. As I have said, that machine which was ordered is too big; and so to help peasants in the other parishes we would have to get at least two smaller tractors. This would cost much more money than what is allocated to this particular scheme.

What happens is that somebody in one district may have a half acre of land to till for which he might send in his order for this service about two months, but nobody else in that particular district might send in an order to have his plot tilled; therefore, you have to get that tractor there to do only a half acre plot which is uneconomic. When you take into account the economics of the thing, it is a big problem. I may also say that since the price of canes is so attractive, very few peasants are taking up with the planting of food crops. They are trying to cultivate all the land they have in canes; therefore, they are not digging up the cane stumps. We make plantations grow food crops but the peasants are taking advantage of that and ratooning all their lands and not planting food crops. Plantation owners come in and say that we are making them plant food crops but we are not making the peasants do that. We have to face the fact that we would have to spend more money on this particular scheme if we are to carry this service into the other parishes. I may also say that even now in St. Philip, Christ Church and St. George where the service is operating, we are not getting so many calls. 7.15 p.m.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Those people who have their lands planted in canes prefer to grow canes rather than yams or potatoes; but you can rest assured that the scheme has not been abandoned. However, we have to subsidise it to a very great height,because we have to move this big machine from place to place and you do not get everybody in the same area wanting to plough. You cannot break up the road with this heavy machine for five miles or so. You have to know the disadvantages and the problems which this matter will pose. We are really willing to carry through this scheme, but we have to come down to the House for smaller machines.

Mr BRANCKER: I thank the hon. member for what he has said, but he has not really given us much for which to hope. He has said that he has to pursue this policy; do we take it that the Government approves of this policy and will come to the Legislature to make provision for these smaller machines? Has it yet been decided that that is the policy and that they will come down to the House with it? It must be their policy if they will, as soon as possible, come down to this House with a Resolution to provide money for the purchase of these machines. I do not know who is responsible for the ordering of these machines; I suppose the Government went on the advice of somebody from the Department of Science and Agriculture, and could they not get a second hand price for the one which is too big? How long are they going to take to decide that it will be their policy to get the two smaller machines? I think that the parishes of Christ Church and St. Philip have the use of this big machine. I hope that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, despite where he sits, will not adopt any parochial attitude with regard to matters of this kind. I hope it is not simply because St. Philip is the parish which he represents and the parish with which he is connected, that this machine is being used up there.

Mr Chairman, it is time that we have a statement from the Government, because the peasants are continually complaining that they cannot get the use of this tractor. A lot of people may not know that the Government is contemplating ordering two small machines, but I am wondering if two machines will turn out to be an adequate number. I feel that at least three machines will be necessary to provide the services which the small holders say they need. I sincerely trust that the Hon. Minister will make up his mind and come down to this House and ask us to grant the supply of these machines.

Mr MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, we do appreciate what the Hon. Minister has said. I have had some experience in getting statistics which cover this matter of the market. We appreciate that the market which has been built in Fairchild Street, will not be able to accommodate the number of persons who offer their ware in this City for sale. While we appreciate the stand which has been taken by the Government to convert the Spirit bond into a market, yet the Hon. Minister should appreciate the reasons why the people did not occupy that market. That market is housed in by property all around it and as to the side from which you expect to get air, you cannot get any. I hope that a proper use will be made of this market and the Minister will not be prejudiced by those persons whose view it is to build a North country market.

While we appreciate what is being done here, this market will have to carry people from Milkmarket and other places; these people will have to go into that area. I hope that before the Government allow whoever is responsible for converting this market, to do this work, they will take steps to see that proper ventilation is provided. Nothing an be worse than having many people congregating in any given area where the ventilation is poor. This place is closed in and people suffer great inconvenience. I am wondering if the Government contemplates obtaining the land towards the town side of the market, so that you can have the entire area around there for the market, and also that the people will be able to get more air. I am suggesting that the area used by the cooperage should be connected with the market, so that you would have some means of getting proper air and ventilation. If it is your intention of converting this building into a market by just changing the windows, then it will be a failure agai_, because this place was never built for a market. Everybody knows that the wrong plan came down for this market; I think the plan which is ours went to Wales. However, if the entire area around there is blocked in, I do not think we will have

a good job. I think that the entire area should be acquired under the Compulsory Purchase Act and then you would have the Temple Yard and you could use it as a one-way street. In that way you will have the entire area there. Thinking of Lukes Alley, Busby's Alley, Temple Yard and so on, we will take in that area; and thinking of all the areas, according to Public Health standards under which people are allowed to offer their ware in a market, I cannot see that the area which you now have in the market is sufficient.
7.25 p m.

