

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1958

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 9th October, 1958.

Pursuant to the adjournment the House of Assembly met at 12 o'clock noon today.

PRESENT

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*); Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, (*Leader of the Opposition*); Hon. M. E. COX, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*); His Honour Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., (*Deputy Speaker*); Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr. T. O. BRYAN, (*Chairman of Committees*); Hon. F. E. MILLER, (*Minister of Social Services*); Mr. E. ST. A. HOLDER; Mr. C. E. TALMA; Mrs. E. E. BOURNE; Mr. J. C. TUDOR, M.A.; Hon. D. D. GARNER, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mr. C. B. SEARLES; Hon. L. ST. A. THORNE, (*Minister of Education*); and Mr. G. E. S. STRAUGHN.

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 for confirmation.

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Other Place amendments to the Bill entitled an Act to make provision for the improvement and conservation of the soil and for the preservation of damage or deterioration by erosion to land in certain areas of the Island and for matters connected therewith.

Also, Financial Report of the Accountant General for the month ended 30th April, 1958.

Also, Financial Report of the Accountant General for the month ended 30th June, 1958.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 20) Order, 1958.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 21) Order, 1958.

The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1958.

The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1958.

Statement of sums of money paid over to the Accountant General by the Commissioner of Police during the quarter ended 30th June, 1958.

Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for the five months ended 31st August, 1958.

Barbados Savings Bank - Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

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 30th June, 1958, in respect of the Schemes sanctioned by the Legislature.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Post Office Advances for the payment of Money Orders to 31st of July, 1958.

Reply to question No. 14/1958 asked by Mr. J. E. T. Brancker, M.C.P., regarding the District Post Office in St. Lucy.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Statement of Accounts of Dodds Plantation for the year ended 30th June, 1958.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Reply to question No. 7/1958 asked by Mr. T. W. Miller, M. C. P., regarding the legalising of Game-cock fighting.

Reply to question No. 13/1958 asked by Mr. J. E. T. Brancker, M. C. P., regarding the erection of a Communal Bath and Latrine at Half Moon Fort, St. Lucy.

The Public Health (Importation and Exportation of Human Remains) Regulations, 1958.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:-

Hon. M. E. COX: On behalf of the Hon. Premier, Resolution approving the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 20) Order, 1958".

Resolution approving the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 21) Order, 1958."

Resolution approving the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1958."

Resolution approving the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1958."

Resolution to place the sum of \$12,750 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1958-59, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1958-59 No. 22, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Resolution to place the sum of \$33,513 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1958-59 Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1958-59, No. 23, which form the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: Resolution approving the Regulations "The Public Health (Importation and Exportation of Human Remains) Regulations, 1958".

Hon. M. E. COX: On behalf of the Hon. Premier: A Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the year ended the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight.

Hon. M. E. COX: On my own behalf, A Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: A Bill to provide for the control and regulation of the production of vegetables and the keeping of livestock, and to provide for the control and regulation of the price of articles generally.

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 consider the money Resolutions of which notice has been given.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government of Barbados to initiate discussions with the Federal Government of the West Indies with a view to the immediate holding of a Conference on the widest possible basis having as its object the co-ordination of the economic policies of the several Unit Governments within the Federation.

Mr. WALCOTT: MR. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Trade Union Act, 1939.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER, the Bill to grant an additional sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the year ended the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight, was read a first time.

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

On motion of Hon. D. D. GARNER, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the Bill to provide for the control and regulation of the production of vegetables and the keeping of livestock, and to provide for the control and regulation of the price of articles generally, was read a first time.

On Motion of Mr. WALCOTT, seconded by Mr. TUDOR, the Bill to amend the Trade Union Act, 1939, was read a first time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Hon. L. ST.A. THORNE: Mr. Speaker, before the general business of the House is entered upon, I shall like to apply for three weeks leave of absence on behalf of the hon. junior member for the City.

There being no objection, leave was granted.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the hon. senior member for St. Philip to forward a request of that member for four weeks leave of absence from his duties as a member of this House as from today.

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

ORDER NO. 1 POSTPONED

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to postpone Order No. 1 and to take Order No. 2 as the first Order of the day.

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

PETROLEUM WINNING OPERATIONS TAXATION BILL, 1958

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day now stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour: Second reading of a Bill to provide for the levying and collection of a tax upon the profits arising to persons engaged in petroleum winning operations and to exempt such persons from certain taxes and rates.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, in moving the second reading of this Bill, I shall like to state that this Bill is the result of negotiations and discussions between the Government and the Gulf Oil Company which has the sole right to prospect for the purpose of finding oil throughout the island. I think hon. members are well aware of the fact that it was around 1950 when the Gulf Oil Company was given a licence for just over one-half of the island. 12.35 p.m.

The other half was given by way of an option to the British Union Oil Company under similar terms. However, it was in 1956 when the British Union Oil Company relinquished that right to prospect over the other half of the island and consequently the right was given or transferred to the Gulf Oil Company. The Gulf Oil Company wrote the Government during the same year and pointed out among other things that since July, 1950, the company carried out an extensive programme of exploration which included land and sea seismic work, surface geological studies and the completion of four deep tests, with the fifth being undertaken. The company pointed out at the same time that they had spent approximately \$6 million and up to that time, although they had expended that amount, so far as drilling was concerned, the scheme had proved unsuccessful and so the company was reluctant to carry on any further - or much further - if certain concessions were not made to it by the Government. Among the things asked for by the company was a licence to prospect over the island. In the next place, the Government considered the granting of certain forms of tax relief, in the event that commercial production of oil was encountered, based on a percentage depletion allowance or in the form of a complete tax exemption, until the initial investment capital had been recovered.

The Government considered these two questions and decided without hesitation, I should say, that with regard to the licence for prospecting over the other half of the island to which option was given to the British Union Oil Company but which was not taken, the Government decided to grant them a licence to prospect over the other half of the island. As regards the other request, the Government decided to offer an allowance similar to that which was granted by the United Kingdom Income Tax Act of 1952. As the position is in the United Kingdom, initial and annual allowances are granted a person whose trade or business consists of, or includes the working of a mine, an oil well or other sources of mineral deposits of a wasting nature which are regarded as wasted assets. It is well known that on the basis of capital expenditure incurred in locating and reaching the source of mineral

wealth, the right is related to the resources discovered and the withdrawal therefrom and is a somewhat similar principle to the depletion allowance.

Mr. Speaker, I shall at this stage read what obtains in the United Kingdom. I suppose that hon. members will agree with me that this Measure is a bit of technical legislation and it will be very difficult, with the exception of the economist who is now facing me, for hon. members to follow it; therefore I think I shall have to do some reading on this Bill. The way in which this allowance operates in the United Kingdom is that initial and annual allowances are granted to a person who carries on a trade which consists of or includes the working of a mine, an oil well or other mineral deposits of a wasting nature. The qualifying expenditure for the allowance is capital expenditure incurred in searching for and discovering the test or winning access of the mineral deposits in question and on the construction of any works which are likely to be of little or no value when the source is no longer worked. There are exceptions covering, for example, expenditure on what are known as ancillary rights and expenditure in respect of which relief has already been given by way of capital or other allowances. The amount of such allowance is calculated by applying to the residue of the qualifying expenditure, that is the unclaimed available balance of relief, a fraction of which (a) the numerator represents the output from the source in question during the tax period under assessment; and (b) the denominator represents the sum of that output and the total future output of the source estimated at the end of the tax period or the fraction one-twentieth whichever is the greater.

There is the hypothetical case in which this calculated output under the tax period is 12,000 tons, the total potential future output estimated at the end of the tax period is 188,000 tons and the allowance is then equal to 12,000 over 12,000 plus 188,000 which works out at 6% of the residue of qualifying expenditure. That is the hypothetical case. If the total potential future output had been worse than 228,000 tons, a minimum of 5% would have applied. That is in so far as depletion allowance is concerned. I should have a little more to say on that matter later on. The Government considered the questions which were put up, and agreed in the first place with giving a prospecting licence and in the second place the Government agreed with the request made by the Gulf Oil Company in that particular case. The Government agreed to adopt the system which obtains in the United Kingdom. The Gulf Oil Company did not agree with it and this is what they stated. They stated in the first place that the allowance gave no credit for the cost of exploring barren fields and in the second place, the estimation of the extent of oil resources with reference to a potential field at any given time, presented great technical difficulties. As soon as that was done the Government again gave further consideration to the request; the Gulf Oil Company asked for a tax-free holiday for a period of five years beginning from the date on which the exports commenced unless during this period the exports of oil over a period of thirty consecutive days contained an average of 10,000 barrels, each barrel being 42 gallons and a depletion allowance of 27 1/2 % according to the American principle; and that principle, as hon. members will see, is described in the Bill as incentive allowance.

12.45 p.m.

Further, (c) after the cessation of the tax period, there will be a fifty-fifty tax arrangement which was the second proposal put up by the Gulf Oil Company. The Government considered the request made and agreed to grant the tax period as requested, and agreed to the division of this tax on a fifty-fifty basis, but did not see its way at the time to agree to the depletion allowance which was asked for of 27 1/2%. As a result, we told the Gulf Oil Company that we were willing to discuss the matter further with them, and we agreed in principle, that some sort of percentage allowance would be given.

The Gulf Oil Company brought representatives here, and Government and these representatives including the

Manager of Gulf, discussed the proposals put up by the Gulf Oil Company. We no doubt explained to them at the time that while it is true that in the United States and in Canada these concessions are given - the United States 27 1/2% and certain parts of Canada 33 1/2% depletion allowance - yet in our present almost poverty-stricken position, and bearing in mind the increased population, the demands for social reform and improvement and things of that sort, we told them that we could not agree to the 27 1/2% proposed by them. After a long discussion, the representatives of Gulf Oil Company agreed to accept the figure of 10% which would be regarded as an incentive allowance. That allowance was represented as money which would enable the company in carrying out further exploration work. Suppose, for example, they found a well which gave a million barrels; when that well became exhausted there should be money to assist in carrying out further drilling, and that is what they called at the time a "depletion allowance", but we rather like the term "incentive allowance".

At this stage, I should say that that incentive allowance only applies where the company has agreed to accumulate and carry their profits to the Profit and Loss Account. I was going on to say, Sir, that a tax holiday for five years is a principle which could be regarded similar to that found in the Pioneer Industry Legislation. The five years' exemption would be a fifty-fifty tax only, and other revenue, royalties, rents and so on would continue to accrue, though not of course would income tax.

Perhaps at this stage, I should say, Sir, that in so far as the fifty-fifty tax is concerned, that will not become due until the company is producing, let us say, 10,000 barrels, or even carrying on from the effective date which is called the date after five years. In other words, whichever is less. They have a five-year tax holiday and they also have the 10,000 barrels production which is considered commercial. If for example the company finds within the five years oil in quantities so that they can export 10,000 barrels per day for thirty consecutive days, then the tax holiday ceases, and the Government is entitled to 50% of the net profit; but of course from that 50% the royalty and any tax that might be paid to a Local Government or anything like that will be taken from the Government's amount. I hope that is clear, Sir. If during that five years the Company does not produce 10,000 barrels, then the fifty-fifty tax only comes into being at the end of the five year period, or as I pointed out, whichever is less. If the 10,000 barrels come in during the last year of the five years, then the five year tax holiday no longer exists but automatically ceases, so long as the company is producing 10,000 barrels for thirty consecutive days. If, on the other hand the five years expire before 10,000 barrels are produced, then the fifty-fifty tax comes into force.

