THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1959

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

February 3rd, 1959.

Pursuant to prorogation, the 1956-61 Legislative Session was re-opened by His Excellency the Governor, Brigadier Sir Robert Duncan Harris Arundell, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., in the Council Chamber, Public Buildings, at 10 o'clock a.m. today.

The following Members of the House were present in their Chamber:

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, junior member for St. Peter, (*Speaker*); Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, junior member for St. Lucy, (*Leader of the Opposition*); Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, C.B.E., M.D., C.M., junior member for St. Thomas, (*Premier*); Mr. W. A. CRAWFORD, senior member for St. Philip; Hon. M. E. COX, senior member for St. Michael, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*); His Honour Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., senior member for St. Joseph, (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E., senior member for St. Peter; Mr. E.D. MOTTLEY, senior member for the City; Hon. R. G. MAPP, senior member for St. Thomas, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr. T. O. BRYAN, junior member for St. Michael (*Chairman of Committees*); Mr. F. C. GODDARD, junior member for Christ Church; Hon. F. E. MILLER, junior member for St. George, (*Minister of Social Services*); Mr. E. St.A. HOLDER, senior member for St. James; Mr. C. E. TALMA, senior member for Christ Church; Mrs. E. E. BOURNE, senior member for St. Andrew; Mr. J. C. TUDOR, M. A., senior member for St. Lucy; Hon. D. D. GARNER, junior member for St. Philip, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mr. C. B. SEARLES, junior member for St. James; Hon. L. St.A. THORNE senior member for St. John (*Minister of Education*); Mr. T. W. MILLER, junior member for the City; Mr. E. W. BARROW, B.Sc., junior member for St. John; Mr. G. E. S. STRAUGHN, junior member for St. Joseph and Mr. J. W. CORBIN, junior member for St. Andrew.

HOUSE SUMMONED TO OTHER PLACE

Honourable members being in their places, the Sergeant-at-Arms entered the Chamber and informed Mr. SPEAKER that His Excellency the Governor was in the Council and was ready to receive the House.

Mr. SPEAKER preceded by the Marshal carrying the Mace cradlewise and followed by the Honourable members in pairs according to seniority, proceeded to the Council Chamber and waited on His Excellency the Governor.

His Excellency then addressed the two Houses of the Legislature as follows:–

Opening of the Legislative Session 1959

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:
Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

It is my privilege this morning to welcome the Members of both Chambers of the Legislature on the opening of a new session. It is customary on this occasion to review very briefly the principal events of the past year and to outline my Government's future plans in so far as that is possible in advance of the presentation of next year's Budget.

The Legislature

Several changes have taken place in both Houses of the Legislature as a result of the establishment of the Federation of the West Indies. Two Members of the Legislative Council, Sir Archibald Cuke, C.B.E. and Dr. A.S. Cato, were appointed Senators by the Governor-General. Two other Members of the Council, Mrs. N.G. Daysh, O.B.E. and Mr. D. H. L. Ward, were elected to the Federal House of Representatives. The Honourable Dr. H. G. Massiah, C.B.E. succeeded Senator Sir Archibald Cuke as President of the Legislative Council and three new appointments were made to the Council, namely the Honourable H. F. Alkins, the Honourable McD. Symmonds and the Honourable Mrs. E. E. Talma.

Two former Members of the House of Assembly were elected to the Federal House of Representatives:- The Honourable Sir Grantley Adams, C.M.G., Q.C., resigned his office of Premier of Barbados and became the first Prime Minister of the West Indies; the Honourable V.B. Vaughan was made a Minister without Portfolio in the Federal Government. The Honourable Dr. H. G. H. Cummins, C.B.E., formerly Speaker,

succeeded Sir Grantley Adams as Premier of Barbados on the 17th April, 1958. In accordance with custom all Ministers tendered their resignations, but were reappointed to the same posts. As a result of bye-elections in St. Joseph and St. John, Mr. G. E. S. Straughan and Mr. E. W. Barrow were elected to the House of Assembly.

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. Husbands became Speaker of the House of Assembly for the third time when the Legislature resumed on the 28th May.

The Honourable L. St.A. Thorne was appointed Minister of Education on the 1st September.

In December, Mr. J. W. Corbin was elected to the House of Assembly at a bye-election in St. Andrew caused by the resignation of Mr. F.G. Smith.

Mr. G. D. L. Pile, C.B.E. retired from the Legislative Council on reaching the age limit on the 23rd May after 40 years of public service as a legislator, first in the General Assembly from 1912-1917 and 1920-44 and then in the Legislative Council from 1946 to the date of his retirement. Mr. Pile was honoured with the C. B.E. in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours, 1958.

The Honourable C. W. W. Greenidge was appointed to fill this vacancy in the Council.

Mr. V. C. Gale retired from the Legislative Council on grounds of ill-health in August. Mr. Gale had been a member of that Chamber for 10 years, having previously served in the House of Assembly from 1914 to 1948.

Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to give instructions for the reappointment to the Legislative Council of the Honourable Dr. H. G. Massiah, whose current term expires this month, and for the appointment for five years of the Honourable F. M. Bayne.

In connection with appointments to the Legislative Council I should mention that very careful consideration was given to representations that were made in favour of Party representation in the Council. The Government are necessarily represented in the Council by the Minister without Portfolio, but his function is to speak for the Government rather than for his Party. The conclusion was reached that the representation of Political Parties in the Council would not be in the best interest of the Island.

Financial Position

Final figures for the financial year 1957-58 show Revenue of $20.7 million and Current Expenditure of $19.3 million, giving a surplus of $1.4 million on current account. Capital expenditure amounted to $5.8 million of which $1.1 million were met from revenue balances. The General Revenue Balance stood at $3.9 million at the beginning of the current financial year, as compared with $3.6 million a year previously and $6.5 million on the 1st April, 1955, when the present Development Plan began.

The Budget for the current financial year shows Revenue of $20.9 million and Current Expenditure of $20.5 million. It is too soon to give an accurate indication of the outcome for the year because the bulk of the tax is collected in October while expenditure is always highest in March. Revenue collections up to the end of December amounted to $18 million and Current Expenditure to $14.5 million. Capital Expenditure for the same period was approximately $7 million out of a total estimate for the year of $13.9 million. Of this about $5 million were spent on the Deep Water Harbour, which continued to be financed from local resources pending the raising of an external loan.