I hope the Minister will pay great attention to this, because public health standards demand a certain area for people offering their ware in a market, and if you look at the record and see the persons who do trade in this area from Mondays to Saturdays, I doubt whether that area would hold them. I feel however, you can make it do instead of taking them to another place, especially if you still have the open area and if you retain the trees which I would like to see retained before going to spend $72,000. I suggest that you should make every possible step to see that you provide some place for the type of market which you would open. Provision can be made for lockers inside, but what is necessary in the City in my opinion is the provision of enough space where air can come in. We have not got to the stage of using air-conditioning in markets; you do not find it in the super markets in America.

I should like the Minister to enlighten me on Item 8 "Soil conservation." The note reads as follows: "Provision to cover emoluments and other charges of Senior Conservation Officer and Staff, purchase of equipment, acquisition of land, and other expenses of conservation programme."

I hope the Minister will be able to give the House an answer if he cannot answer now. No doubt you are doing a very good job, in my opinion, in St. Andrew, which is long overdue. You are conserving land from sliding about, very little of which is the property of Government, and I, as well as the public would like to know what is going to be Government's position after you have reclaimed such land. Is it proposed that they should share in the expense or are they paying for it? You cannot abandon the parish of St. Andrew which is an agricultural district with a large population, and surely we must know, if you are spending money on land which you do not at present own, and if you are going to enhance the value for the present owners, what are Government's proposals. I think we ought to know that when we are voting this money

If the Hon. Minister cannot give an answer now, I am perfectly willing to accept that he cannot give it, but I would be more than grateful to get the information because I have been asked similar questions. Although I do not represent the very inportant constituency of St. Andrew, we are a collection of ambassadors; and just as Government is responsible it is as much my responsibility how money is spent in St. Andrew as in Bridgetown on a public market, and therefore Government should give us some information.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Under Item 5, there is an amount of $20,000 to be voted for Small-holders' Irrigation Scheme.

At this time of the year, everybody in the island is very interested in the possibility of irrigation because the present drought which we are passing through will affect next year's crop, therefore if this is being erected now — and I see some at Sandy Lane and on the land at Pine Plantation, St. Michael — undoubtedly the young crop will be benefiting by the present irrigation going on. I see here small-holders' irrigation, and I wonder if there is any irrigation scheme from which the plantations are benefiting or can benefit because when we think of irrigation we think of the entire island whether it is for small-holders or big plantations. I do not know if they are covered under the Act, but if they are I suppose the small-holders are. Why is there this scheme for them and no mention of a scheme running parallel for the plantations? If we go on getting drought our crops will go down, and if we are caught without making preparation for what may be a few lean years, we will be in a very bad way. That is why every person in Barbados today is very interested in the possibility of an irrigation scheme to benefit the entire island. I should like the Minister to tell me whether there is a scheme for the plantations, which is being supported by Government in a capital way.

Mr. THORNE: Mr. Chairman, speaking under Item 2 - Fisheries Development, I should like to say that I feel I owe it as a duty to the members of my constituency in the first place, and secondly to Government, to comment on and to draw Government's attention to the fact that it would be a lamentable error to allow that part of the fishing centre at Martin's Bay to become defunct. I happen to know Mr. Chairman, that by reason of information which Government has received they consider it of little importance; but I should like to say that it is a very important centre, because it caters to more than half of the area of St. John. At the moment the folk in St. John find it very difficult to get fresh fish because there are only one or two fishing units at this Bay now. That state of affairs is due to the fact that by reason of the introduction of fishing launches, the sail-boats which were formerly used at this particular Bay have been allowed to go into disuse because the fishermen are no longer willing to work them. I happen to know that the people who really were responsible for putting fishing boats at this particular centre would be willing to put launches there if a smaller type of engine could be obtained for the launches. At present they would have to use a big engine and they would have to have boats which would be more or less unweildly, and as no provision is made for hauling up boats at this centre the fishermen are loth to work there; so I am suggesting to Government that it would be doing a great service to the people of St. John if it would be prepared to investigate the possibilities of using a smaller engine in fishing boats so that smaller boats can be used at Martin's Bay - a boat which could be used by a man and a boy very conveniently.
7 35 p.m.

That type of boat I am sure would be more or less appreciated by the people in that part of St. John and people in that part of St. John will be supplied with fish.

Mrs. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the Hon. Minister and I do not know about the island in general but speaking for the constituency of St. Andrew and what is my experience up there, it is true to say that the majority of peasants believe in planting more canes than food crops. It is also my experience that most of the peasants get their canes reaped in the early part of the crop season and then they get the land planted up with a short crop and force back the cane crop too. There are quite a number of them who have the land supplied and they are using a small tractor, but it is very difficult for them to get it when the plantations have their work to do. I know many of them who experience great difficulty in getting their land ploughed.

I am trying to get information now because I must confess I have very little knowledge of it. Why is it that you cannot get a few small tractors? What was passing through my mind is this! if the large tractor was imported before the time of the present holder of the office of Minister of Agriculture, I think that tractor could be transferred to the Highways and Transport Department and you can get in return one of the small tractors, or I think a few of those small tractors could be exchanged so as to help peasants to get their soil ploughed. I know the peasants from my constituency go as far as Black Bess, St. Peter, so as to get a tractor to have their land cultivated. As the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has said, it is very expensive when you have to do this work. I do not remember what is the price charged for doing it, but in my opinion when labourers fork the soil, they do not fork it as deep as to take the cane roots out of the soil.