Now, Sir, as regards the incentive allowance, this is an allowance which is called a depletion allowance in North American States and Canada, and this allowance is calculated at a percentage rate and includes income tax less royalty, costs and so on. The company in support of its request for these concessions pointed out that considerable expenditure was incurred, and although commercial production may not be encountered, it would be according to the geological information available to the company and the small volumes on reserve, and require deep, difficult and extensive drilling. Secondly, tax costs must be kept at a minimum in order that the company may carry out a reasonably profitable operation.

12.55 p.m.

As I pointed out earlier on, in order to persuade the Gulf Oil Company to remain here and carry out the exploration as well as drilling operations, the Government agreed to these concessions which I mentioned earlier, because I feel sure that with the results already found by the Gulf Oil Company, if the Government did not agree to the various concessions which no doubt already exist in various parts of the world, and the Gulf Oil Company had decided to close down its operations, there would be no hope of any Oil Company coming in and carrying out any further work.

I should also mention at this stage that the Gulf Oil Company also requested the Government to allow them to

consign one-quarter of their interest to a firm called Keer-McGee, registered in the State of Delaware and which has offices in the Oklahoma State. That Company has to work in partnership with the Gulf Oil Company in drilling, at least, this well which is being drilled at Morgan Lewis, St. Andrew. I should also state at this stage that while the Government agreed with the consignment of one-quarter of the Gulf Oil Company interest in this well to the firm, Kerr-McGee, at the same time, the Government holds the Gulf Oil Company responsible for everything and not the firm; neither is there any joint responsibility; so, whatever goes right or wrong, the Gulf Oil Company is solely responsible. On the other hand, in so far as taxes are concerned and as regards the exportation of oil and so on, the firm would be responsible to the Government for that. As a matter of fact, even for that we wanted the Gulf Oil Company to be responsible, but it was pointed out to us that that would be a violation of the laws of the United States of America; so we had to agree with that part. I do not think there can be any harm in that. No doubt, just as the Government will know how much oil is being exported by the Gulf Oil Company, equally so would the Government know much oil is being exported by the firm, Kerr-McGee.

As I have said before, this Bill seeks to implement an agreement reached between the Government and the Company. There are concessions under the Act of 1950 where the Company is not liable to normal income tax and this Government has legislation which is found at Clause 6 of this Bill entitling the Company to a tax free holiday as has been requested by the Company. That tax free holiday is for five years.

As I have already mentioned, a concession holder is made subject to tax at any time after he first commences to export over any period of thirty consecutive days an average of 10,000 barrels or more of petroleum a day or after the expiration of five years from the date at which he first regularly commences to export petroleum, whichever is the earlier. Until that time the concession holder is assured a tax free holiday.

As regards what is the effective date, it is the date after the five years tax free holiday expires or when the Company has exported 10,000 barrels of oil for thirty consecutive days. In addition to the tax holiday mentioned, the Company will also be allowed deductions and allowances which are set out in Clauses 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of this Bill. The deductions under Clause 8 in general cover losses, outgoings and expenses. Then, the Company is also granted a depletion allowance and that is found in Clause 13. Such an allowance depletes capitalised qualifying expenditure at a rate not exceeding 20% where it related to expenditure incurred prior to the effective date, that is, before the end of the tax holiday and at the rate not exceeding 10% where it relates to expenditure incurred after the effective date. The amount of such allowance is to be set off against the profits of the concession holder.

For example, in this case, Sir, in so far as the Gulf Oil Company is concerned, it would be able to carry forward that expenditure from the time it started operations in 1950. I think I should tell the House that the Gulf Oil Company is about \$7 1/2 million out by now without satisfactory results. By that, I mean that up to now no oil has been found in commercial quantities. If I should read further, in Clause 10, the option is granted to the concession holder to accumulate, that is to say, to charge to Profit and Loss Account or to capitalise expenditure defined by Clause 2 as qualifying capital expenditure. If a concession holder elects to accumulate qualifying capital expenditure, then in computing his chargeable profits the Commissioner is required by Clause eleven to deduct such expenditure. If on the other hand a concession holder elects to capitalise qualifying expenditure, he may, if he so desires, claim an allowance termed by clause twelve a depletion allowance.

As I have already mentioned, the Gulf Oil Company's qualified capital expenditure would rank from the time that it started exploration and drilling operations which was in 1950.

I have already mentioned something about incentive allowance, but I will go a little further and say that if the concessionaire wished to receive an incentive allowance, he cannot get a depletion allowance. He either receives an incentive allowance or a depletion allowance; he cannot claim both. If he is prepared to pass the expenses on to the Profit and Loss Account, he will only receive an incentive allowance, but if he is prepared to capitalise and amortize, well then, he receives his depletion allowance. Now, that allowance cannot be more than 20% if as in the case of the Gulf Oil Company, the expenditure took place long before the Bill came into existence, but if you start after the effective time, well, then you can only claim 10%. That was the point which I should have mentioned earlier. 1.05 p.m.

There is a percentage depletion allowance of 10% of the gross income or 50% of the net income on all allowances accepted, whichever is the less. The expression "whichever is less" means that if 10% of the gross income is less than 50% of the net income, then that operates. An incentive allowance cannot be claimed in conjunction with the depletion allowance referred to in Clause 12. These allowances are alternative and the qualifying capital expenditure which has been capitalised is to be reduced by the amount of the incentive allowance claimed. These remarks apply, of course, only when qualifying capital expenditure is capitalised and amortized through either depletion allowance or incentive allowance. If qualifying capital expenditure has accumulated, then no question of depletion allowance can arise, and the right to incentive allowance is unaffected. The Gulf Oil Company's reasons for requesting the inclusion of the system of capitalisation-amortization as against the system of accumulation which would normally be more favourable, are not clear.

Losses can be carried forward for up to ten years. Of the net taxable income after application of allowances which I have mentioned above, one-half forms the assessable tax. From this, however, are deductible all royalties paid by the concessionaire and all amounts paid by him in central or local government taxes, rates and rents, but not in more fees for services rendered. That is set out in Clauses 24 and 25 of the Bill. Thus, the concessionaire's over-all liability to taxation of all kinds will be limited to 50% of his net taxable income.

I mentioned earlier that this Bill is one of a technical nature; it is a lawyer's Bill, I would say. However, as far as I have been able to gather, the Government, in agreeing with this Bill, is no doubt assisting not the Gulf Oil Company so much as it is assisting or helping the island as a whole. No doubt we would all like to see oil found in this country; it would mean very much to this island if additional sources of revenue were to be found and more particularly so, I think, in the case of oil. Mr. Speaker, I have already pointed out that we have done all we considered reasonable to do so as to keep the Gulf Oil Company in this island. I feel confident that hon. members will support this Bill; as a matter of fact, I cannot see how they could do otherwise because if the Gulf Oil Company says that they are finished tomorrow, nobody else is coming here and we may as well face that fact. The Government has considered this question very carefully; as a matter of fact, this question was being considered since the latter part of 1956. As I pointed out earlier, we have had many discussions; legislation has had to be drafted so that the Attorneys for the Gulf Oil Company who are lawyers could see it and they came here on two or three occasions and discussed the various points and had various amendments made and so on. I think that I can say with some amount of certainty and assuredness that both the Government and the Gulf Oil Company are satisfied with the agreement. Consequently we have this Bill before us today.

Mr. Speaker, if there is any further information which this House would like to have on this question I shall be only too glad to give it in so far as I have it within my immediate reach. I do hope that I have been able to explain in my way the more important parts of this Bill, but

again I say that if there is any further explanation needed by hon. members I shall willingly give it. I formally beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. L. ST. A. THORNE: I beg to second that.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the principle of this Bill which has many points to commend it. The principle, as explained by the Hon. Minister, in the first place makes provision whereby the concession holder is granted a tax-free holiday until he first commences to export for thirty consecutive days an average of ten thousand barrels of petroleum a day or after the expiration of five years from the date when he first starts to export petroleum. I was under the impression that that principle obtained already. The Bill goes on further and makes a provision for the concession holder to claim what is called a depletion allowance which at certain times can be at a rate not exceeding 20% provided that it is claimed before the end of five years. If the expenses are incurred after the tax holiday has expired, then the allowance is at the rate of 10%.

1.15 p.m.

In other words, Sir, the depletion allowance can be claimed, and the incentive allowance may also be claimed, but it is not possible to grant both the depletion allowance and the incentive allowance at the same time, because it is set out here that such capital expenditure cannot in any one accounting period be reduced by both a depletion allowance and an incentive allowance, as an incentive allowance cannot be made if a depletion allowance is claimed. In other words there is an incentive allowance at the rate of 10% whereas a depletion allowance can be claimed at the rate of 20% in certain cases, that is, if it is done before the effective date, and in other cases for expenditure after the effective date at the rate of 10%.

This Bill is somewhat complicated but the principle is sound in that it is a means of inducing and encouraging oil companies operating in these parts, and especially in this island where from the very structural formation of the island, drilling for oil is a very expensive business. If the Government were to fail to offer the inducements which are being offered here as well as other incentives and inducements which may be offered, the chances are that the Gulf Oil Company - and they represent one of the biggest oil companies in the world - may give up drilling operations here altogether. This is a Bill which calls for expert handling. It is stated how the Commissioner of Inland Revenue will see after the administering of this Bill, and it is a Bill which an expert on Income Tax would appreciate to the fullest. It is a Bill which should be commended in that it is a means of trying to induce the Gulf Oil Company to continue their exploration work and to induce them to continue employing labour in their search for petroleum.

I would heartily like to support this Bill, and hope that oil would be found here in commercial quantities to induce the Gulf Oil Company to remain here for many a year and provide employment for the unemployed masses.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to associate myself with those remarks by saying that I think the Government should be commended for the principle of this Bill for two reasons chiefly, not only from the point of view that it is an inducement and also that they got the best of certain regulations that obtain in the United Kingdom, but I am especially happy to see that the Government did not swallow lock, stock and barrel the suggestion that the Gulf Oil Company should get a depletion allowance of 27 1/2% as obtains in certain other parts of the world, and that they were very careful to be sure that they gave alternative proposals to the Gulf's terms on that matter. The question of granting the Gulf Oil Company the option of drilling all over the island is one, as a Government spokesman has said, which Government has agreed to without hesitation, and I am certain that that would meet with the approval of all. However, I think we should all keep ourselves on guard from this point of view: there are a few questions which I am certain the Minister will be able to keep us abreast of, even if immediate answers are not available. Where I think especial praise goes to the Government for being sure that they got a compromise of 10% in one stage of the depletion allowance is here; the Gulf Oil Company is one of the major oil companies in the world, as has been said in here, but they should know that

we know that here, in their exploration for oil in a climate in a country like Barbados, is perhaps one of the easiest places where they can get their returns through exploration.