Public Loans

Last Thursday the Crown Agents on behalf of my Government invited applications for £2,584,000 6 per cent stock at 98 1/2 redeemable 1971/1973. The list of applications was opened at 10 a.m. and closed one minute later, by which time the loan had been heavily oversubscribed.

This favourable response from the investing public is a tribute to the good name of Barbados and will be of importance to the West Indies as a whole.

Up to the end of December subscriptions to the current issue of Government Debentures amounted to $1.4 million. At that date the Public Debt of the Island stood at $11.1 million and the Sinking Funds at $2.5 million.

Development Plan, 1960-65

The period of the current Development Plan will expire on the 31st March, 1960, and my Government have under preparation a Plan for the next five years. The first priority in the new Plan will be the completion of the construction of the Deep Water Harbour, the contract date for which is 20th August, 1961. It is estimated that at least a third of the cost of this project will fall to be met during the period of the new Plan. The second major project which will fall to be completed is the new General Hospital. In considering other priorities my Government intend to give preference to projects which will strengthen the economy of the Island.

It is satisfactory to record that the Convention for the avoidance of double taxation between the United Kingdom and the United States of America was extended to Barbados with effect from the 1st of January this year.

Exchange Control

As it is expected that the United Kingdom Supplies and Services Acts, under which the local Exchange Control regulations operate, will shortly expire, it will be necessary to introduce an Exchange Control Bill in the usual form in use in other Territories during the new session.

Industrial Development

Thirteen loans totalling $313,000 have been made by the Development Board to assist the development of small industries. Since the amendment of the Act to permit the grant of assistance to hotels, five such loans totalling $290,000 have also been made.

Incentive legislation enacted during the last session included the Pioneer Industries Act, 1958, and the Hotel Aids (Amendment) Act, 1958, both of which are intended to provide greater concessions for the development of industries in the Island. Legislation will be presented to you to permit the grant of customs concessions on raw materials for industrial use.

The enactment of the Tourist Board Act is evidence of my Government's desire to encourage the growth of the Tourist industry.

Commonwealth Sugar Agreement

At the negotiations last November between Commonwealth exporters and Her Majesty's Government the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement was extended once again and now runs to 1966. Under Article 15 of the Agreement the quantity that may be sold at the negotiated price was increased by 2 1/2 per cent. This means that Barbados may now sell 127,960 tons out of its overall quota of 163,000 tons at the negotiated price, which has been increased from £43. 16s. 8d. to £45. 2s. 0d. per ton.

International Sugar Agreement

The International Sugar Agreement, which expired on the 31st December, 1958, has been re-negotiated for a further period of five years. It is an improvement on the previous agreement in that important Exporters and Importers, who previously kept out of the agreement, have intimated their intention to join. Under this agreement Commonwealth Exporters will obtain an increased quota of 75,000 tons in the years 1960 and 1961.

Agriculture

Last year's sugar crop encountered many difficulties some of which will affect the yield this year. The Island's dependence on rainfall emphasises the importance of the investigations which are being made into the economic use of irrigation.

An investigation into the economics of the sugar industry has been carried out by Mr. A. F. McKenzie, Agricultural Adviser to the Federal Government, and consultations are taking place with the Sugar Producers' Federation and the Barbados Workers' Union on the recommendations in his report especially with respect to Severance Pay and a Provident Fund.

Agricultural extension work among small farmers has been stepped up, and useful progress has been made through discussion groups and through the work of the Co-operative Section of the Department of Science and Agriculture.

You will be consulted with regard to my Government's further proposals for grassland development.

The long felt need for proper marketing facilities has been partly met by the Central Market in Fairchild Street which was opened in September. This market has proved a great boon to the public. A District Market has been built at Six Cross Roads in St. Philip and will be

opened shortly. Work has commenced on the conversion of the Cheapside Rum Bond into another Public Market. The economics of operating a corn-meal factory are under study.

The pilot scheme to stabilise agricultural land in the Scotland district has yielded valuable experience in the development of conservation techniques which can be applied elsewhere in the district.

The Soil Conservation (Scotland District) Act, 1958, was proclaimed on the first of this month and a Board has been appointed to advise on the programme of work.

The fishing fleet now contains some 440 motor-driven boats. Following advice obtained from an expert provided under the ICA Agreement my Government hope that it will shortly be possible to proceed with the construction of a cold store for fish and meat together with a new abattoir.

Legislation to control the dynamiting of fish is to be presented to you.

Employment

No reliable statistics of unemployment are available, but the number registered at the Employment Exchange at 31st December was 1,162 as compared with 2,239 a year ago. During 1958, 1,239 persons were placed in local employment.

The total amount loaned to emigrants up to 31st December was $1,145,000 of which $727,810 had been repaid. There was a marked falling off in the number of emigrants to Britain in the latter part of the year.

Forty women emigrated to Canada under the scheme for domestic workers. There were 1,216 contract workers in the United States at the end of the year as compared with 1,557 a year previously.

New openings abroad for Barbadians are constantly being sought by my Government.

Labour

Discussions continue with the Barbados Workers' Union and employer organisations on proposals to amend certain of our Labour laws in the light of the report by Mr. C. O. J. Matthews of the International Labour Organisation. It is hoped that it will be possible to introduce legislation on the subject of Workmen's compensation during the new Session.

Deep Water Harbour

Construction of the Deep Water Harbour is proceeding satisfactorily and the delay of a few weeks behind schedule on account of the late arrival of Contractor's equipment is expected to be made good in the next few months.

The workyards have now been fully developed and the necessary organisation built up. Permanent works at present under construction are the Breakwater and Wharf Wall, while dredging and reclamation continue according to plan. Concrete blockwork has been laid for a quarter of the distance along the inner arm of the Breakwater and the abutment of the Quay Wall has been completed. Some 15 acres of new land has been filled above sea level of which 6 acres have been built up to the required height.

It has been agreed that the bulk sugar store at the Harbour should have a capacity of 80,000 tons, and a sub-contract for the supply and installation of mechanical handling equipment has been awarded to Messrs. Spencer (Melksham) Limited. The cost of the entire installation will be in the vicinity of $3.7 million and by consent of the parties concerned will be met from the Price Stabilization Reserve Fund.

Surveys of the proposed North and South access roads to the new Harbour have been completed and my Government's proposals in this regard will be laid before you.