I know it is not a question of depriving people of the opportunity of earning their living.

What has also been worrying my mind is this same question. It is quite alright to ask the plantation owners, or at least to compel them, to plant food crops but I think in the interest of the peasants themselves the Government should not have to tell them to grow food crops; they should do so without having to be told. They know that food crops bring a good price too, because I can assure you that up to last Sunday I bought a pound of string beans for 48 cents. As an hon. member has said, it is a question of organisation so as to grow these vegetable and food crops. You are making quite a lot of money out of them and every housewife knows how much they have to spend in getting these vegetables.

It would be a good thing if the Hon. Minister can enlighten me on this matter so that when peasants from my constituency ask me a question about it, I would be able to tell them something about it. Every now and then, they come to me asking me what is Government doing about the matter. That is because they have been hearing for so long that Government was voting money for this purpose. I would be very glad if the Hon. Minister can enlighten me on the matter.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on Item 4, the Cheapside Market. I have had quite a lot to do with these markets and now I notice that the Government after at one time condemning this very market- and they had very good reasons for condemning it - are going back on their word and they propose to make some alterations for converting it back into a vegetable market. I wonder if it is like the saying: "the dog returned to his vomit."

The hon. senior member for the City made mention of purchasing the Temple Yard Cooperage which belongs to Mr. Wilkinson. At one time, at a meeting of the St. Michael's Vestry it was suggested to convert the Temple Yard Cooperage into a market and in order to do so it was suggested to purchase the site from Mr. Wilkinson. I vehemently opposed the idea not because I wanted to deny Mr. Wilkinson getting a sale for this place which carries on hardly any business now, but because I always felt that the area was not a suitable place for a general market, but suitable as a fish market or a butchery, or for things of that sort where you have the sea right behind it so that you can dispose of blood and such things.

If it is Government's decision to convert the Cheapside bond which was once a market back into a general market, I now find myself in the position of agreeing with the hon. senior member for the City that the Government should purchase the Temple Yard Cooperage from Mr. Wilkinson. And I will give you my reasons why you should do it. One of the main reasons why that market proved unsuitable is because it was always like an oven; it was always too hot. I have a little idea of building construction and I happen to know that no matter what you do to reconvert the present building into a market, no matter how large you make the windows, the building is still going to be hot as long as you have that high wall above you which is owned by Mr. Wilkinson. Mr. Chairman, it is with that in mind that I will agree now to the Government purchasing that building from Mr. Wilkinson because if you want to maintain a suitable market there, you will have to purchase the Cooperage.

It is not only from the point of view of giving air to the market but it is also for another reason too. I have seen a lovely market in St. Lucia and another equally as good in Jamaica and those markets have with open air spaces; therefore you can have the hawkers out in the open air, let alone those who wish to go in the building. In those two places which I have mentioned, you have the hawkers sitting under the trees. I think it would be a wise thing now the Government is anticipating spending $72,000 by way of converting that building, for it to purchase also the cooperage above it.

Now that it is Government's policy, I will have to agree to that. In my opinion the Cheapside market is what I would call a cul-de sac; you only get people going in that direction when they are going to Kensington to watch football or cricket. Now that Government has a Central Market, I daresay that they took into consideration the cost of purchasing one or two of the other building sites which were suggested to them and also having to demolish them, and that is why they came to the conclusion to use the Cheapside Market again as a market. I repeat, it will be a total failure again unless they purchase the cooperage above it where they can take down the high wall and have an open space there. I find myself agreeing now to the purchasing of the very cooperage which was something to which I was opposed: so I am calling on Government to see the wisdom of purchasing that building.

7.45 p.m.

Unless you do that, it will be a failure. You cannot build windows big enough and have them wide enough so that the market will not be an oven. It was a case of mercy when this building was a spirit bond that you did not have any serious occurrence there.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: In reply to the hon. senior member for the City as regards the soil conservation area, a Bill should have been in the hands of hon. members by now, setting out exactly what has been done as regards that area. I am sorry that hon. members have not yet received their copies of that Bill; however, I think that notice of this Bill was given last week, so that very soon from now, hon. members will have the Bill in their hands.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. If the hon. member is au fait with the situation, let him say so; but let him not just say that a Bill will soon be in our hands. Obviously, if the Bill were in my hands, I would not have asked that question. If the hon. member has not got the information at his fingertips, then let him say so. The question is posed as to whether, in view of the fact that much of the lands which will be acquired will not be Government lands, but lands belonging to the plantations and which will be enhanced in value, what is the Government's intention in respect of these lands when we reclaim that area? We agree that you are doing a wonderful job, but if we see a job is being done - it is not like British Guiana where the Government is building-