When you think of the world's oil markets as they are today, they either have to drill in the northernmost parts of Canada, in the wilds of Texas in the jungle of Venezuela or in the burning sands of the Middle East, and the Gulf Oil Company are also quite happy that they can come to drill in a place which is as conducive to good drilling and happy exploration operations as they are in this climate of Barbados, and therefore I want Government always to feel that it is not only because we want to keep Gulf here, and therefore we do not have to be sure that they are not offended in any way. World competition is also helping to keep Gulf here. World oil markets are increasing by five or six a year, and there is such competition in the field of drilling for oil that they would be happy to make sure that they explore every square inch of Barbados before they leave to go to the jungle of Sumatra or to the wilds of Louisiana. We should therefore keep ourselves on guard that even though we want to have them in Barbados, they should know that we understand that there are certain concessions and climatic conditions as well which they enjoy here, and that we know that they are certainly able to make a better job of it than if they had to go elsewhere. I am happy to see that Government has adopted the right attitude, and I do not want them to feel that they should throw their hands up in horror.

The fact that up to now Gulf has probably lost or sunk \$7 1/2 million is but a flea bite of the investments which Gulf would have to pay in other parts of the world, so do not let us in any way be alarmed at that. It has been proved by research work that in only one in ten oil wells they get 10% returns anyhow from the drilling they put up. While I am happy with the way Government has handled it, I do not want us in any way to have the attitude that we want them here and therefore we will bend over backwards to have them, because world competition is keeping them drilling in a place like this. I wonder myself who would have determined that the 10,000 barrels a day would have been the commercial unit. I think it is a happy thing again for Gulf because if they did strike oil, they would find themselves being able to extract their 10,000 barrels, and even if the amount was smaller, they would find that it would be a good commercial venture for the reasons I have mentioned before.

I wonder, Sir, and I hope it is possible that many of the geological surveys which Gulf is making in the exploration for this oil can be made available to the Government of Barbados in case they need to use them for other matters. I am sure the Minister of Agriculture would be interested in this because with the Conservation Scheme going on, there is a lot to do which might depend on geological surveys, and if some arrangement could be made with the Gulf whereby any findings they have in the geological field - which they do not need as safeguarded secrets - can be put at the disposal of the Barbados Government, I think we should be happy to know we could get them. I just want to know something for my own information and also for any other person who might be interested; I wish the Minister would listen particularly to this, because this is one part which confuses me a bit. We know that you cannot expect depletion allowance and incentive allowance at the same time, but we have also heard it stated that if you want to get the 20% depletion allowance, you could make use of that if you sent in your returns dating from before this Bill would come into operation.

Hon. M. E. COX: I did not say that at all.

Mr. STRAUGHN: I am sorry. I still want to know if there is any possibility of getting depletion allowance off before the effective date of this Bill, and later on getting an incentive allowance after the effective date of this Bill. It is just a question of information on which I think the Minister will help me.

1.25 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: Sir, I said that this Bill was technical and unless hon. members were able to give a lot of study to it, they would be hardly able to follow. In reply to the hon. member who has just sat down, one of his questions was as regards geological information. This Government has an engineer in the person of Mr.

Garrett and he has to examine all the data put forward by the Gulf Oil Company or any other Company, because he has to be satisfied that they are carrying out this work according to the plan and not dribbling so to speak on it; therefore, as regards getting the information, the Government has all the information. That is understood. You brought the engineer here for that purpose.

Mr. STRAUGHN: May be, I came in a bit too late.

Hon. M. E. COX: As regards the 21-day period, that deals with the accounting date. You can fix your accounting period in such a manner as the Commissioner of Inland Revenue agrees. If he agrees that your accounting period should be from January to December or from September to August, that is all right, but you have to give notice to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue within 21 days after your accounting period.

The Hon. Premier entered the House. (Cheers.)

I was saying that you have to give notice to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue within 21 days after your accounting period to say whether or not you want to come under the incentive allowance - which means that if you accumulate or capitalise you would pass it on to Profit and Loss and you will get it - or to say whether you are prepared to carry forward all your expenditure and that is where the 20% comes in. If you are carrying on before this Bill, you are entitled to 20%, but after the coming into operation of this Bill, you are only entitled to 10%.

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

On motion of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BRYAN being in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 7 inclusive - were called separately and passed.

Clause 8 - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that Clause 8 stand part.

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

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I see in line seven the words "exclusively incurred whether in this Island or elsewhere during that accounting period" and I would like the Hon. Minister to give some explanation on that.

The whole of subsection (1) reads as follows:-

"Subject to the provisions of sections nine and seventeen of this Act, there shall be deducted in computing the chargeable profits for any accounting period ending after the effective day of any concession holder engaged in petroleum winning operations, all losses, outgoings and expenses wholly and exclusively incurred whether in this Island or elsewhere during that accounting period by that concession holder in the production of those profits."

How would it be possible to trace what has been done out of the Island?

Hon. M. E. COX: As I have said, Sir, I am not in a position to say what nature these expenses would be, but there can be expenses other than those incurred in this Island. For example, you have to import machinery. Suppose, for example, as has happened some time ago with this Company a drill got broken in St. Andrew and they had to send to Trinidad and borrow one from Leaseholds Ltd., that might be added expense. As I have said, the intention is to allow these people to recover all expenditure which the Income Tax Commissioner is satisfied was incurred in the drilling or exploration work.

The question that Clause 8 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

1.35 p.m.

Clauses 9 to 43 inclusive were called and passed.

Clauses 44 to 57 inclusive were called and passed.

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

On the 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.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave, in view of the fact that the Hon. Premier is not quite ready to deal with the following items, to take Order No. 10 as the next Order of the Day. I must apologise to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am objecting to going from Order No. 2 to Order No. 10 because some of these Bills came to me only yesterday. I would not like to think that the Clerk is responsible, but I should like to say that after four weeks' recess we got these Bills yesterday, and no one can expect us to leave our work to have read these Bills last night before coming here. It is not a matter of the Premier not being ready to do these things because they were on the Order Paper, and if you are not prepared to do these Civil Establishment Orders, you cannot expect to do this Bill.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I support the objection because this is one of four Bills which reached me only yesterday by post, and they were posted on the 7th October. There was the Bill intitled "A Bill to make provision for the establishment and development of industries not being carried on in this Island on a substantial scale and in aid thereof to grant relief from income tax, rates on trade profits, trade tax, interim traders' licence fees and customs duties"; the Bill intitled "an Act to amend the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act"; likewise the Bill to amend the Hotel Aids Act; and the Bill intitled "an Act to amend the Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Act, 1937," all four of which came to me by post only yesterday. I must confess that I have not had ample opportunity to study them, and therefore I would not support any motion for proceeding with them now. The Order Paper only came out yesterday too, personally brought, I believe, by the indefatigable Clerk to my Chambers.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, in view of what the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said, I am not prepared to press them. I apologise for not paying that due attention to the hon. senior member for St. Peter, but I think it is understood and recognised that in a Parliament where there is an Opposition - and he claims to be in the Opposition - that you refer to the Leader as the Head of that, and we regarded the hon. junior member for St. Lucy as the Leader of the Opposition; therefore, as I understand it, the greater includes the lesser.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am asking permission for the Minister of Education to proceed with Order No. 3.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) No: 17 ORDER, 1958.

Hon. L. St. A. THORNE: Mr. Speaker, in moving this Resolution which embodies certain proposed changes in the staffing of the Department of Education, I would like first of all to observe that as a result of the fact that during the last decade or two we have developed wider and loftier concepts of education, we no longer think of it merely in terms of so many correct answers to a series of questions set in examinations and the gaining of certificates, but we regard it as a preparation for life.

1.55 p.m.

I should also like to observe that these changing concepts of education have brought in their wake certain additional problems which have more or less affected the Department of Education to a very great extent and, as

a result, this Resolution seeks to make provision whereby these additional responsibilities and burdens might be shouldered in a manner which would result in the consummation of a successful life and in the provision of the possibility of our people to dwell together in unity.

To get to the points of the Resolution, the principal point I shall like to observe is that the work of the Department of Education embodies the administration of elementary education, secondary education, technical education, university education, training of teachers, adult education and examination into education, competitive public examinations with compilation of educational statistics and then you get community education and last but by no means least, there is now the Ministry of Education to be catered to.

I know that it is common practice in Barbados in these times when there is a request for additional staff in our Department of Education to refer back to the fact that twenty years ago our Department was run successfully by a mere handful of officers. It would be said that we did not have so many Inspectors and no Director of Education and all that sort of thing. I am prepared to say that that might be true if we were prepared to blind our eye to the fact that the functions of this Department have increased considerably. At that time, there was no technical education to cater for, there was nothing in the realms particularly of adult education and we were not thinking in terms of community education. There was no hurricane relief to cater to and other things which this Department is catering to now; therefore, I would fail to see how hon. members if they are prepared to keep abreast of the modern trend of education would more or less quibble or disapprove of the idea for the provision of the necessary staff for the carrying on and administration of this most important matter of education.

I am perfectly sure that I voice the feelings of all hon. members of this Chamber on that side and on this side when I say that today we look at education as the greatest opportunity; and what is more I know that there are several hon. members of this Chamber who have been hinting that education deserves greater priority. The time has come when this Government is prepared to give to education all that it deserves.

Because of all that, I shall only find it necessary merely to satisfy hon. members and to prove to them that these changes which are more or less set down in this Resolution are necessary. I wish to say that the changes in the nomenclature are not merely changes but they have a back of them a specific reason. Let us think then of the proposed change of the term "District Inspector" for that of "Education Officer". I want to justify such a change. As things stay today, your Inspectors or District Inspectors of schools are principally concerned with just seeing how things are going on and they have not got that authority which makes it possible for them to indulge in managerial work. Hon. members ought to know that the District Inspectors have a series of schools to manage in various areas and I shall take this opportunity to tell you that my conception, in so far as the primary schools are concerned, is one that each one is almost a law unto itself in connection with the curriculum. We do not want that to continue. We want matters coordinated; hence the idea of a change in the nomenclature of the post is intended to convey the idea that the Officer of the post is being given more power and authority, and more direct control over the schools in his area.

As things are today, there are several minor matters which can be settled at a lower level, but which have come right up the line to the Director of Education who is an extremely busy man. It is he who is expected to settle everything. If I may give hon. members an instance, if a teacher in a certain school wants to have a day's or two days' leave, that matter has to be referred to the Director of Education. A matter of that sort should be looked after by the District Inspector in that he has a direct touch with that school and knows more of the circumstances than the Director of Education himself. The District Inspector

should have the power to say that that member of the staff should have or should not have leave, but that is not exactly so today. As a matter of fact, it is quite different and we are seeking to remedy that.