A helpful Report received from the Deep Water Harbour Committee appointed by the Barbados Shipping and Mercantile Association is under study. A Port Manager has been selected and it is hoped that his services will be available in a few months' time.

Seawell Airport

The new terminal building at Seawell Airport is expected to be completed in April. Thanks to skilful planning by the Directors of Public Works and Civil Aviation and cooperation by the public, the normal running of the airport has continued while new buildings are constructed round the old. When completed the floor area of the new buildings will be just over one acre in extent.

A new taxiway was constructed in reinforced concrete by the Highways and Transport Department and the work of replacing the asphalt centre-strip of the runway with concrete was continued at night when airline schedules permitted.

Highway Improvement

The programme of highway improvement and general maintenance continues satisfactorily and new methods of construction have been successful in stabilizing roads in the Scotland area. Since being repaired the Chamberlain Bridge is carrying three times the maximum load that it was formerly permitted to take. The new Joe's River Bridge carries vehicles up to 9 tons in weight as compared with the previous limit of 3 tons.

Water Supplies

The development of the Island's water resources has continued satisfactorily and I should like to pay a special tribute to the work of Mr. W. H. E. Garrod, C.I.E., who retired last month after nine years in charge of the Waterworks Department. I may mention that when Mr. Garrod came here, it was necessary to lift 4 million gallons of water a day to meet the needs of the Island. The Department is now lifting and distributing over 10 million gallons a day. To help meet the demands, three new Harland Spindle Pumps were installed during 1958 at the Belle. My Government plan to sink additional wells in the sheet water area to meet the ever increasing demands for water for the future.

Town and Country Planning

A Department of Town and Country Development Planning was established last year and the Planning Officer assumed duty in October. He will concentrate first of all on areas in which rapid development is taking place. Legislation will be introduced to control building development in the Island.

Land Acquisition

My Government also intend to introduce legislation making better provision for the assessment and award by a tribunal of compensation for property compulsorily acquired for public purposes, with a view to preventing the inflation of the value of such property, especially in the area adjoining the Deep Water Harour.

Housing

Since the establishment of the Housing Authority in April, 1956, 805 new houses have been constructed and 80 more are nearing completion. In addition, 1,200 families have been assisted to remove their chattel houses to prepared sites. Apart from the 790 wooden houses which were built to house victims of hurricane Janet, there are now over 1,200 houses under the control of the Authority. As a result of prolonged negotiations it is hoped that housing areas will soon become available in the Parishes of St. Peter and St. Joseph.

The purchase of 9 acres in the Emmerton area will enable the Authority to re-develop this congested district as soon as drainage problems connected with the Deep Water Harbour can be overcome.

Housing Loans

At the 31st December last housing loans made to sugar workers totalled (in round figures) $4,617,000. Of this amount, $1,136,000 had been repaid together with interest amounting to $158,000.

Housing loans to other workers, for which funds were made available for the first time a year ago, totalled $120,000 at the 31st December of which $8,000 had been repaid together with $440 interest.

Under the Housing (Amendment) Act, 1958, the Authority now also administers the funds provided for housing loans to public officers. At the 31st December $556,000 had been advanced of which $138,000 had been repaid.

Medical and Health Services

But for the valuable services rendered by doctors who have retired from our own or other Medical Services the Medical Department would have been unable to maintain its many services to the public. The standards of nursing have been raised throughout the General Hospital and the nursing staff has been strengthened by the return of six nurses who had undergone special training in the United Kingdom. Unfortunately many of our student nurses go overseas to work as soon as they pass their final examinations.

A master plan for the proposed new General Hospital has been prepared and application has been made for authority to devote to this project the unspent portion of our Colonial Development and Welfare allocation. As soon as this authority is obtained work will begin on the detailed plans and specifications in order that construction may begin as soon as possible.

Plans have been made for District Hospitals and my Government hope that it will soon be possible to get ahead with the first of these in Oistins.

The follow up work after the B.C.G. campaign has been well maintained. Over 90% of the children in elementary schools have been tested and nearly 100% of the negatives have been protected by vaccination.

The final eradication of the aedes aegypti mosquito has yet to be achieved and this campaign, which is in its fourth year, still continues.

With assistance from the World Health Organisation and environmental sanitation programme intended to improve the sanitary arrangements in rural areas will begin this year.

Social Services

A new development in the field of Social Services has been the appointment of a Cricket Coach, and of a Sports Officer. These officers are at present attached to the Social Welfare Department.

Education

The Ministry of Education, which was established on the 1st September last, is undertaking a revision of the Education Act, 1890, and of the Public Libraries Act, 1904. Legislation will be presented to you to replace the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act. A new scheme of Government for grant-aided secondary schools will also be laid before you.

My Government intend to take steps to speed up the supply of trained teachers from Erdiston Training College. Plans have also been made for the reorganisation of the teaching of home economics.

The building programme to provide additional classrooms in primary schools has continued and during the past year 39 classrooms, including 6 Domestic Science rooms, have been built to provide place for about 1,500 children.

The Pine Secondary Modern School, estimated to cost $366,000, is now under construction. The new Combermere School, which can accommodate 750 pupils, was occupied in September.

To provide additional places in the Secondary Schools, classrooms have been added at Harrison College and the Lodge School. Construction is under way at the Alleyne School and will begin soon at the Alexandra School. During the coming financial year additional accommodation will also be provided at the St. Michael's Girls' School.

The opening last month of the new Library in St. George brings the number of branch libraries to six.

Government Printing Office

It is hoped that the additional equipment now on order, together with additional staff about which you will be consulted, will enable the Printery to deal expeditiously with the increasing volume of work.

Post Office

A double shift system was introduced at the General Post Office in August providing for an extension of the daily counter service to the public. A new Post Office was constructed in St. George.

Police

A Bill will be presented to you to replace the out of date Police Act of 1908.

A welcome grant has been made from central Colonial Development and Welfare funds to cover the cost of necessary extensions at the Regional Police Training Centre.

Fire Brigade

A Bill will be presented to you to replace the Fire Brigade Act of 1908. Work has just begun on the new Fire Station in Christ Church parish.

Information Service

The appointment of an Information Officer in November filled a long-felt need.

Local Government

Arrangements are being made for the Local Government Elections to be held on the 5th March.

Amending Bills relating to Public Health and Public Assistance will shortly be presented to you.