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is too long for a point of order; that is a speech.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I will take my seat, but I will get up again and say what I want to say.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I thought that the hon. member wanted information and that is why I said that a Bill would be put into his hands. If he wants the point answered, I will answer it, but it will pose a lot more questions. We have a pilot scheme at the moment and we have entered upon people's land even without proper legislation. Therefore, before we can go much further, we must have the legislation which will give the facts as to what we are doing. If the people have not got all the money, we will charge them and allow them to pay it. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Thank you.) In reply to the hon. junior member for St. Peter, Small holders are being helped by the scheme. We have a new scheme whereby, if you put up one half of the money, the Government will provide the other half. When you put onehalf of the money, and you make application, you will get your allowance. We have three such schemes on foot - one at the Pine, one at Sandy Hill, St. Philip, and one at the Hope, St. Lucy. They are carrying on and we are getting statistics from them all; they are doing a good job in improving their tonnage. Therefore, there are three such plantations which are carrying on irrigation and we are getting statistics from them from time to time.

As regards Martin's Bay, what is true of that locality is also true of Foul Bay, St. Philip. You have beaches which have better mooring facilities than others.

As soon as the fishermen group together with their powered boats, they forsake certain areas. Whenever you go in for development, you get certain things left behind; it is like big business. You will find that if a man puts capital in his business, he will wipe out the business of other people who cannot do that. Foul Bay is almost isolated now; the fishermen say that it is of no use going there nowadays, and they go to the Crane and other beaches. We are bringing down certain specifications for certain boats, because we find that the old boats do not pay. If Martins Bay is to remain in the picture, then the fishermen will have to carry the same boats as are used in other places. Certain new men will come along and as soon as they come, they desire other things. I am not saying that that cannot be helped, but the improvement with which we plan to help Consett Bay will facilitate conditions up there. The Fishery Officers have reported that only one or two fishermen are keen on going to Martins Bay and that the others want to go further afield for which improvement has been made for them.
7.55 p.m.

As regards the point raised by the hon. senior member for the City, a delegation of us visited that site, but the price asked for land in that area is something fantastic. With the Deep Water Harbour coming along in that area, Government will have to freeze the price of land because people are asking fantastic prices. When one hears that Government wants to acquire a property, twice the value is asked for it, and that is why we have to acquire it compulsorily; we have to negotiate with them as though they were foreigners; they want to get as much as they can. We wa t to get ahead with the market in order to get these people off the road; we have to make people market conscious. This is a slow revolutionary period; we are trying to make people go to markets when they want to buy something, so that the people would know where to send their produce and the consumers would know where to get what they want We want to concentrate on markets all over the island and make people market conscious , but we cannot enforce the rule until we take some more people off the streets.

According to the plans shown to me and what the Architect has in mind, I can assure you that when we finish spending this money we will have a beautiful place. I questioned the amount of $72,000 at first, but it is intended to carry on making the place more habitable. I think that should answer the hon. member's question.

As far as the tractor service is concerned, I think we will have to have a service at Haggatts. (A VOICE: What about the Leewards?) That would be a lot of money, so as long as hon. members will vote the money, I will bring down the scheme; but I want you to know it is a matter of acquiring the land, and this would never pay. We will have to subsidise it extensively. We have gone into the figures and I can assure you that it is going to cost a lot of money to carry it all over the island; but if it is the wish of the House to carry it all over the island, I can bring it down as long as you will vote the money.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Item 2 - Fisheries Development, I see that the estimated expenditure for the current year is $17,000. The note claims that we are going to provide for the erection of a jetty at Consetts Bay, St. John, the acquisition of beach rights, presumably at Consetts Bay, and the purchase of experimental gear. You are also providing for the erection of a fish market at Browne's Beach, Bay Street. It is further stated that the increase in estimated cost is due to higher cost of acquiring properties adjoining Browne's Beach.

Browne's Beach is an area where land is more or less expensive, I presume; but the erection in that area of a market of sizeable proportions would go a long way towards improving the appearance of the area, especially when there is a glut of fish for sale there. Numbers of fishing boats come in there and the public is well accustomed to purchasing their fish there, and it is therefore just as well that we should provide proper marketing amenities.