We come to the next point with respect to the request for an additional post of Senior Education Officer. At present, there is one Senior Education Officer and his function is merely concerned with your Evening Institute work, your examinations, public examinations of all kinds and your matters pertaining to a certain extent to secondary education. But we visualise a widening of the scope in the work of the Evening Institute and we are looking forward to the time when that Institute would treble itself and, if we are looking forward to a greater measure in the education of our people, we must look forward to the implementation of a greater and more efficient administration and, therefore, we are seeking to establish the second post of Senior Education Officer, because of the fact that much of the work which is being done by the present officer would evolve on the shoulders of the new Officer and in addition, he would have to concern himself with other work pertaining to secondary and primary schools.

The effect of these changes, so far as the Director of Education is concerned, is to give him more opportunity to deal with matters at what we call a high level. He has got to advise the Ministry of Education and he also has to sit on several Committees. I have been trying to find out during the time I have been a Minister how many Committees of which he has been a member and I have found out that he has been sitting as Chairman on more than a dozen Committees; so you can see that very much of his time is taken up with that work.

2.05 p.m.

We are seeking to have these conditions whereby our Deputy Director of Education, who is principally concerned with the work of the primary school, will be concerned with the entire working of the Department. This is a sort of horizontal cut in so far as the division of the work is concerned but we would prefer to have a perpendicular affair where everything would come under the notice of the Deputy Director of Education and thereby free the Director for work of a more advisory capacity.

Looking at the next provision here, I am to inform hon. members that in so far as the growth of the Department is concerned, I would consider the question of external examination. Where the question of external examination is concerned, we find that the fees paid for this examination which, eight or ten years ago, were roughly altogether to the amount of \$8,913, today these fees have risen to an amount of \$20,643. That gives hon. members an idea of the increase in the number of candidates who are entering for examinations and also of the increase in so far as the urge for secondary education is concerned. That, of necessity, must mean much more work on the particular section of the staff which has to deal with this matter, than heretofore. In order to give a full picture of this matter, I would like to refer in this Section to the note which tells us of the overall work which is being done. This change is intended to make the work much more conveniently and much more easily carried out. We are looking forward to the matter of the personnel amendment to elementary and secondary modern school teaching where recruitment, training and so forth are concerned.

Then there is the question of the management of buildings. We are asking that the post of Handicrafts Inspector be changed to that of Buildings Inspector. There is the necessity for an explanation there. At present our Handicrafts Inspector is mainly concerned with the supervision of the teaching of handicrafts in our schools. In addition to that, he has got to deal with orders pertaining to the furnishing of schools. We have found out that when it comes to the matter of effecting repairs to buildings, as things are now, if any repairs are to be effected to any school buildings, we have to wait on the Public Works Department. An officer has to be sent from the Department to inspect the particular building or buildings and then a report has to be made before the Department can

start to work. That results in delay and an increase in cost because travelling has to be undertaken to and fro and that entails travelling expenses. We find that this work would be much more efficiently and expeditiously handled if we added to the duties of the Handicrafts Inspectors the duties of being responsible for the ordering or the making of repairs to school buildings. We would not have to expend any large sums of money in this direction; it would cost us something like \$100 or so. It would just be a question of repairing a window here and a door there and we would thereby expedite this work and also reduce the cost of repairs.

It is set out in the Addendum to the Resolution that we are seeking to replace the post of Chief Inspector by that of the post of Senior Education Officer. We are changing the nomenclature of District Inspector to that of Education Officer and we are asking for an additional appointment to be made there. There are at present three such officers who are particularly concerned with the primary school work; we have three areas and we want a fourth Officer. We contemplate an extension of the work of the Evening Institute. The operations which are being carried out there at present will be increased and there are other activities to be added to the Institute. Hon. members will therefore see that there will be the need for more supervision. We cannot hope to expend the Government's money without doing the utmost to see and to make sure that we are getting full value for the money which is being spent.

The Evening Institute is perhaps the largest school in the island catering to thousands of people and hon. members will agree that there should be someone to assist the Senior Education Officer who is responsible for supervision there. This fourth Education Officer is going to be used chiefly for the purpose of providing the continual supervision and inspection of work at the Evening Institute. He will be working under the present Senior Education Officer.

We are also asking that the post of Office Superintendent be created. This is a very essential post in that there are several departments which deal with the education policy, the clerical side and so on, and there is definitely the need for somebody to see that things go right there. That is something which is sadly lacking; the present Director of Education and the Deputy Director cannot be expected to do all of these things. If we have there an Office Superintendent whose duty it is to see that the various departments or sections are working as they should be working, then we would not get these numerous complaints which are brought to us from time to time. If I may make this comment, it is only today that I saw in the newspaper a complaint about Relief Teachers not being able to get their salaries up to the present time.

2.15 p.m.

If you have a Superintendent or someone who is responsible for seeing that work is properly proportioned and carried out, much of those numerous complaints which we get from time to time will be a thing of the past, and the smooth running of the Department will be assured. We are advocating the replacement of the nine long Grade Clerks who are there. There are six permanent Clerks and three temporary ones, and we want really now to have eight Long Grade Clerks and four Clerical Assistants. That does seem as if we are putting twelve in place of nine, but the position is this: in so far as the Clerical Assistants are concerned, they are Officers whom I would dub as being between, say, the Long Grade Clerk and the Messenger; they are mainly students who will not have reached the standard of literary attainment as would have been reached by your Long Grade Clerks, and they are being called upon to perform ordinary routine work, as the addition of figures - nothing technical - and in my opinion I feel that to have a Long Grade Clerk doing the sort of work which I am referring to is paying a high rate for something that could be done by people at less expense.

I support the idea of having these Clerical Assistants. I think it is true to say that you find Clerical Assistants in the Post Office and other Departments to do the work of a

lighter nature for a lesser pay, and when we remember that this business of Education is a very costly affair, I think you will agree that we should make every possible effort to cut down on expenses, not at the expense of efficiency, so that these Clerical Assistants could very well be used to perform the lighter work which is now being performed by Officers who can be used for a more technical kind of work.

I come to the point where it is necessary for me to give you a clear idea of the present strength of the staff of the Education Department. At present, in addition to our Director and Deputy Director, we have three District Inspectors, and an Inspector of Nutrition, and where the Inspector of Nutrition is concerned, I am to say that we feel that that particular post carries a bulk of work which is clerical and can be performed by one of the Clerical Assistants, and that Officer's services can be fully attached to the Erdiston Training Institute. At present the Officer spends the greater part of the time at Erdiston, and we feel that the time has come when the Officer can be permanently attached there.

Now the Clerical Staff of the Department consists of a Senior Clerk who has sixteen years of service, a second Senior Clerk with fifteen years of service, a Long Grade Clerk with nine years of service, and there are four other Long Grade Clerks with terms of service varying from two years to two months, so that the greatest amount of practical experience which the present Clerical Staff has is in terms of sixteen years. We find that we have two other people with two months each, one with eight months, one with two years and one with nine years. That is certainly not good enough in my humble opinion, and if we are expecting that this Department must give a better account of itself, and are looking forward to an improvement in our system of Education, I repeat, Sir, that we have got to be prepared to provide the necessary staff with which to carry it out.

Now I know that I have not yet said anything with respect to cost, a very important matter, and I have no hesitation in touching on that point. I have sat here in this Chamber for quite a few months and have always been very favourably impressed with the desire which hon. members on both sides of this Chamber have expressed for better conditions and for improvement in our standard of Education, and therefore I feel that when they were clamouring for improved standards, they were thinking in terms of increased cost. You cannot have one without the other. If all the Officers whom we purpose to have in this Department were at the minimum of their scales, the increased cost would be \$9,086, and if all were at the maximum the increased cost would be \$12,856. These are figures which have been put up to you for your consideration, and your humble servant is at present asking you to consider whether you feel that it is a wise thing to spend that money with the object of improving the present administration of the affairs of education. I repeat that you will not be able to get improvement unless you are prepared to provide the necessary staff.

This Resolution was before this House before it went into recess, and during the time we were in recess I had the opportunity of delving into matters, and I want to assure this Hon. House that I have made a very diligent study of these proposals. I have not taken things as they have been presented to me; in point of fact I never do that in life. I always reserve the right to see and think for myself, and so when this Order was not dealt with before the House went into recess, if there was one hon. member of this House who was glad, it was your humble servant, because it gave me the necessary time to probe into affairs. I want to assure this House this afternoon that the results of that probe revealed that there is definitely that desire, that aim and that objective, in so far as this Department is concerned for going ahead and improving on every possible request made in this Resolution. I want you to believe that. That does not mean that I do not expect you to debate the Resolution and put up your points of view, but I repeat that these requests are made because of the fact that this Department is determined to bring education abreast of modern trends.

I used the phrase, "modern trends", because it is a famous phrase of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, my good friend. He has always been saying that there is need to bring education in Barbados into lines of modern trends and I want to assure that hon. member that as Minister of Education, I am prepared to make the utmost effort to see to it that that ideal becomes a reality.

Without any more ado, Mr. Speaker, I now beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. *(Cheers)*

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, it would be ungracious in me not to offer congratulations to the Hon. Minister of Education for the lucid explanation he has given to this House on this Resolution.

SITTING SUSPENDED

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 2.30 o'clock, this sitting now stands suspended until 3 o'clock.
2.30 p.m.

On re-assembling.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS NOT READY

Mr. SPEAKER: It is question time and I understand that answers to questions are not yet ready. We will now proceed with Private Members' Business, if there be any.

There being no Private Members' Business,

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Peter was addressing the House when the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION ON RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) NO. 17 ORDER, 1958

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, when Your Honour suspended the sitting, I had just started off my speech by saying that I would be ungracious if I did not pay tribute to the Hon. Minister of Education for the lucid manner in which he dealt with this Resolution; and considering that he has taken up the portfolio of Minister of Education for only a short time, I think we should offer him sincere congratulations on the manner in which he presented the Resolution to the Chamber. However, I wish to say that I accept what he has said in so far as he invited debate on this matter and I am sure he will not be in any way offended over what I have to say on it, because, as a matter of fact, this Resolution is not his making; it is not his making, it is not his creation, because these things were before the Chamber before it was announced that he had taken up the portfolio of Minister of Education.

I appreciate all that he has said and the support which he has given to all the things which have been set out in the Addendum to the Resolution. The first criticism which one must make, and I am sure it is patent to the Hon. Minister, is that of all that this Resolution is asking, one of the main things which is needed has not been seen after for over one year and that is the filling of the post of Director of Education. In this Addendum, it is stated that in the present organisation, both the Director and the Deputy Director of Education are overburdened with matters which should be dealt with at a lower level. For over one year, no Director of Education has been appointed and if I may use the words of the Hon. Premier, he says that there is an epidemic of acting appointments in the Service. Now, the Department of Education is one of your major Departments, and the Hon. Minister has said: "look at the things which we need," but, Mr. Speaker, you would expect they would need someone to direct them; therefore, if their policy is based on having a Director, they should have appointed someone ever since.

Now, this is no personal remark and I do not think anyone holds anything over the Acting Director of Education, but what I do say is that if the gentleman who is holding the office is not capable of being appointed Director of Education, you should appoint someone else. It is not fair

to call upon an officer to act for one year in that important post and leave that post unoccupied by a substantive holder. How can you expect one who is acting to carry out all that you want in such an important office? Anyone that is acting in that position will be afraid to take positive decisions. When you allow someone to act in that important post for so long, you place yourself in an embarrassing position.