Judicial Reorganisation

The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1956, and the Magistrates' Jurisdiction and Procedure Act, 1956, were brought into operation on the 15th of August, 1958. This major reorganisation was carried through most skilfully by the late Chief Justice, Mr. (now Sir Stanley) Gomes.

Last month we welcomed our present Chief Justice, the Honourable K. S. Stoby.

Revision of Laws

My Government have been able to secure the services of the Honourable C. W. W. Greenidge as Statute Law Commissioner. Mr. Greenidge is devoting his entire time to the task, and towards the end of 1960 or early in 1961 a consolidated revision of the Laws should be available. Legislation will be presented to you to give legal effect to the revision.

My Government are aware that there has been some increase in the cost of living since the last salaries revision and have under consideration measures to grant some relief to the lower paid employees of the Government.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:
Mr. Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:

This may be the last occasion on which I shall have the honour of addressing the Members of both Houses of the Legislature and I should like to say how greatly I have valued the dignity and friendly courtesy with which you have always received me in this Chamber. My wife and I expect to leave Barbados early in June and we shall carry away treasured memories of six full and happy years in this Island.

I now declare the Legislative Session open and I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may always rest upon your counsels.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL,
Governor.

Government House,
Bridgetown,
Barbados.

3rd February, 1959.

His Excellency presented a copy of his speech to the President of the Other Place and to Mr. Speaker.

HOUSE RETURN TO ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Mr. SPEAKER preceded by the Marshal bearing the Mace and followed by other hon. members, returned to the Assembly Chamber.

PRAYERS

Prayers were read.

MR. SPEAKER REPORTS GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that on the last occasion when His Excellency the Governor was pleased to receive this Honourable House in the Other Place he most graciously delivered a Speech a copy of which he has presented to me.

The Speech was taken as read.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Rules of the House for the last Session be the Rules of the House for this Session.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the Honourable Junior member for St. Michael be Chairman of Committees for this Session.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

PRINTING COMMITTEE

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the members of the Printing Committee for this Session be Your Honour, the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture Lands and Fisheries, the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing, the hon. junior member for Christ Church and the Hon. Minister of Education.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, as far as I see it, the representation of this Committee would be three members of the Government, a member of the Official Opposition and a member of my Party; but I think that an independent member ought to be a member of this Committee. I feel that the Hon. Minister of Education will have his hands full throughout the year; as a matter of fact, he will have his hands so full during this session that it will be infinitely much better if he were to appoint an independent member of the House to this Committee. I therefore beg to move that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew replace the Hon. Minister of Education on this Committee.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

The question that the Hon. junior member for St. Andrew replace the Hon. Minister of Education on the Printing Committee was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:–

AYES: Messrs. CORBIN, WALCOTT, MOTTLEY, GODDARD, TALMA, BARROW, TUDOR, CRAWFORD and BRANCKER - 9.

NOES: Mr. BRYAN, Hon'bles Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: M. E. COX, D. D. GARNER, R. G. MAPP, L. St.A. THORNE, F. E. MILLER, Mrs. BOURNE, Messrs. HOLDER, SEARLES, T. W. MILLER, STRAUGHN and L.E. SMITH - 13.

The question that the members of the Printing Committee for the last Session be the members of the Committee for this Session was put and resolved in the in the affirmative without division.

DEBATES COMMITTEE

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Debates Committee is a Statutory Committee.

VICTORIA EMIGRATION SOCIETY

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to request the hon. junior member for St. Andrew to serve as a member of the Victoria Emigration Society in place of Mr. F. G. Smith who was a former member of that Committee. The other hon. members, the hon. senior member for St. Andrew and the hon. senior member for St. James remain.

SUGAR INDUSTRY AGRICULTURAL BANK

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the members of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank who were members for the last Session be re-appointed members for this Session.

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

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

PEASANTS' LOAN BANK

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the members of the Board of the Peasants' Loan Bank be the hon. senior member for St. Joseph and the hon. senior member for St. James.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to nominate in place of the hon. senior member for St. James, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew. I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member for St. Andrew is most eminently qualified for a position on the Peasants' Loan Bank Board, and I am sure that he has even more time at his disposal to serve the peasantry of this island than has the hon. senior member for St. James. He has a knowledge of agriculture - he is himself a small agriculturalist- which I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, is second to none in this House, and is as good as any other member of the Legislature since the late Mr. Graham Gittens ceased to be a member of the House of Assembly of Barbados, and I am sure that with his enthusiasm and the tremendous popularity which the hon. junior member for St Andrew has amongst the peasantry not only in St. Andrew but in the neighbouring parishes which was experienced a few months ago when we went around in the same districts and met peasants from other parishes coming and saying - calling him by familar names - that they wanted "Homie", there can no doubt about it that there is no member in the House of Assembly who has a greater following amongst the peasantry of this island than the hon. junior member for St. Andrew whom it is my pleasure to nominate, whilst I am supporting the nomination of His Honour the Deputy Speaker, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, year after year I have been saying this; when the now West Indian Premier was in this House, I remember I caused a full-dress debate on this matter. I felt then that on these Boards you should have members from either side of the House, but some fancy and fantastic reasons were given then that this Board was somewhat different from other Boards and it was not necessary to put members outside of the Government Party. This is the most undemocratic thing I have ever seen. I am strongly in favour of supporting the hon. junior member for St. Andrew to be a member of this Board, and I am supporting his nomination in place of the hon. senior member for St. James for the simple reason that if we were looking for a gentleman, I would select the hon. senior member for St. James first; but let us be fair; we are looking for members to sit on a Board of Peasant Agriculture; the hon. member is no longer in this line; he is an employee. Nobody can deny that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew is a peasant agriculturist. As the hon. junior member for St. Lucy has said, he has much popularity in the parishes where peasants matter and have great difficulty in making ends meet. Can any other member say that he is not fit to be a member of this Board unless it is what some of them have in their guts, that is that he has no education and cannot speak the Queen's English? Is that the reason why they are not having him on the Board? Unfortunately if that is the reason, that would apply to nearly all the members except the Ministers.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member should restrict his remarks to utterances made in this Chamber.