Now also serving a very useful purpose would be this jetty at Consetts Bay, because those of us who know the Bay would appreciate the importance of providing a facility like this in that particular area. But the conditions, Sir, at Skeete's Bay in St. Philip are no less perilous than the position at Consetts Bay from a certain point of view, and to some extent it is worse because the jetty itself would only improve the landing facilities. While landing facilities are needed at Skeete's Bay, there is this old thorny problem of providing some sort of highway for fishermen to take their catches from the beach to the highway. All the boats are mechanised, because the boats which are not mechanised are now only rotten hulls. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that if you were to go there you would see them falling apart, not one or two, but quite a number of them on the beach, deteriorated beyond use; and the mechanised boats presumably were mechanised with the idea of bringing in a lot more fish. The increase in fish brought in there now over and above what the old sail boats brought in multiplies to a similar proportion the difficulties in getting these fish to the highway. It would not be an expensive project to acquire the land to make this roadway by the hill-side.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: On a point of order. I think I should inform the hon. member that steps are being taken to build a road from the beach to the hill.
8.05 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I know that but I see no mention of it at all in the Estimates; I only see reference to Consetts Bay. If at long last it has been decided to start the road, I am very delighted to hear because I was up there up to a few days ago and the complaints were numerous over the difficulty in getting fish up there and the Government should in paying attention to the other beaches bear in mind the long outstanding claims for Skeetes Bay to have some attention.

The question that the sum of $967,600 be voted under Head VII - Agriculture was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

COMMUNICATIONS

Head VIII - Communications was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of $878,475 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

MISCELLANEOUS

Head IX - Miscellaneous was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of $239,403 be voted under this Head.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, as to the Item 2, Fire Stations, rural areas, for which the sum of $90,000 is to be voted, I want to know if rural areas include the one which was proposed to be put at Porters, St James. I am wondering what is causing the delay as regards that I understand that it was the intention of Government to start these two fire stations early this year. We are called upon to revote this money. We are asked to vote $90,000 in respect of Item 2 and it does not seem as if we are any nearer in getting these two fire stations, especially the one in St. James. Is there any holdup to the matter? Is there any trouble in getting the land at Porters where it was originally intended that this fire station in St. James was to be erected?

As regards Item 3, Post Offices, the note says Post Office and Branch Library for St. George. Estimate of cost increased by $3,000 to meet increase in wage rates. Now I would like to get some information as to whether that sum is also intended to do something about the new post Office and Branch Library for the parish of St. Lucy.

It would not look so parochial. I see the Item says "Post Offices" which is in the plural, but then the note only makes mention of a Post Office and Branch Library for St. George. I wonder if it is a printer's error and the post office which was to be erected at St. Lucy is left out. As you know, a post office is a place where you have to deal not only with mails but you also have people there who have to deal with old age pensions. I would really like to know if this Item, Post Offices, is for another post office besides the St. George Post Office and Branch library.

As regards Item 4, the sum of $60,000, which is a revised estimate is the amount to be voted for Public Library. The note says: "the revised estimated cost of the extensions required at the Public Library together with the cost of acquiring the necessary land is now $60,000."

When they have a sum allocated to do a certain job they delay about it and then they have to come and get an increased vote. The sum of $40,000 was estimated for this and now we are asked to revote that amount and $20,000 along with it, making it $60,000. It is just as Item 2, Fire Stations, rural areas, where the amount of $86,000 which these buildings were estimated to cost in the Development Plan, has been increased to $90,000 to meet the increased cost due to salaries. The policy of procrastination in building is a very unwise one. You have money passed to provide for buildings. Do not keep the people waiting indefinitely and then your having to pay more through procrastination.

I will again throw out my yearly suggestion. I hope that when we would have extended the Public Library that there would be facilities there for it being opened at night, at least as late as the last bus, that is until 10 p.m., so that people who cannot spend any time there during the day will have the opportunity to go there at night to read and improve themselves in time to catch the 10 o'clock or 10.30 o'clock bus which ever happens to be the last bus leaving at night.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Sir, I know that it is proposed to spend $30,000 to provide new accommodation to house the Old Age Pension Officers in St. Michael. I really think, Sir, that the time has come when the Government should consider posting the old age pension to all pensioners. Many of these old people live at some distances from the post offices and it is with the utmost difficulty that they can get to the Post Offices on pension days. I also know of many who out of the small amount they get weekly have to pay somebody to go to the Post Office and draw it for them because they are physically incapable to go themselves. It does appear to me that the money should be posted by way of a money order or a Government draft or in a way which any shopkeeper or business man in the area would be able to cash for them when appropriately endorsed. It would cost very much less than the present system of payment. Nor would it be putting anybody out of a job because in most cases the Payment Officers are now doing other work in the Public Service at these payment offices as Postmasters or Postmistresses or in some other way employed in the Postal Service. It would facilitate Old Age Pensioners if that were done.

The fact that you are an Old Age Pensioner means that you have reached a certain age and as is fairly obvious, advanced age is always accompanied by physical disabilities. Other than that, there is many an Old Age Pensioner who lives alone or who has no close family and who for health or other reasons might find it impossible to go to the payment office on the particular day of payment because, as you are aware, these pensions are paid on a particular day. I believe some beginning or some experiment could be made with a view of discovering whether or not payment by post would not facilitate the people who get these small pensions.
8.15 p.m.