Apart from the re-designation of these posts, the main things are departmental duties which you are assigning to Officers in this Department and that is nothing for which you need legislative enactment. You do not need legislative enactment to say what the Senior Education Officer should do or what the Inspector of Handicrafts should do. These are things which can be done departmentally. As I have said, one of the main things which is needed and which you have not done is the fact that for one year you are without a Director of Education. Mr. Theobalds who was Director of Education vacated the office for over one year and Mr. Jordan has been acting as Director ever since then. This is where I am going to place blame on the Government. There is this idea that the filling of the post of Director of Education is a matter for the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but that idea is all moonshine. Let me say here and now that if the Minister of Education feels strongly enough about it, he can say to the Governor to tell the Secretary of State for the Colonies that there is somebody over here who is capable of filling the post of Director of Education and can ask that he be appointed.
3.05 p.m.

It is not fair to this country when we do so much for education, whoever the authorities are, that they should keep us in a situation in which we are without the services of a Director of Education for so long a period. If it is a question of policy it is the concern of the Minister and you can change it, but a rose by another name is just as sweet. I have already said and I repeat that there are legislative matters on the Statute Book which you have to change, where the powers of the Director of Education will have to be the powers of the Minister. That does not interfere with the question of administration; there must be a head of that important department. This Director of Education was brought to Barbados; the first Chief Inspector was the same Mr. Rawle Jordan and now you are saying: "Look how important a matter this is, that we are now putting him into a different category and calling him the Senior Education Officer." It is stated in this Addendum as follows:

"The objects of the re-organisation proposed are to free the Director for his appropriate tasks, to expand the functions of the Deputy to cover the whole department, with Senior Education Officers heading appropriate divisions of the department's responsibilities to establish a grade of Education Officers, with interchangeable field and headquarters duties, which will be the recruiting and training grade for administrative work in education, to reorganise the accounting, registry and typing services; and to carry out the reorganisation without avoidable expense.

The post of Education Officer for Secondary and Further Education (new) and the field posts of Education Officer for Elementary Education, will form a recruiting and training grade for teachers entering educational administration, in which, by suitable alternation they will gain basic administrative experience over the whole field. The duties of the headquarters post will also include the Secretaryship of the Education Board and its Committees."

Even at the lower level you are thinking of bringing in people to recruit them into your administrative level. I am not making any plea for any single person; I do not hold any brief for one single Civil Servant in Barbados; but if I were a Civil Servant I would resign from the Service tomorrow in these circumstances. Unfortunately, the Civil Servants have given so many years' service that they cannot afford to do that. Now the Minister says that this Department needs a whole revamping and the powers—that-be do not say that a Director of Education

is to be appointed. How can you expect to get the best out of any human being in these circumstances? I am not saying that this officer concerned has not given his best, but from a psychological point of view, would he not be in his own mind wondering what there is against him that they have not seen fit to appoint him to this post after he has given his service and you have people who have given years of service, which is nothing to be compared with what he has given, and he is a well qualified man? He must ask himself why is it that he has not been appointed to this post? I think that there must be some reason why he has not been appointed. This man has been seconded to sit on a Commission of Enquiry in respect of education in a neighbouring colony; although that is an honour to the man himself you would have had to say to the Secretary of State for the Colonies: "I am very sorry, but owing to our structure we cannot afford to lose this man even for a short period". It is not fair to this officer, Mr. Jordan; there was this same nonsense taking place in connection with the Customs Department and the Post Office. Now the post of Director of Education is an important one; if this man is unqualified to be the Director of Education then he should have been also unqualified to act in the post for nearly a year. It is not right to have a man acting in a post like that for a long period; he is not losing any money really, but you have a system in which you have a position which is not filled and nothing is done about it.

One of your duties at Cabinet Level is to allow the Cabinet to make a protest to the Governor saying that they are dissatisfied with the situation where there is no Director of Education appointed. If you are satisfied that this man in question is not a qualified man and he has given years of service, well, it must be a question of his qualifications. It is not to say that you are appointing a brilliant person but who is lacking in experience, because this man has all the experience of which one can think. Why is it that you have this important post unattended to for so long? Is it that this gentleman is not pleasing everybody at Court? I would not say that it is a matter of pigmentation because he is a grade above me; he is not regarded as being at the bottom grade in the pigmentation group. (Laughter.) Some hon. members are laughing but we know that there is this grouping insinuation so as to get certain things. If you are qualified in a certain coloured group then you will get certain things. We see that they are coming down where the banks are concerned; they are coming down gradually. It is a matter of how straight your hair is combed before you can come to the grade where you must use an ironing comb. However, we cannot expect these things in the Government Service. I am asking this question: what are the things which prevent this gentleman from being appointed as the Director of Education? The Minister will say that the making of appointments is not a matter for them but yet some Ministers will say on the platform that the appointment of Mr. So-and-So is indicative of our presence here and look what has happened. 3.15 p.m.

My presence here is enough to make me say that it is not fair to a man like Mr. Jordan to make him act for so long, nor is it fair to the island to have the post being vacant for so long when there are people capable of filling it. I have seen a lot of monkeying in the Civil Service recently. You take somebody and push him all about. I do not know whom you are pleasing. The House agreed that there should be a Permanent Secretary, but there has been a lot of monkeying in having Mr. Burton act for you and for the Premier too. We want you to stop that monkey business. He is Librarian, and he has been appointed to act as a Permanent Secretary. You must stop this business of saying that one man is better than the others, and that you cannot find anybody in the hierarchy of the Civil Service to act as Permanent Secretary, and make one man feel he is a genius or a giant. If Mr. Burton can act in two posts, somebody else can act in four. What are the special reasons for him to act as Permanent Secretary to the Minister of Education and Permanent Secretary to the Premier? What is the whole idea of having all these acting appointments when you have a Civil Service with so many people waiting for some opportunity to show that they have

brains? Give a man an opportunity to swim or drown; if he cannot stem the tide, he will drown. Who is going to determine whether a man is capable of acting? You have a Postmaster General who is acting as Permanent Secretary, but there are other people like the Postmaster General who can be put up to act. The reason why you are sending these people to act in the post of Permanent Secretary is because it carries more emoluments than some of the Heads of Departments, which is \$8,160, and therefore you put a man to act in the post which offers him \$8,160 instead of \$6,240.

The Civil Service Association is a mockery, and it suits the Government to have a Service like that because they are not making demands on behalf of their own service; they are looking through the window to see when they are going to be called in. I am not looking through any window, so I can take this stand by asking you to cut out this nonsense of one man acting as Permanent Secretary in two posts when we have agreed that you should have a Permanent Secretary to each Ministry. What is the sense of telling us that you do not have men to fill the posts in one breath, and that there is a redundant population and a paucity of brains? It is an indictment on your own educational system and on your Civil Service to say that you cannot find two or three men. There is a number of Permanent Secretaries whom you can count on one hand.

When I look at this Resolution, Sir, I feel that I should let the Minister know that he must be prepared to say whether he is satisfied or dissatisfied. If he is dissatisfied he should have a change and not have this bogus idea of somebody saying that he has no power to change it. The Minister has power on the basis of saying that he does not want acting Permanent Secretaries, because he can come to the Legislature. There are Assistant Secretaries and Heads of Departments and he can comb the service and if he finds nobody he can come back here, and I dare the Public Service Commission to say that there is nobody to fill these posts. We used to get people from overseas, but now you begin to look to our own people you find it difficult, and that is one of my main criticisms.

So far as the redesignation of these Officers is concerned, as I have said, a rose by any name is just as sweet, and if you feel like changing the name of the District Inspector to Education Officer, in the next five years you will change the names again. It is a very convenient thing to change names that do not mean anything much, but sometimes it is a convenient thing to add status to people, and to call a man "Assistant to the Assistant who is Assistant to the Assistant" means something more than calling him an Assistant. It is just like the Landship where you have a Doctor and there is an Assistant to the Doctor, and an Assistant to the Assistant to the Doctor. So it suits Barbadian fancy to have the redesignation of District Inspector to Education Officer and to increase the number from three to four. The hon. member remarked on the volume of work to be done and spoke of the managerial functions of the Inspectors which will require a different type of work.

I agree that it may be a necessary thing, and as he has said, why should the Director of Education or Head of a Department in a big office be required to give somebody three days' sick leave or casual leave? It is a sort of petty idea that originated in Barbados that when a man is Head, the delegation of authority will take off his head. He does not realise that the delegation of authority makes him a bigger man, and therefore he functions on a plane in which he should normally be. Maybe this is part of the first Director's ideas in the past who came to this colony for the first time, and every time you bought blotting paper, he should know about it. These are not legislative matters, these are matters for Departmental functions; and anyone who has any dealings with any sort of administration realises that there must be of necessity a delegation of authority from the top right through if anything is to function. This is a lesson for Government to learn that within a centralised system there must be decentralisation even in a small place like Barbados with people having to work from the centre.

If the Schoolmistress at St. Martin's Girl School in St. Philip wants a pane of glass, she is going to tell the Inspector and he is going to write a minute to the Deputy Director who is going to write a minute to the Director of Public Works; and do you know that he is going to sit down in a motor car and go to that school to see the size of the pane of glass needed? Therefore, it costs the Government, maybe, \$10 to put in a pane of glass which costs two shillings. This is the sort of centralisation which you have when by some other method the Director or whoever is in charge can tell the Schoolmistress to get a carpenter from the village to put in the pane of glass, and before you can think twice, it is finished, instead of allowing the children to get wet.

It is true that you must have controls in a democracy and not allow your system to become so loose that it is difficult to check. You must have safeguards, but safeguards in any democracy depend on the integrity of the people whom you are employing, because you cannot have policemen for every man in the island, or watchmen for every Civil Servant.

I have my doubts about the Office Superintendent because it seems to me that if you start from the Colonial Secretary's Office to have an Office Superintendent, sooner or later every office of any size will require one. I do not believe in names as names; I believe in work, and if an office is big enough that it requires someone whose duty it is to see about general supervision of the office, then it is necessary to have him, because you have public relations. Maybe the Education Department is a fit place to have one because you have public relations and other things, and the Office Superintendent may be a necessary function; but I am not as strong on that, because in some of these things it is only a means of giving somebody a better salary. If you are going to increase the salary for a person, I would prefer you to do it on the basis of merit for reviewing your salary structure rather than on the system of changing the name of an officer for the purpose of giving him something more.

I do not know about the creation of the post of Secretary.
3.25 p.m.

I do not know Secretary to whom. Is it a creation of a post of Secretary to the Director of Education? You are having all these fancy things added on to these people, but you are not getting down to the core of getting the real boss. You only have a *locum tenens*. I heard the Hon. Minister saying, and in a general way it is true, that you do not want to lose efficiency by looking at the cost.