Mr. MOTTLEY: With the greatest respect, Sir, are you suggesting that I am not in order in using any criticism from any newspaper in the island?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not said that the hon. member is out of Order yet.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Having agreed that I am not out of Order, it is my duty to proceed. I was only saying that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew is truly a peasant, and the hon. senior member for St. James knows that I would say from the depth of my heart that he is gentleman No.1; but we are looking for a peasant and somebody in truth and fact to be on this Board, and if my name was suggested I would have to give place to the hon. junior member for St. Andrew. I cannot make the contribution to that Board as he can, and similarly he cannot make the contribution which I could make on some Boards. With the exception of the Minister he could make a better contribution than any other member of this House.

But, no; you want to get pictures in the Press with him and all sorts of things - not you, Mr. Speaker, but the Hon. Ministers. You want to do all of that and on the other hand you are saying that he cannot speak the King's English properly. The opportunity is yours - I mean the hon. members over there - to say: "let us be democratic; we have the majority."

The argument is that you put one member from each side of the House. You cannot put the hon. junior member for St. Lucy who is the Leader of the Opposition, because he is not a peasant, neither is the hon. senior member for St. Philip. I would say that the hon. senior member for St. Lucy knows nothing about it, the hon. learned and gallant junior member for St. John although he is a lawyer should not be put on it, neither my colleague on my left, the hon. junior member for Christ Church, should not be put on it because he knows nothing about peasantry - he deals with commerce. I say this again, if the hon. junior member for St. Andrew can make land at Lakes, St. Andrew, pay, he must know something about peasantry; therefore, I say today that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew is a good, fit and proper person, a knowledgeable person, to serve on this Board as a member of the Peasants' Loan Bank

Difficulties can arise and of course, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew can deal with something on this Board which even the greatest astute lawyer of this House cannot deal with it as he can. Of course, I do know that he cannot put anything over on the Hon. Minister of Agriculture. I am not talking of the scientific knowledge on agriculture which you get from books, but I am talking of the practical knowledge which the hon. member has of agriculture. I cannot see how any member of the Government Party can vote against his nomination. I hope it will not be thought that if you put him on the Peasants' Loan Bank that you would give him kudos. I am one who expresses my views. You put him on the Victoria Emigration Society but for what?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Andrew is a new member.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I know the hon. member is a new member of the House but I just wanted to say that that Board meets only once every fifty years. In appointing the hon. member to the Victoria Emigration Society, I know you did it in good grace, but appointment to this Board is just another joke. Of course, it was what was done to me thirteen years ago.

Sir, I have therefore much pleasure in seconding the nomination of the hon. junior member for St. Andrew to be a member of the Peasants' Loan Bank. I say this for the benefit of the public. The hon. senior member for St. James is a gentleman and he is among the first gentlemen of the House. He is on this Board but at present he is an employee. Of course he has experience in agriculture but when you are dealing with real peasants, you cannot have a better person on that Board than the hon. junior member for St. Andrew. I see the hon. senior member for St. Andrew is looking at me and from her

appearance I know she feels that her colleague is the best man to be a member of that Board. Sir, I therefore second the motion made by the hon. junior member for St. Lucy.

Mr. BARROW: Sir, I am going to support the motion made by the hon.junior member for St. Lucy but for entirely different reasons from those which were given by the hon. senior member for the City. I would like to take him up on one or two things. First of all, it depends on what he means by being a gentleman. I do not think it is necessary to say whether any member of this House is a gentleman or not because we are all supposed to be gentlemen although we do not always live up to it. I therefore do not think that one being a gentleman has anything to do with the debate at all. I think it is almost irrelevant, if it is not an aspersion when you frame it in that context.

I would like to say that the hon. senior member for the City has studiously avoided any reference to the hon. senior member for St. James' knowledge in things agricultural of which no other hon. member can boast to have as much including the recently admitted hon. junior member for St. Andrew. There is no doubt about that at all. But we have to argue this on different grounds altogether. When you set out the qualifications for membership of this Board of the hon. senior member for St. James against those of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph or the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, it may be a question of *parva componere magnis*. They are all peasants, they are all agriculturists and they are all interested in the development of agriculture.

But this is what I have to say about the matter. It is an unfortunate and undemocratic tendency demonstrated during the last four or five years for the Government of this Island to abuse and debauch the constitutional processes of this Island by handing out membership on Boards to people who only subscribe to their particular political persuasion. To me, that is a highly objectionable method of running the affairs of this country. Obviously, if they want to make a Minister they are not going to the Leader of the Opposition to ask him to be one, neither are they going to seduce a member from over here although it has happened already. I do know that they were at one time so bereft of talent that they had to come over and persuade and use their blandishments to acquire talent from this side of the House. However, I am not suggesting that they should do that at all. I am not suggesting that members on this side unless it was a national government should take part. But when you come to Statutory Boards, the members of which are nominated by Your Honour and in other instances by mere formality by the Leader of the House, we should always try to preserve good parliamentary practice precedents for which there are provisions in the House of Commons and in May's Parliamentary Procedure and which are something in parity in the membership of the Boards with that of membership of the Parties of the whole House. You must bear in mind that you are not appointing a political sub-Committee of the Government Party; you are appointing a statutory Board the membership of which should reflect to a substantial degree the political complexion of this Chamber. I would like to reiterate that it is not a question that it is because the hon senior member for St. James is a gentleman and perhaps by that knows when to keep quiet, or as was mentioned just now that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew is a greater agriculturist: but, as I have said at the beginning, I would give my support to the motion for the reasons which I have just advanced and that is that it is unhealthy for a Government to sort of load up the Statutory Boards with supporters of the Government Party. How then is democracy going to be preserved? The Press has no access to the deliberations of these Boards and how are the ordinary members of the public to find out what is happening in matters which so vitally affect their daily interest? I therefore have much pleasure in supporting the nomination made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, if the knowledge of agriculture be the criterion on which membership of this Board should be selected, well then the hon. junior member for St. Andrew has equal claim to that of the hon. member for St. James. As I have repeatedly stressed on the floor of this House, the constitutional basis on which members are selected to Boards like this one is that the members of the Government, no less than the members of the Opposition, should be given the opportunity of getting first-hand knowledge of the detailed working of the machinery of Government so that in the fulness of time when the Opposition becomes the Government, there will be people from the Opposition who have had something more than theoretical knowledge of the functioning and of the day to day operations of some of these subsidiary Boards which are part of the machinery of Government. Therefore, although we are willing to concede that the knowledge of the hon. junior member for St. Andrew in agricultural matters is not less than that of the hon. senior member for St. James, on the ground of giving the Opposition the opportunity of particiapting in the operations of Government, in my opinion the nomination of the hon. member for St. Andrew should be supported.