Nothing should be done to create any hardships on these people who are enjoying this small allowance. I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that in your constituency, you must know of pensioners who, in order to get their pension, have to walk for two or three miles, sometimes further than that, people whose health does not enable them easily to withstand the difficulties and physical disablements of queuing up for a long time at the payment offices. Let the pension be posted to these old people and so saves them the necessity of treking and trudging for long weary miles-and very often they are hungry-in order to get their amounts at the end of the week. I have seen a pension officer in a rural parish who had been so drawn out of sympathy towards the plight of those who come for their pension, that he used to instruct his cook to give them a cup of coffee so as to revive them for the long trek back home.

It does appear to me that no harm could result, and certainly, it would be a welcome change and it might facilitate matters, if, in some cases these pensions were posted to these people.

The question that the sum of $239,403 be voted under this Head was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS THE PASSING OF RESOLUTIONS

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report the passing in Committee of Resolutions totalling $17,423,368, being the Estimates for the financial Year 1958-59.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

On motions of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER in each case, these Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr Speaker, I am asking leave to give notice of a Bill and a Resolution.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill intituled an Act to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the year ending on the 31st March, 1959.

Hon. M. E. COX: I also beg to give notice of a Resolution for the sum of $10,519,531. I should also like to give notice of my intention to ask for leave to move the suspension of Rules 88 & 89 in order to deal with this Bill and this Resolution in all their stages today.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that a Bill intituled an Act to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the year ending on the 31st March, 1958, be now read a first time.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that

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

8.25 p.m.

LEAVE TO SUSPEND RULES 88 & 89

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to suspend Rules 88 & 89 to deal with the money Resolution and the Bill of which I have just given notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to suspend Rules 88 & 89, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection leave was granted.

On motion of Hon. M. E. COX seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER, Rules 88 & 89 were suspended.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, the Appropriation Bill is rather formal, and I beg to move that it be now read a second time.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

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

Hon M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee and that it be an instruction to the House while in Committee to take the Bill as read.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee Mr. L. E. SMITH being in the Chair.

Clauses 1–6 inclusive and the Schedule were passed.

Hon M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Your Honour do now report the passing of a Bill in Committee.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: 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 separate motions of Hon. M. E. COX seconded in each case by Hon. D. D. GARNER, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, and that it be an instruction to the House while in Committee to deal with the money Resolution for $10,519,531 of which notice has been given.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative wihtout division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. L. E. SMITH being in the Chair.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if you could give instructions that we be furnished with copies? I personally have not received one. I notice that notice was given on March 4th of this year.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of $10,519,531 do now pass.

Hon D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, we are allocating $1/2 million this year to finance the operation of the Development Board. Last year the amount spent was hali of that $250,000.

Now I recall that we have been told that the entire allocation for this year .

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of order. The hon. member was not here, but these Resolutions have already been passed. All we have to discuss now is the Resolution dealing with transport; the other Resolutions were passed by this Committee already, and I am sorry that the hon. member was not here.

8 35 p.m.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, as regards this question of the purchase of buses, may I enquire how many buses is it proposed to purchase for the $604,000 and of that number, what type of buses will be purchased? How many Leyland; how many Merceded Benz and how many of any other nature or description of the number will be purchased with that $604,000? Will you also tell me if that will bring the fleet up to what it was when the Transport Board took over; or will that bring it to a number greater than that?

As you know, Private concessionaires were told that they would have to increase the number of their buses as well as to replace those which were outworn. This amount seems to me to be sufficient to provide for 25 new buses. Would this number bring the fleet up to the number which was taken over by the Government from the private concessionaires as to the routes which the Transport Board is now looking after? Is this the final amount proposed to be voted for buses apart from that required for replacing them when they become unserviceable or is it intended to come back again with a resolution with an amount to bring them up to the number which the private concessionaires were told that they would have to bring their fleet up to when they said that they could not afford to do so without increased bus fares?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, as the hon. member is aware, we have voted in the Current Estimates $300,000 for the purchase of buses but we have already agreed because it was accepted when the Five-Year Plan was being considered that orders might be placed for other buses costing up to $70,000. I think I should tell the House that the $300,000 has not all been spent, though it is committed because under the terms through which these buses are supplied, you pay down part of the amount, so that this $604,000 is to meet the initial payment. Then there are a number of outstanding commitments. The six Leylands which have recently arrived are taking up an amount of $67,000, so that this amount which we are now asked to vote is the balance of the total put in the Five Year Plan.

Now, Sir, I may tell the hon. member that the number of buses which can be purchased will depend on whether we continue with the 8' - wide buses or whether we have a narrower bus. I feel that the limit has been reached with respect to the need of the 8' - wide buses. I feel tha t due to the width of our roads and the fact that we have to service some of the feeder routes in the country areas owing to the displacement of the old type of buses with new buses, we should shift to the narrower type of bus. Of course, the House will appreciate that it is a matter to be discussed so to speak with the Transport Board and I therefore cannot say what will happen. These narrower buses, probably by being a little smaller, will cost less; and if that is so, we would be able to buy more with the amount which we have in hand.