What I am worried about is this replacement of the nine Long Grade Clerks by eight Long Grade Clerks and four Clerical Assistants. Now, you must remember that Mr. Godsall has written a Report for the whole Service. One of the dangers with which you are confronting yourself is this. You should never use the general to deal with a specific thing and there is too much of that in the Public Service. Why should you start off with Clerical Assistants in the Education Department when in truth and in fact you want to recruit people to be absorbed into the Service as such? You are asking for four Clerical Assistants and you are paying them on a salary scale of \$912 - 1,392 as against the salary scale of someone coming into your service at \$960. As soon as you do that, you are sure to find yourself with people in a blind alley and who cannot rise over a certain level. The structure of your Service does not permit you to bring people in at a lower level than their having certificates in the G.C.E. That is the minimum qualification on which they enter. You now start to shift them on the basis of the specific job you want them to do. You are going to find yourself in a difficult position. It is difficult in an office to designate the duties of any of these people in the Service on that fine basis which you are doing by calling some Long Grade Clerks and some Clerical Assistants. What is going to happen if somebody takes sick? If a Long Grade Clerk takes sick, surely you will have to utilise a Clerical Assistant in his place. This idea of dividing it into Long Grade Clerks and Clerical Assistants and

putting them on a different salary scale is in my opinion not the best thing. You are creating confusion when you do that and it is one of the things to which I do not agree and I would say to the Hon. Minister of Education that it is something to which he should give serious consideration.

Now, the Hon. Minister has said that the Government is prepared to give to education all that it deserves. I am sure that the Hon. Minister would not mind my saying that one of the predecessors in office said more than that. One of his predecessors said that he was going to give education four-fifths of his time. It is true that the Hon. Minister of Education can give to it five-fifths of his time. Let us look at education broadly. From what I have seen in Barbados as regards education, I would say to the Hon. Minister, do not be complacent about it. There are a large number of Private Secondary Schools. The number of children sitting for public entrance examinations into Secondary Schools should show the Hon. Minister that in many respects they have outstripped the total population of the state-aided schools and that will show that somebody somewhere other than the Government is providing for the education of the people of Barbados. Do not sit back with the feeling that the Government is doing all in educational matters. I have seen some Private Secondary Schools with 600 and 700 children and they are performing a task which if they did not do, the children of Barbados would be without the necessary education.

I am frank enough to say that any of these people who run Private Secondary Schools and run them to the standard which you regard as a good standard has a right to receive a subvention from the Government just as any charitable organisation such as the Salvation Army, because they are performing a task which you are not capable of performing. You have said that it is beyond your financial capacity to do more. If that is so, you should give them a subvention. I say, set your standard, but as a matter of policy, if you are going to give education all that it deserves, you have a right to give these people a subvention. I have been to a Private Secondary School two days ago; it is not much of a building, but it shows the need for such a school. It is filled to capacity and I have been told that over 100 children were turned away. I say again, set your standard, do not give any and everybody a subvention, but if you are satisfied that a particular Private Secondary School or Schools are carrying on a standard which you by examination agree that they should be carrying on, well then, give them a subvention. You say that you cannot build any more schools; you cannot find teachers to staff these schools, but you are satisfied that the school population desires more schools. If all of that is being done by somebody else, if you are unable to do it, there is nothing wrong in giving a subvention to the person who is doing it to your standard.

Sir, my final pleading is that the Hon. Minister of Education should go into this matter very carefully. I am not asking anybody to give away the taxpayers' money, because if that is done, I would be the first to make a row. This matter of education is one which is worthy of examination. The two matters which I feel very strongly about are: firstly, the appointment of a Director of Education and that should not brook any delay. We should not have to wait one more week to hear that a Director of Education is appointed. The other matter is as regards the question of Permanent Secretaries. Stop this monkeying with what you are doing. You say that you are working this on the basis of your Director of Training. Stop this monkeying and get down to serious business.
3.35 p.m.

You are not getting the service which you require, I do not care who he is. There is not enough work for two posts and if there is enough work for two posts you can tell me today how any one in Barbados who is a Permanent Secretary can function efficiently by serving the Ministry of Education along with something else. I would like to see the day arrive when the whole educational system is so revised that the Director of Education becomes the direct flow to the Minister instead of having this unnecessary break between the Director of Education and the Per-

manent Secretary. If you are waiting to have something like that, well then you should say so. Jamaica has a different system from the one which we have and Trinidad would have to evolve a different system because they have the Parliamentary Secretary. We have had the same monkeying where they took one man and paid him two salaries, one as being Permanent Secretary, and he was also paid money for an acting allowance and he was sitting at the same desk. All that was required was an Act of the Legislature; you would be surprised to see or to hear the defence which was made that that state of affairs was not intended to be so. It was merely a question of showing the Attorney General that the Act had just been passed and that is what this gentleman was entitled to. Here you have created a Permanent Secretary to the Minister of Education but you have taken the same acting Permanent Secretary to the Premier and you are saying that he is Permanent Secretary to the Minister of Education too.

This colony is being run on the basis that there are not enough people to run it. We can find enough Ministers but we cannot find enough Civil Servants to run the colony. I want to say that the Ministers are acquiescing in the statements which are made that they can run the country but they have not got sufficient Civil Servants. Now this question of the appointment of the Director of Education is more scandalous; you have a man acting in the post for some time and you cannot appoint a Director of Education. I should like to see the Ministers acting in that way, where one of them has died and you cannot find another one to take his place. In these matters we have to pay - it is not the Secretary of State for the Colonies who has to pay. I may say that some of my income tax is due now; by the 15th of this month, if I do not pay my income tax I will be spoiled and therefore I have to look for it just like children running a dance. I cannot hide away any of my income; I have no profession, my income is known so much so that some of the gentlemen over there can write in the *Beacon*, what it is. I am not against paying my taxes, but let my taxes be spent wisely. I am quite sure that I am voicing the sentiments of any man or woman in Barbados who is in favour of fairplay and who likes to give Jack his jacket.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the pattern which has emerged from the speech of the Minister of Education is very clear in its main outline. Like my colleague on my right, I join in congratulating the Minister of Education on the way in which he has presented his matter and on the way in which he has given to this House such a clear picture of what his Ministry is trying to do. Like the hon. senior member for St. Peter, I should like to tell him that if I say anything which appears to be severely critical, it is not critical of him because, in fairness to him, he has not been there long enough to have acquainted himself with all the things which need to be put right or to undo all the wrongs which his predecessors have done. However, since he has assumed responsibility for a Department and he will be prepared to defend it against its critics, then he will also, by the same token, be prepared to receive the criticism which the critics bring.

Now Sir, the first impression we have got from this side of the House is that the Department over which the Minister now presides is still faced with a certain amount of uncertainty and indecision as to what exactly it needs in terms of personnel for carrying out its duties efficiently. While the Minister was speaking, one got the distinct impression that on one side of the picture there was the Minister of Education and on the other side of the picture there was the Department. I was trying to see whether, from what the Minister was saying, something would emerge which would fuse the two of them together so that this House might get the impression that the Ministry of Education was one streamlined Department from the Minister back down to the Office Superintendent. We did not get that impression and I would like to say to the Minister that quite a lot of difficulty will probably be created in the near future if he does not pay particular attention to the streamlining of his Department. I will explain what I mean by that. If the Minister said that he wants one more Inspector or two more Education Officers or

three more Long Grade Clerks or an Office Superintendent - if he says that he wants this increased staff, nobody would be disposed to quarrel with him over that because one thing which will call forth the sympathy of everybody in this House is that the money should be spent to the best advantage where education is concerned. If those who are best qualified to know say that more people are needed to make the Department an efficient one, then the Minister will always receive a ready hearing in that respect. What we fear, however, is that in increasing the staff of the Department, not enough attention may be paid to the overall needs of the Department itself. Personally, I had hoped that whenever a Ministry of Education was set up you would find a Department of Education with its staff of Director, Deputy Director and Inspectorate - all of them would have been grafted into the Ministry.

3.45 p.m.

I did not expect to find that you would have a Ministerial set-up as it applies to any other Ministry, and then alongside of that - the Minister will correct me if my comprehension of it is wrong - a Department with just more persons. I had hoped some means would be found whereby in the establishment of the Ministry, the Directorate or Deputy Directorate could be more closely grafted into it so that the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry would be either himself the Director or Deputy Director, and the post of one or possibly both of these posts might be abolished though not the function; and the contact, the channel, so to speak, through which the Minister will be kept in touch both inside and outside would be his Permanent Secretary who would be taking over not only the administration of the office itself, but also those functions which had previously been undertaken by the Director. That is something that is worthwhile paying attention to.

I know some people argue that the post of Director of Education is still necessary; it may well be, but what we would like to see is this: that the policy-making functions which until a month or two ago rested with the Director of Education are taken over by the Minister himself, and that the Director and his Deputy and staff are concerned exclusively with administration. If that were so, it is possible that the Director and his Deputy would have less work and they would be able to attend immediately to the carrying out of policy. I suspect, too, that half of the bottle-necks and the complaints spring from the fact that matters of policy and matters of administration do get themselves mixed together, and that the one person who acted as Director, being responsible for both, do neither properly.

While I am on this point, I must join with the hon. senior member for St. Peter in drawing to Government's attention what I think is a scandalous state of affairs in having such a long vacancy to that post. A lot of irreparable harm has been done, and I look at the matter in a slightly different way. I feel with him that it is unfair to the acting incumbent to keep him acting for so long in a state of uncertainty without hinting to him, whether openly or otherwise, whether or not he is fit for the succession. I think myself that a lot of the peculiar things which have happened in that Department for the last year or so and which are attributable to Mr. Jordan, have happened because of the uncertainty of his own position, and he has found himself a lot of work having to make policy and to administer it at the same time. Consequently, all of the uncertainties and the difficulties which have been created, spring, I think, in part from that situation. The quicker it is remedied, the better.

There is a second point too, Mr. Speaker. The Minister, fortunately, has a very wide and extensive knowledge of primary school education in this island, and he knows it to be a fact that perhaps one of the chief complaints coming from the primary schools to the Department and to him - he would have noted it by now as Minister although he knew it as Headteacher - is that there is a tendency nowadays for too much purely clerical work to fall upon the Headteachers of Secondary schools. It is what I call "book-work," which, because there is a certain amount of time in which all these duties have to be done, cut into

their substantive duty of teaching. If some of these little administrative matters which now unnecessarily take up the time of Headteachers could be solved by increasing the staff in the Department itself, then that increase is well justified; but I think it is unfair and damaging to education in primary schools for a Headteacher to have to supervise a school, do a lot of the routine clerical work, and at the same time do other things which form part of that duty, such as interviewing parents of children at any hour in the morning or afternoon. The burden is becoming too heavy now, it is universal, and if the Minister will find some way to take that burden off and relieve these people and set them free for their main task which is to teach and supervise the teaching of the staff, there would be a lot of improvement.