Apart from the knowledge of agriculture, it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Government Party itself has a great appreciation of, or sympathy for, the value of the hon. senior member for St. James in any of the functions of Government. He is an older member of this House than the hon. senior member for St. John and yet wen they came to select a Minister they overlooked him and appointed a junior member instead. If the Government itself has demonstrated that, in its own opinion, the hon. senior member for St. James is not of the calibre for nomination to an important Governmental post, then they themselves cannot claim that they are appointing him in place of the nomination which we suggest because of any superior capacity. Therefore, the two hon. members remain equal in the knowledge of agriculture and on constitutional premises alone I am willing to submit that the entire Chamber should support and champion a member other than the members of the Government Party to serve on this Board.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, before the question is put I should just like to reply to one or two remarks which have been made by hon. members who have spoken about our proposal being an undemocratic one. Indeed Sir, one member went on to say that we, on this side of the House, nominate our members without considering the Opposition and at times the Opposition should be put on the Boards in order to take over as some hon members perhaps -----

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of order. If the hon. member is referring to me, I never said that they should appoint members of the Opposition to Boards on the grounds on which he is saying. I am not denying the fact that there are members of the Opposition on some of the Boards, but I am saying that on each Board which is an independent, autonomous body, there should be a member of the Opposition. A member of the Opposition who is on the Victoria Emigration Society would not have any knowledge of the operations of the Peasants'Loan Bank; therefore, each Board should have a member of the Opposition on it.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I was about to say that if it had not been for our adopting a liberal policy, no member from that side would be on any Board at all. (Mr. CRAWFORD: That is not true.) The people of this Island have on many occasions given us a majority to run this country and we are responsible. (Mr. MOTTLEY: How did we get in?) This is a majority decision which we are carrying out. We have been elected as a majority and it is our duty to decide as we think in the best interests of the community generally, and not by the political trappings of any hon. member of this House. Mr. Speaker, could you want more political strategy and political manoeuvring than that which has just gone on? They talk about our trying to woo the hon. junior member for St. Andrew into this Party; the hon. member has already said that he is not prepared to work with them, and on more than one occasion he has expressed his desire.

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of order. The hon. member must make statements which he can substantiate. Ask him on what occasion the hon. junior member for St. Andrew has been asked to serve on this Board and he has refused to do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has denied that.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am going to make a statement of fact. The hon. junior member for St. Andrew has on many occasions showed his willingness to be with this Government (Mr. CRAWFORD: On the very first occasion on which he voted in this House he voted with us.) I am sure that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew does not mind my repeating this publicly; that he has made application to become a member of this Party with a view to our running him for a seat representing the parish of St. Andrew. There is no question of our wooing him into this Party; if there is anybody who is wooing him, it is the members on the other side who are doing that and trying to get him with them. It is entirely a matter for him. We appoint two members to this Board and the other side is saying that we must give them equal representation with a minority group on that side; we must give them equal representation on this Board. I would like to see the members opposite having a majority anywhere and equalising the votes on any Board, especially when it is a question of the appointment of members to the Peasants' Loan Bank. But at every session when this matter comes before the House, sometimes hon. members propose the hon. senior member for St. Philip and at other times they propose other hon. members in order to get this equality of votes on the Board. We are not prepared to do that and I do not consider that it is being undemocratic either. Sometimes I wish that people who refer to others as being undemocratic,and to the behaviour of others as being undemocratic, would just examine themselves and they would see where the failing is.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I know that we must now give it up as a bad job to hear anything sensible from the hon. member who has just sat down. I tried while he was speaking to remember what he most reminded me of, and I turned it about in my mind and discovered that the nearest thing he resembles to me is an old steamer we had at Oxford which used to ply the river between Oxford and Henley; it had a three-foot engine and a seven-foot whistle, and every time the whistle blew the engine stopped. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, hearing a member of the majority Party argue against putting a member of the minority side on a Board on the grounds that they have the majority? In other words, arguing that it is democratic merely because you happen for the time being to control the Government to deny other members their rights, because it is their rights as well?

In the days when the people they are supposed to be so bitterly against used to control this Government, Sir Grantley Adams and my colleague the hon. senior member for St. Philip at some time or other had their turns on Boards, and I believe on this particular Board. It was never then said by Mr. Keith Walcott or Mr. Wilkinson that Mr. Adams or the hon.senior member for St. Philip had not been sent in here to run the Government, and it is a gross insult to the intelligence of the people of this island generally speaking and in particular to the people who sent us here to say that the Government has the majority and therefore nobody else counts. A majority is a thing that melts. There was a time when two years ago the hon. senior member for St. Andrew got about 1,200 or 1,300 votes to put her around this Table, but she could not muster as much as 600 to put a candidate here from her Party. Were has that majority gone? (A VOICE: We are waiting until 1961.) It may come before then. Why argue it is a majority alone that counts? All the members of this House, Mr. Speaker, stand on equal footing, and all the Boards which require .....

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is my duty to ask hon. members who are making asides to desist from being so loud,so that I can hear the hon. member.

Mr. TUDOR: Sir, and all the Boards which require that there should be members of this House only by Statute should be filled by hon. members on both sides of the House, because it is a House filling the Boards as a House. It is irrelevant to the issue, Mr. Speaker, whether the hon. member inclines on that side or this side. I have no reason to believe that he has said in this House on which side he wishes to go; he has only sat here during two meetings. The one time he voted when the House divided, he voted against them, and that is how we know because it is on the record and his political inclinations are a matter for him to decide. All he has got to do first and last is to please the people of St. Andrew who sent him here. In any case, Mr. Speaker, if you admit, as most hon. members would, that the hon. senior member for St. James and the hon. junior member for St. Andrew are both of them good choices fo inclusion on this Board, the one argument I would use against the member for St. James is that we do not hear enough of him in this House on matters in which he is said to be an expert; and for those of us who know anything at all about agriculture, the one way we could judge him is that he should get up periodically and tell us what he knows. There is one other point, Mr. Speaker. He has been on that Board for sometime now; we could understand it if they had taken him off and put on one other of their members. We would not approve of that, but we would understand it because they would be telling us that they intend to allow their own Party members to get as much knowledge as possible of the working of this Statutory Board, but they keep him there as a reward for his loyalty when he does not as far as we know, contribute as much as he should and could contribute to the debates on agriculture, whether peasant or otherwise, in this House. He is senior to a lot of people in that Party. My colleague spoke about how the hon. senior member for St. James was passed over when they had to appoint a Minister of Agriculture. I think that is really small potatoes, if I may use that Phrase. The real insult to him was when knowing him to...