I think I can assure the hon. member that we will take advantage of the greater number of buses which can be provided with this sum so as to bring us up to the necessary strength. Of course, the Five-Year Plan is not the law of the Medes and the Persians and if at any time it is necessary to come back to the House so long as money can be found for additions to the fleet - let us say over a number of years should the travelling public increase and it may be found necessary to increase the number of units - we will come back.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, thanks for the reply given by the Hon. Minister. As they might have figured it out, $604,000 would provide about 25 new buses. Well, as he says, narrower buses would be cheaper; so that would make allowances for more buses. I will support

in principle the use of narrower buses because despite the increases in the width of roads at narrow bends where it is possible to increase the width - we see it being done at the bend of St. Stephen's Road - our roads would still remain too narrow for the present units to travel with that degree of safety which is necessary. It is my experience that when one Transport Board Bus is meeting the other almost invariably the drivers stop and there is an exchange of views sometimes for a minute and a half. While the driver of one bus is exchanging views with the other there is an absolutely complete block of the road; as a matter of fact, it is really a thing which I would like the Ministers to see. I do not know if they travel on the local routes. If they do, they would see what I am speaking of. When they stop these buses are parallel, the front of one is alongside the front part of the other.

I would like to get an assurance that the present Transport Board is ordering sufficient buses to make provision for as many passengers as was required of the private concessionaires whose routes the Transport Board is now running. I would go further and say that if there is an increase of the travelling public over what it was in 1955 when the private concessionaires gave up their buses, that you should provide accommodation for even more people than the private concessionaires were called upon to make provision.

8.45 p.m.

They threw in the sponge, saying that without increased bus fares they could not provide increase new units. Up to today, one sees on the road several people at stop poles at peak periods waiting for buses or asking for "lifts". All along the road from Derricks down, one sees people looking and entreating you to stop and give them a "lift'. As you know, Sir, that is the situation; there is not enough accommodation for passengers now. If they have the buses now, they are not putting a sufficient number of them on the road at peak hours. If it were the concessionaires running these buses, the Board would have been threatening them to take away the concessions from them, but now there is nobody to see about this matter in respect of the Transport Board. It is of no use believing that the bus service is better than what it used to be; you can only prove that by disposing of the large number of persons who are at the stop poles at the peak hours waiting for the bus service.

Another matter is that the buses are not being run according to schedule. When buses should leave at 10 o'clock at night for instance, they leave at five minutes before 10 o'clock; the people then feel that they have missed the last bus and if they have to get a taxi, because a bus is not provided at the time, then the Transport Board should have to pay for the taxi. The buses should not cease to run before the scheduled time. I understand that it is much easier to fulfil an order for the Mercedes Benz than it is to fulfil one for the Leylands and the passengers seem to care more for the Mercedes Benz than for the Leylands. It is a fact that there is a greater manoeuvre-ability with the German made buses and there is no necessity for keeping passengers waiting on the road because the orders for the Mercedes Benz can be fulfilled at anytime.

Mr. CRAWFORD: On that point, Mr. Chairman, neither in appearance, nor in performance can the Leylands be compared with the Mercedes Benz. However, that is not the point on which I have risen. On the question of voting money to buy buses, I understand that these buses cost $25,000 each and that is a lot of money to be collected back in five-cent or ten-cent pieces. I should like to get some information from the Hon. Minister with regard to the financial position as to the operation of these buses. We have all the figures available as to the operational cost; we know what the capital cost is, and it would be a good thing if the Hon. Minister would give us some idea as to what are the possibilities of this service paying its way at some distant date. The running of the buses is one thing, but paying for them out of the revenue which they bring in, or subsidising the transport service, is something else. Let us know what we are in for. When we expend this $600,000 odd this year and we are told of a complete programme, reorganisation or modernization, does it mean that the Transport Board will still continue to lose money or whether the bringing into operation of these new units will mean that we have not got to put our hands every six months or every year into our pockets and pay for the subsidisation of the Transport Service?

Will we go on subsidising this service in perpetuo or will this modernisation mean that the service is a profitable one? We should now be able profitably to arrive at a decision in one way or the other. In my opinion, Mr. Chairman, merely because we have the capital, or we can find the money to buy expensive buses, merely because we can provide new units, it does not mean that all is well with the service and that the balance at the end of the financial year will be on the correct side of the ledger. With the modernization of this transport system and the acquisition of these new buses now in operation with the Transport Board, I do feel that the Hon. Minister should take the public into his confidence on the question of capital expenditure of this magnitude. Being committed to a principle is one thing; but being fully apprised in our minds as to what is likely to be the financial result, is quite another thing. I submit that the Minister should give this information and we are entitled to it.

8.55 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Before the Hon Minister replies, I notice here that in this Resolution, there is an Item "Accommodation for Buses". I would like to know what is meant by that Item.