Another point is this: there is no doubt - and I think the Minister would have noticed it before he became a Minister - that elementary teachers have quite a lot of grievances which are not properly investigated. In large measure that is their own fault, because if they cared enough for their own organisation, they would strengthen it in numbers and also in the insistence that their demands be listened to, if not met. At the same time even if their Association was as strong as it should be there would still be a wide range of matters which the Association as such could not deal with, and which could properly and only be dealt with at a higher level, and I hope the Minister will get into the good habit of not waiting until teachers bring their grievances or until they have cyphered through the various parts of the Department and come to him in a watered-down form, but he would seek teachers out, not necessarily individually, but collectively as often as possible to hear what is happening, because in the lonely eminence which he now occupies in the Ministerial buildings, it would be some time before he hears what is going on in the schools, and people immediately under him will not always tell him the harsh and crude facts on educational life in this island, and he will be cut off from that knowledge which he once enjoyed; he could break that barrier down. It is not enough for him to imagine - of course I am not saying that he imagines this, but I am warning him against it - that the expansion of the staff in his Department or the regrading and renaming of certain posts will keep him in touch with what is going on. Too much money has been spent on education in some respects and there is not sufficient in return.

One of the things which the Minister could really work on is to find out what is going on in the teachers' minds, investigate their grievances himself, pay thorough and patient attention to them, and see what he personally can do.

With respect to the Inspectorate, there is something which has bothered a lot of us, and it is this: we do not have a very much greater number of elementary schools now than we had, say, twenty years ago. If anything, we have about two or three, if so many more, because almost all the new schools are new buildings and therefore only replacements to old schools, and it is always a burning question whether the Inspectorate is really getting the best out of it.

3.55 p.m.

Some people have complained - I do not necessarily share that view - that twenty years ago, Mr. Nicholls and Mr. Greenhalgh did all that six or seven people are doing now. That may be so in their way, but there is much more now which has been added to the technique of educational administration than was known or expected in that day. The Hon. Minister of Education has emphasised quite rightly the expansion of the nutritional services, but even so, that is not as far as we would like to see them go. The Hon. Minister soon from now will have to be answering our very insistent question about a school meal service and whether he is prepared to make his colleagues have a different view as regards that question. In addition to that, there is the expansion of the Evening Institute and the Technical Institute and there is the administration of the Erdiston College. All of that the Hon. Minister has pointed to and all of that we know.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is what the Hon. Minister of Education should ask himself. Is he really getting all that he can out of the District Inspectors? One of the complaints is that despite the fact that the personnel of the Department of Education is now so large, a lot of the work is still not being done, because of the Inspectors themselves busying themselves with matters of administration which are quite beyond their supervision. It might well be, therefore, that the increases of staff which the Hon. Minister is asking may cure that defect. I should like to tell the Hon. Minister that he should not be all satisfied with matters in that branch of the Department and that he should take all possible steps to see that more is got out of it.

One final word. The administration of schools in this Island must go on and the Hon. Minister can be well assured that he will always find a sympathetic House when he asks for more supplies to make that administration more efficient. However, we on this side take a peculiar view to this matter, not necessarily different from the Minister's, but sufficiently strong to be emphasised from time to time. When you come to think of it, Mr. Speaker, the educational system of this Island is in need of many things. It is not in the administration so much, or in the Department or in the Minister himself but in the schools themselves, and, therefore, I wish to say that the Hon. Minister has a Ministry and is presiding over it, but 90% of which work is done outside of the Department. Therefore, the test of whether his Ministry is working efficiently will not be found in the number of Permanent Secretaries or the Educational Officers or of the Directors that he has at his immediate command or even the sound of his voice, but the test will be found in the running of each of the schools from day to day, whether the hundreds of children who go to these schools fit in to a system designed to their welfare and training and whether the system designed helps them to get the most out of life. Consequently, the Hon. Minister must always remember that the success of his policy, however well it might look on paper, is tested, not against the smooth running of the Department itself, nor against the efficiency of the Ministry or of the Permanent Secretaries, but against what happens in any of the schools which are farthest away from him.

Hon. L. St. A. THORNE: Mr. Speaker, I think it is true to say that perhaps I am one of the most lucky men, lucky in the sense that I must admit that all that has come from the Opposition has been said purely and quite specifically for my health and guidance. I want to remind and assure hon. members that I am not sitting down in my office; I am getting around. I plan my programmes and stick to them.

As regards the matter where work in schools is concerned, I do not agree with the hon. senior member for St. Lucy that it is very imperative on me to see what is what. In so far as appointing a Director of Education and trying to get away from the long list of acting appointments as has been urged by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, I think that he will appreciate that I have been only in this office for about a month; therefore, if there has been quite a long list of acting appointments, I certainly am not responsible for that. However, I hope he will not have to complain very much longer where that matter is concerned. As regards to the streamlining of the Department, I am hoping that the hon. senior member for St. Lucy will understand that the Resolution which is before the House has been before it before I took up office, but I consider it is fair and reasonable and it is a plan of reorganisation which I myself would have recommended. As a matter of fact, I took the job of going into every detail of it and I assure every hon. member of this House that these requests were really made after careful consideration and they are really necessary. I would like to assure hon. members that I do not swallow everything which is put to me; I reserve the right to go into matters; therefore, there is no need for fear. Hon. members can rest assured that the requests which we are asking are requests which are essential to the successful and smooth running of this Department.

Sir, I do not think there is any other point which was raised which merit any reply from me except to say to the hon. senior member for St. Peter that the world was not made in a day and that it takes some time before you can get things running.

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

4.05 p.m.

ORDER POSTPONED

Hon. M.E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to postpone Order No. 4 standing in the name of the Hon. Premier:-

To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 18 Order, 1958."

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

COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO THE SOIL CONSERVATION (SCOTLAND DISTRICT) BILL

Hon. M. E. COX: I am asking leave that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture be granted permission to deal with the amendments from the Other Place to the Soil Conservation (Scotland District) Bill.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture:- To move the consideration of the amendments of the Honourable the Legislative Council to the Soil Conservation (Scotland District) Bill.

Hon. D.D. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, this Bill, the soil Conservation (Scotland District) Bill, has been amended in very small details by the Other Place. I have in my hand the amendments which have been made to this Bill and I think that Your Honour has seen them. Some of these amendments are what we would call minor amendments. For instance, in Clause 2 in the definition of "Storm water" the word "storm" has been spelt with a capital "S" where there should have been a common "s". There are trivial amendments like that. In Clause 6 (2) the word "as" has been omitted after the word "date". In the same Clause, Sub-clause (4) the word "or" should have been "of". In Clause 11 (1) the word "costs" should have been "cost". In sub clause 7 the word "and" should have been "any", and in Sub-clause 12 the words "storm waters" should have been "storm water". In Clause 13 (2) the word "houses" should have been "dwelling house". As I have said, there are many trivial matters which are nothing at all to do with the principle of the Bill except in this particular case to which I will now refer in Clause 22.

Since the Magistrates' Jurisdiction and Procedure Act has come into force, it was necessary for the Other Place to insert an amendment. When the Bill was before us, that Act had not yet come into force and the Other Place has taken the opportunity to cut out the references to the Assistant Court of Appeal or a judge of the Petty Debt Court and to insert the references to the Magistrates' Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, 1956 and the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1956. All of that has been put right by the Other Place.

I beg to move that these amendments be now read a first time.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not object to the amendments of the Other Place at all, but I rise on this point. As I understand from what the Hon. Minis-

ter has said, the vast majority of these amendments are ordinary amendments. If I understood the Minister correctly, the amendments are largely a question of the punctuation being a bit out of place, and capital letters are needed where common letters have been printed. This is what I would like to know and perhaps Your Honour will be able to give some direction on the matter subsequently. I imagine that we employ a Clerk here and one of his duties is to vet these Bills before they leave this House to go before the Other Place; and we have also established a Government Printery in which there should be some provision made for the proper proof reading of these Bills. I want to know why is it that on all the occasions on which Bills have been sent back here from the Other Place the amendments are never any substantial amendments. The Other Place is always complaining of bad spelling, bad punctuation, bad syntax or something like that. (Mr. SPEAKER: The syntax would not be ours). You are right, Mr. Speaker, the syntax would not be ours neither would the typographical errors be ours. I may appear to be censuring the Clerk of this House, but it is his duty to save the House from this kind of embarrassment because the Other Place, as I understand it, looks down upon us that we are not competent enough to send down a properly-worded and a properly-punctuated Bill to them. I think that the least the Clerk could do is to see that time is provided for him to see after these things before they go to the Other Place (Mr. STRAUGHN: What would the Other Place do if they did not make these amendments?) An hon. member has asked what would the Other Place do if they did not make these amendments? Well, I understand that there is a member of the Other Place who takes it upon himself to amend the Bills up there and he does not always do it quite thoroughly. We should not be in a position of having to rely on the Other Place to make amendments for us. I should like to say that the Clerk should make time to see to it that we are not subjected to this ridicule from the Other Place from time to time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must inform the hon. member who has just sat down that time was when the Clerk of this Chamber was responsible for the proof reading of documents which came before this House, but quite recently he has been prevented from reading the proofs of these documents. Owing to the way in which matters come to us and go to the Government Printery, the Clerk is not now responsible for reading, and he does not read, the proofs. He would be glad to do so but he may not do so owing to the present arrangements.

The question that these amendments be now read a first time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motion of Hon. D. D. GARNER, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX in each case, the amendments were read a second time and agreed to.

4.15 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take Order No. 7 as the next Order of the Day, and I think that will conclude Government's business.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to take Order No. 7 as the next Order of the Day, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave was granted.

THE WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1958.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, in moving the passing of this Resolution, with the formal approval of the Regulations to the Wireless and Telegraphy Regulations, I must say that it is a very simple amendment and very important. The history of this whole affair is very intriguing if not romantic, and just over a decade Government was first concerned with the idea of a Government Broadcasting Station. It is a very happy and fascinating

idea in this age to have broadcasting as a medium for the dissemination of information. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that you would agree that it is now regarded as a democratic process which is so vitally important, that the dissemination of news should be made through such a medium as broadcasting, and for that matter quite recently through television. However, some ten or fifteen years ago, the Government exercised itself with regard to the need for a Broadcasting Station, and as recently as 1953, it will be remembered that Mr. W. A. Roberts from the Colonial Office made a survey of this colony and the recommendation for the installation of a station with a further promise of help from Colonial Development and Welfare. In recent years it has been a question of whether or not Government would find it possible to find the funds not only for the initial outlay, but for the recurrent cost of operating such a station.

In 1957 and 1958 a number of applications for Wireless Broadcasting as well as Television have been coming to the Ministry, and you will realise that the moment the Regulations to the Wireless and Telepathy Act are passed, we will be thinking of Wireless broadcasting as well as Television.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am very happy for this whole affair, and I believe you share our happiness. As I said, we have had several applications for a Broadcasting Station, and the whole idea is to get this amendment through as quickly as possible in order that the licence for this may be granted. I am very happy to say that the country will have its first Wireless Broadcasting Station and Television Service or Station within a year or two.

With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. L. St.A. THORNE: I beg to second that.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, you know the Hon. Minister is always really very amusing, because this is his pet subject and he has told us about it being very romantic. I really wanted to know what there is behind these Regulations, because you are not going to come down to the House merely to change the Regulations from what they used to be. I want to know something more about what is to be done, because this cannot be a secret after it reaches here.