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member is speaking on something which is not before the House. Other matters are not of interest to us at this particular time. The reference made by the hon. member for St. Philip is pardonable, but to have that type of discussion renewed is to no purpose as far as finding a member to members to sit on this Board.

Mr. TUDOR: As Your Honour pleases. But Your Honour will remember that the Minister who has just sat down said that Government had its own point of view and it was left to them to arrange this matter as they thought fit. Well, it is left for us on this side of the Table, Mr. Speaker, with equal right to speak our minds on the problem, and part of the problem is the attitude of the Government Party to the same hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot hope to agree with the hon. member on that. That is no problem of the House.

Mr. TUDOR: But they didn't make him Minister of Agriculture, a thing in which he is expert, and now they tell us that because they have a majority they must get him there. The hon. member knows that nobody on this side of the House has any personal grudge against him or that we feel in any way antagonistic; he is perhaps the most inoffensive member of this Chamber and is popular with everybody because he maintains a dignified silence.

Mr. Speaker, members on this side on the House have been sent here by people's votes, and we have to come here because the majority has voted for us and there is no difference in fact or in theory between the majority it gives to them and to us; therefore the argument that they have the majority cannot hold water, because it has nothing at all to dowith the dividing of representation on these Boards.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, and hon. members of the House, I am moved by the very cordial welcome you have extended to me. I can assure you that I am happy and proud to be a member of this Assembly representing

my people, therefore my only determination will be at all times to support and introduce measures for the betterment of my people.

I have been elected by my people and I was sent here to the House of Assembly to represent them. I am not here to argue with any Party or fight with any Party. I am here by myself alone. Wherever there is good towards my people, I will discharge my conscience and wherever there is evil I will resist it. I have found myself mixed up with all kinds of people in this Island and have worked in every capacity. I have not been sent here only by agriculturists or by one set of people, but by all kinds of people from St. Andrew. When it comes to agricultural work I do that from my heart. Wherever there is hard work I know of it and I am willing to fight to the best of my knowledge for the representation of my people.

It is not a question of if I am on this side or on that side. I ran as an independent and I will remain an independent: and whoever is looking out to see whether this is so within the course of time will see the indication of my views. I mean to say this, gentlemen. We are not sent here by the people of Barbados to argue or criticise but to perform our civic duties: and that is to seek out the best ways and means for the welfare of the people and to meet their needs at all times.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mrs. BOURNE: Mr. Speaker, the speech of my colleague, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, is not pertinent to the motion before the House. It is just this.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member will remember that there is a motion before this Chamber and that she will keep to it. The hon. junior member for St. Andrew spoke out of the fullness of his heart but this is no time for complimentary remarks.

Mrs. BOURNE: Sir, that is exactly what I was going to do. After listening to the remarks made by hon. members of the Opposition on the question of the motion made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I wish to say that I have heard no comment from any of them to the effect that the hon. senior member for St. James has failed at any time in his duty as a member of this Board. The hon. senior member for St. James is a peasant-proprietor. As a matter of fact, he used to work in the Agricultural Department. I have been in there on business on behalf of one of my parishioners and I have seen him there. If the hon. member is a peasant proprietor himself, and the hon. senior member for St. Joseph who is also the other member along with him on that Board is a peasant proprietor also, how then can they fail to represent the people that sent them here? I have been informed that the hon. senior member for St. James owns seven acres of land and as the law stands, that entitles him to be a peasant-proprietor. On those grounds and also on the grounds that he has the necessary experience to be a member of this Board, I am going to support him. When it comes to the question of supporting my colleague which I was asked to do, I wish to say that he has made it quite clear that he is not a member of this Party or of any Party but that he is an independent and will remain an independent.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to enter in this debate, but as a matter of setting the records straight, I think it is my duty to say something having had the experience as a member of this same Board on two occasions and having had the privilege of nominating the same two hon. members who are at present on this Board - the hon. senior member for St. Joseph and the hon. senior member for St. James - to this Board in 1954, when I happened to be the Minister for Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries.

I am in a position to say that both hon. members have served with distinction and that the qualifications of the hon. senior member for St. James is not inferior to any member of this Chamber in matters agricultural. The hon. member has worked way back in 1925 and 1926 as a Mosaic Inspector and a Peasant Instructor in the Agricultural Department. He owns land in his own right and his daily duties entails agricultural work even up to today. He has as much experience and practical knowledge of the working of land as any member of this Chamber and probably the best knowledge of all of us; so to suggest that his knowledge is inferior to that of the new member - the hon. junior member for St. Andrew - is something which I cannot go along with.

But I will argue this from another point of view. The hon. junior member for St. Andrew is an agriculturist of class and because of that, he should be given an opportunity to serve. Both the hon. senior member for St. James and the hon. senior member for St. Joseph have served long enough on that Board. They have been there from 1954. Normally, you appoint members of this Chamber to the various Boards so as to give them the necessary experience and the know-how, but to keep a member on a Board indefinitely or to keep these members on that Board indefinitely because they are members of the Party is wrong. I say this: by all means do not persist with the same two hon. members on that Board every year. You should give new members the opportunity to serve. There is no knowing how long the hon. members who are on that Board may live or otherwise; so the idea should be to train new members of this Chamber with the necessary experience so that they would be able to carry on.

As I have said, the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing and myself have served on that Board. I think that the hon. senior member for St. Philip and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition have also served for many years on this Board. If I were nominated again, I would decline to serve although I do know that my presence there may be a means of helping peasants in Christ Church, but I rely on members who have been appointed to do their best. I repeat, to persist in appointing the same two members who have been appointed for over five years is wrong.