Hon R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the last question, we are adding accommodation at the present premises at the Old Combermere School at Weymouth with this money which we are voting, for the new buses we have on order.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, all the Minister has said is that they are going to add accommodation. I want to know what he means by accommodation.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I mean covered accommodation.

Mr. MOTTLEY: In other words, you are building a shed. I should just like to say that surely the Minister has had the opportunity to travel and see things; and I wonder whether he thinks there is covered accommodation in London, New York, Paris or anywhere else where there are so many buses. You build covered accommodation so that you can have some place to do repairing. The people in London or New York could not afford to build accommodation for the hundreds of buses they have. What you should have is an enclosed yard and a watchman, but if you continue to build covered accommodation for buses, where would you be? What you are actually doing is putting tin to keep water off tin, and certainly the Minister should review this.

I repeat, the Minister has had the opportunity to travel, so he must have had a look at the big transport places like New York. The money which you are spending here would buy another bus, and if you go on getting buses, with what are you going to cover them? I suggest to you that all you need is a properly fenced in yard with a proper gateway and a watchman. If every time you buy a couple of buses you are going to spend $22,000, that is not good enough; it is extravagant, to say the least, and I think the person at the Transport Board who recommended this should realise that you cannot be so extravagant with the people's money. I am sure the Minister must have seen how many cars are put in garages, let alone buses. What you need is a safe place so that people cannot steal your tyres and what not, but not an expenditure of $22,000 on covered accommodation, and I hope the Minister will take into account what I have said and review the policy of using money for doing this.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, I do not know where the hon. member regards as other places, but I have seen covered accommodation in Puerto Rico and in London. I will however bear his points in mind.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I have not said that the Hon. Minister did not see covered accommodation; he would have seen covered accommodation for the repairing of buses, but he could not have seen covered accommodation for all the buses that run in Puerto Rico or in New York. It is categorically untrue to say that, because they could not afford to do it.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to argue with the hon. member any longer, but as I said, it is a matter for the Transport Board.

As regards the point raised by the hon. senior member for St. Philip, I will point out to him that the absence of any subsidy in the Estimates is an indication, so far as the Board and myself are concerned, that we are very optimistic that we will clear ourselves and come out on the right side of the Ledger. As the Premier announced in his Budget speech, we are revising the fare and stage structure very soon, which we expect will avoid the gloomy picture which we have had in the past.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, there are two other Resolutions. I have appealed to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to let us pass these two Resolutions and then adjourn until Tuesday week. The Resolutions are simple.

The first Resolution is for the sum of $3,000, and I have already passed a draft around to members. Members will see that there are three items which we need to supplement, expenses under the Druggist Act, 1894, travelling allowance under Public Works and Miscellaneous Services.

I beg to move that the sum of $3,000 do now pass.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

9.05 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, this has no right before this Committee.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On what are you going to speak?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am opposing that. I am submitting that you cannot allow it. If, as a matter of fact, you had seen some copies of it, that would be a different matter. As far as what the Hon Minister has said, there are one or two matters in that which are controversial. I am submitting that you cannot accept that at all. I am going to see what is going to happen. On top of that, they have summoned us to attend at 11 o'clock today and they can do so at any time. It is not a matter of such great urgency that this Resolution should be passed in this way. This is an irregularity. If you create such a precedent ---

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not have a copy of it in front of me; therefore I rule it out of order.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you report the passing of one Resolution in Committee.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: I would have supported the motion which was just put before the Committee. As a matter of fact, I told the Hon Leader of the House that I have no objection to that Resolution but I must support the attitude of the hon. senior member for the City who has insisted that these things ought to be circulated before hand. We have been given notice of that Resolution as long ago as the 4th March; today is the 13th March which is a week and two days that have expired and up to now the Government Printery is not gracious enough to supply us with copies of that item. I say again that the Government Printery is not functioning as good as our staff, and our staff should not be called upon to leave its work alone to cyclostyle these copies. It is not good enough that the people in the Government Printery should continue to treat us in the cavalier fashion which they have been doing. There is something wrong with that staff because something is wrong at the top and that accounts for these things happening. Even the Advocate, as bad as it was, is not as bad as the Government Printing Office.

I think it is correct that that Resolution should not have been pressed through though it does not seem to be controversial because if you create a precedent, we would have something worse happening later on.
It is well that we stick to the principle of having before us everything that we are called upon to consider so that we will really know what we are dealing with and I hope the Hon. Minister will let the Government Printery know that it is not good enough for them not to be printing our work in time. I understand that there is certain machinery which they have not got. Whether it has not been ordered, whether there is a lack of knowledge or whether it is that the person who is in charge has not got the best out of his men or whether the staff is not sufficient or is not proficient enough, all that has happened is that this office is not turning out the amount of work it should. Mr. Chairman, I hope it will not happen again.

The question that Mr. Chairman report the passing of one Resolution in Committee was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. Chairman reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. M. E. COX; seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER in each case, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 18th March at 3 o'clock p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is already adjourned until that date. This House now stands adjourned.