We would all welcome a Broadcasting Station in Barbados, because when we leave our country we cannot hear anything from it unless we tune into Trinidad or British Guiana as some of our friends from the Leeward Islands can. You can even tune in to Radio Montserrat. We feel that there should be a Broadcasting Station here so that when you leave the island you can tune in for news. You cannot be an important territory without having a means of knowing what is taking place in it, and I do feel that some system should be made of which we can make use.

I intend to take this opportunity to say that we should have broadcasting run on the same basis as that in the United Kingdom. If this Government is not prepared for that, it should say so. Where Rediffusion has been used, it has been used by the Government as the machinery to propagate Government propaganda in phases which no other person can do. Can you imagine that in a territory like this where you talk about adult education and industrial understanding, you will never get anything on Rediffusion with the Trade Union Movement taking its rightful place, because the people who sponsor these things for the Government believe that because I am a man in the Opposition of the House - I am also in this community the General Secretary of the biggest Trade Union - that this service cannot be placed at the disposal of somebody like me, although at times they carry a stupid lot of "nancy" stories. They might not be responsible for it, because I do not suppose that the Minister of Social Services would be so stupid as to believe that the radio is meant to be used by Government as if it were something which the Ministers bought. This is something through which you

want to disseminate knowledge, and the various phases of community life should be put over to the people. When you reach the stage of broadcasting, do not let us do it on the basis as if somebody were asking a favour. In the United Kingdom you can listen to all elements in the House of Commons; you can hear the Liberals, the Conservatives or any Government which is in power.

In Barbados we should be able to hear all the points of view of Parliament and not regard it as something in which the voice of somebody other than the Government cannot be heard. It is true that you do not make it a political platform.

Another instance is this: this country is becoming very peculiar. I noticed that in the Federal Elections you forbade anybody from being able to use the Radio even if he bought time.

Do you think that in the United States you can run an election by going into somebody's backyard and saying that you will build roads or put up baths and get them to elect you? When the Government has an important issue arising and it is a matter of emergency, they regard it as a right to get on the radio because it is a means through which to get to thousands of people at the same time. When it comes to national issues like elections, all people should have the right to put forward their side in a proper and prescribed manner. In general, the radio should be the means of giving information and education to the public, and nothing should be done to restrict the widest possible use of it. We do not want a radio like Radio Moscow where you can hear only what Mr. Krushchev has to say. 4.25 p.m.

You want a radio like the B.B.C. where sometimes you can hear the voice of a Trade Unionist, the voice of the Arts Council or the people from the theatre, Mr. Mac-Millan, Mr. Gaitskill or that Liberal, Mr. Davies.

Now, there has been a change in these Regulations, and I hope the Hon. Minister will tell us something more than what is proposed here. In Barbados whenever it comes to the implementing of some innovation, some people believe that it is the preserve for somebody and it does not concern the community. Let me tell the Hon. Minister that he is not running a Government Broadcasting Station and, as a matter of fact, he has said so. I would tell the Government here and now not to worry itself about it either. I know what the Hon. Minister used to feel about that matter. Of course, he would see now that he is sitting down in the position which he is in that you have to do a lot more with the money that you have than that. You can leave out the running of a Broadcasting Station and leave it to the people to pay the \$2.00 or the \$2.50 which they are paying now for the service which they are getting so that you can get down to the other things which they cannot do for themselves, such as the erection of communal baths, and so on.

This Resolution is to give the authority to the Governor-in-Executive Committee to issue a licence or licences for the establishment in the Island of Commercial Wireless Broadcasting stations and or television stations. As I see it, TV is something out of the foreseeable future, because they have not discovered a way to get around the bends of the world yet. I hear an hon. member saying that you can have TV films.

What I would like to know from the Hon. Minister is this: are you about to start with this idea now? He seems to be hedging. Do you know how many people have applied for such licences? Are you going to have more than one Company? We would like to know that, because we would not like to have any confusion or people coming around asking us something of which we know nothing. Do you intend to give this licence only to the Rediffusion people or has somebody else applied? All of these are things which I would like to know. We know that you cannot do what is done in Great Britain, because this country is poor. I do not enjoy all the programmes which come over Rediffusion, but I think they are doing a good service.

I do not like so much commercial broadcasting, but this is a commercial world now. They tried to keep commercial broadcasting out of TV, but they could not succeed. The Hon. Minister should say what Government intends to do as regards this matter. We do not have a Broadcasting Station here. You cannot hear Jamaica here. I would like to know when one goes from Barbados that one can hear something which is taking place at home. With all the romance and the fascination which the Hon. Minister of Social Services has attached to these Regulations, we know nothing of what is going on. I hope the Hon. Minister in reply will tell us quite positively whether in a year's time we are going to get one or more Commercial Broadcasting Stations here. Is it a fact that persons or Companies are ready to install a Broadcasting station in Barbados? Let us hear what is your intention. Are you going to give a licence to one company or more than one company as is done in Trinidad?

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister when he introduced the Resolution and commended it to the acceptance of the House rather nervously, or so it seemed, gave the impression that he himself did not know very much about it, but only recommended it to us, because there was nothing better to do than to do so at the moment and I am sorry that he did not tell us as much as would be profitable for us to know. He has left hon. members with this feeling, either that it is something which is of not much importance or has shown himself clever by withholding from the House under the guise of indifference the true facts of the case.

As I understand it, the purpose of this Resolution is to give Government the authority to issue licences to all and sundry who want to install a Wireless Broadcasting Station or TV. It is in the provisions of these Regulations that there will be no limit to the number of new companies which can so share that privilege. A few weeks ago, immediately after the House adjourned for the recess, I saw this Resolution, but not the Regulations and I took the trouble during recess of getting in touch with the Manager of the Barbados Rediffusion Service to ask him what it was all about, because you must get your information somewhere and it is better to ask the people who are in the position of knowing something about it than to rely on hearsay. It may astound you to know that it was I whom the Manager said was bringing it to his attention for the first time and he asked me to procure for him a copy of the Regulations and of the Resolution so that he may acquaint himself with what was going on. He was not able to tell me anything; therefore, I draw the inference that it does not concern Rediffusion, but a different set of people who are not concerned with it have influenced Government to have these Regulations changed. That would bring about a certain amount of keen commercial competition between Rediffusion and this new company or new companies. Let me say here now that I have no brief for Rediffusion. My connection with that Company was broken long ago; therefore, it must not be said that I am pleading any case for them. I am only saying that the fact that they did not know anything about this matter shows that it is a different set of people for whom this particular privilege is being sought. I am not saying that there is anything wrong about it. So far as broadcasting is concerned, this might be a benefit to the Island as a whole, because merchants and manufacturers might be able to have the choice of using the services of several companies and by that, they might find that it would cost them less to advertise their products. By this means, it may be cheaper for them to run their business and it may be a means of helping the mass of people as a whole. If you have two or three or more Broadcasting Stations, the people may be able to get more entertainment and better enlightenment. However, there is one thing which springs to my mind. Commercial enterprises going in for this broadcasting would not feel themselves particularly biassed politically, one way or the other. I do believe that they will observe certain standards and see that they are kept to that. If that be so, the various parties would be able to use the facilities provided and that in itself might bring about a change in conditions under which Barbados Rediffusion now operates its licence and that Company

eventually may allow the different political parties to use its services.

Sir, I have no particular objection one way or the other to this Resolution, but I am surprised to see that so little is known about it and so little is told to us by the Minister and that the one Company which holds a licence in this Island has known nothing of it.
4.35 p.m.

With respect to television, like my hon. friend, I think we all agree that it will be some time before we see commercial television established in these parts, for technical and other reasons. Even if the technical reasons could be overcome, my information is that the cost of commercial television is so prohibitive that only the really big industrial concerns could use that means for commercial advertising. I am told that the figures are £1,000 for a minute's broadcasting! That is a lot of money to be paid for a minute's advertising of a particular product. Even if the technical difficulties could be overcome, commercial television would not be profitable in this island for sometime. Do not let us have to wait for another year to pass before we are informed as to what firms, whether local or overseas, wish to do this investing and to whom these licences will be granted. I suspect, I have not been told so, that these enterprises will be local ones and they will be reached largely by people who have a particular axe to grind with Barbados Rediffusion and its directors for certain reasons of their own.

I do not think that either the Government or ourselves should be concerned with that, but out of that quarrel and competition some tangible good may come to the subscribers and the listeners as a whole; and it may well be that with the expansion of this broadcasting service more public enlightenment and more public entertainment will be given. We would not like the Hon. Minister to wait for a year without telling us exactly what is going to take place because it is quite possible that the House of Assembly may wish to give its view as to how certain aspects of this matter may be dealt with in the future.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: I think I was at pains to give the reason for the establishment of this station. We had several applications over the last ten or twelve months for broadcasting as well as television. My honourable friend was so clear on the aspects of television that he has given us figures which makes it impossible from his point of view to have a television station in Barbados; however this is not the opinion of the Government. I think that the hon. member will agree with me that at this stage we should be expected to be quiet at least and remain confidential until such time that decisions can be made available.

In answer to the question raised by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, however, I should like to say that we have received some figures as to the installation cost of a broadcasting station and it is something like \$300,000 with an annual recurrent cost of \$75,000, and that is on the basis of operating the station for four hours a day. We have quite recently come around to the idea and since then we have had these applications. The hon. senior member for St. Peter asked about the B.B.C. As you will appreciate in the United Kingdom they now collect something like \$27 million a year in licences; ten per cent of that is left in the Treasury and the other \$24 million odd is passed on to the Corporation. There is no likelihood of the fees being extended to operate a broadcasting station. For the comfort of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, I would like to say that we will appoint a statutory authority on broadcasting to carry out the licences; they will have some regard to broadcasting matters and standards in so far as programmes are concerned. We have no fear - as a matter of fact there is some measure of certainty that it is possible to release licences in a month or two months and within twelve months we will have a television and broadcasting service. In another year we will have complete coverage for Barbados with a television programme operating for three or four hours in the evening.

I do hope that I have satisfied the requests which have been made, apart from the statement made by the hon. senior member for St. Lucy who is in search of some information from the manager of Rediffusion Limited. (Mr. WALCOTT: No, what is your policy?) I do not know what the hon. member would like to expect. This matter is regarded as being confidential and at this stage it would not be advantageous to say whether we will release one or two or three licences. We can have a broadcasting station and again I say it is a matter of policy. I ask the hon. member not to make it uncomfortable and to press me into saying something now; at the moment we are asking for an amendment to these Regulations so as to provide this service.

We will come to you again on the occasion with the term of licences, and we will be able to give you all the details. The policy is quite settled. We are asking for licences for a Broadcasting Station, and I can say that within a year or two you will have a Broadcasting Station and a Television Station.

I hope, Sir, that that covers the questions of the hon. senior member for St. Peter as well as those asked by the hon. member for St. Lucy.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 14th October at 12 noon.

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

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

4.50 p.m.