I agree with the point raised by the hon. leader of the Government Party that they have the majority and that it is all in politics for them to appoint whom they like: but I would say to him and to the Government that the time has come when the Peasants Loan Bank Act should be amended so far as having two members from the House as members of the Board. It is my opinion that you should have at least three or four members from this House because I think you need greater representation of the people's representatives on that Board. As it is, the position is that only members from one party are selected and members from the other party are left out altogether. Therefore, the only suggestion I have to offer is to increase the membership of that Board. Owing to the present composition, you cannot do it. The present composition for membership on that Board is two members from the House of Assembly, one from the Legislative Council, one who is the Governor's nominee and the Director of Agriculture; in other words, five members. Therefore, I am suggesting that two more members from the House be added to the composition so that the parties of the House will be represented on that Board. In any case, one must realise that the peasants form the backbone of this country and it is time that we see the peasants' interest is protected and encouraged.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Speaker, I think that the final remarks of the last speaker have perhaps been the most constructive that have been made by hon. members. (Mr. SPEAKER: As far as nomination is concerned) As far as nomination is concerned. I was just discussing this matter with the Clerk of the House in order to know if there was any Rule on the matter of nomination to these standing Committees, and he has said that some of these Rules are still being revised. I think that it is the general practice that you put members on these Standing Committees in proportion to their representation in the House. I would like to suggest that the members of the Opposition

have made an unhappy choice in selecting this Board as the one in which they ask for a division of membership.

If you take the suggestion of the hon. senior member for Christ Church that the membership from the House of Assembly on this Board should be increased, I believe that a more proportionate representation could be given; but if you choose this very Board where there just happen to be two members from the House of Assembly on it, I think that there is very much more reason or justification why the present constitution of the Board should remain as it is. This is a Board which is in a situation where the members have to work very closely with the Hon. Minister of Agriculture; they may have to keep nearer to things than is the case in some of the other Committees. I should like to say with reference to the suggestion which has been made to replace the hon. senior member for St. James by the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, that perhaps a little quotation from Milton might help hon.members: "They also serve who only stand and wait."

The question that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew replace the hon. senior member for St. James on the Peasants' Loan Bank Board was put and resolved in the negative.

The division was as follows:-

AYES: Messrs. CORBIN; WALCOTT; MOTTLEY; GODDARD; TALMA; BARROW; TUDOR; CRAWFORD and BRANCKER - 9.

NOES: Mr. BRYAN; HON'BLES DR. H. G. H. CUMMINS; M. E. COX; R. G. MAPP; D. D. GARNER; F. E. MILLER; L. St.A THORNE; MESSRS. HOLDER; SEARLES; T. W. MILLER; STRAUGHN and L. E. SMITH - 12.

The question that the members of the Board for the last Session be the members of the Board for this Session was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CONTROL BOARD

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the Members of the Sugar Production and Export Control Board for this Session be as follows:- The Hon. senior member for St. Joseph, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, Mr. Mc.Donald Blunt, and Mr. H. A. C. Thomas.

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

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

PAPERS LAID

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay Message No.5/1959 regarding the appointment of members to the Executive Committee.

The Message is as follows:-

MESSAGE NO. 5/1959

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

TO

THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that pursuant to the provisions of the Executive Committee Act, 1891, he has appointed the following members of the Honourable the House of Assembly to be members of the Executive Committee under and in accordance with the provisions of that Act:-

The Honourable M. E. Cox, M.C.P.,
The Honourable R. G. Mapp, M.C.P.
The Honourable F. E. Miller, M.C.P.
The Honourable D. D. Garner, M.C.P.
The Honourable L. St.A. Thorne, M.C.P.

R. D. H. ARUNDELL
GOVERNOR.

Government House,
BARBADOS
3rd February, 1959.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am also commanded to lay the following:-

The Civil Establishment (General)(Amendment)(No. 25) Order, 1958.

The Civil Establishment (General)(Amendment)(No. 26) Order, 1958.

The Civil Establishment (General)(Amendment)(No. 27) Order, 1958.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay Post Office Advances for the payment of Money Orders.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I am commanded to lay the Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Executive Council of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux for the year 1957-58.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment)(No.25) Order, 1958.

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General)(Amendment)(No.26) Order, 1958.

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General)(Amendment)(No.27) Order, 1958.

Resolution to place the sum of $153,733 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.39, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Bill to amend the Pensions Act, 1947.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

Resolution to place the sum of $1,300 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1958-59, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1958 - 59, No.40, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with the money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I gave notices to the Clerk, but I hear there is nothing under Private Members' Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member should wait until the Clerk introduces them to me.

Mr. WALCOTT: The Clerk is the person we should give notice to, and we have the right to introduce them as Government has the right to do.

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

I beg also to give notice of a Resolution which reads as follows:-

"Be it resolved that this House is dissatisfied with the Report of the inquiry which investigated the economic state of the Sugar Industry of Barbados."

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of my intention to move the following Resolution at a future Sitting of this Assembly:-

"Whereas grave dissatisfaction still exists among a large number of retired public servants with respect to their present pension rates; and

Whereas the rising cost of living creates great difficulties for those people whose incomes are both fixed and low; and

Whereas the vast majority of Government Pensioners belong to the low income groups;

Be it resolved that this House requests the Government to take immediate steps to make the necessary revision of pension scales early in the new financial year."

Also, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

"Whereas in the last Session the Hon. Deputy Premier indicated Government's willingness to consider increasing the wages of all the lowest paid categories of Public Employees; and

Whereas this House is willing to grant whatever supplies are deemed necessary for the increase of these wages;

Be it resolved that this House requests the Hon. Minister of Finance to submit to the House early in the new Financial Year, detailed proposals for the increase in wages of all the lowest paid employees in the Public Service of this Island."

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill intituled an Act to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1943.

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

"Be it resolved that in view of the economic desirability and necessity for an expansion in the local poultry industry with a view to -

(a) providing additional employment opportunities;
(b) combating protein deficiencies in diet;
(c) eliminating imports of poultry and eggs (more especially from hard currency areas);
(d) assisting in the establishment of another industry - manufacture of mattresses and pillows from feather;

the Government should provide a sum of not less than $15,000 for free distribution to appropriate persons, over a specified period, of day-old Rhode Island Red and other chicks from U.K., North America and elsewhere."

I beg also to give notice of the following Resolution:-

"Be it resolved that women employed in any public or private industrial or commercial undertaking or in any agricultural undertaking, other than undertakings in which only members of the same family are employed should not be permitted to work during the six weeks following confinement, and should have the right to leave work on production of a medical certificate stating that confinement will probably take place within six weeks and are entitled to be paid for this twelve-week period at Workmen's compensation rates.

And be it further resolved that if a woman is absent from her work in accordance with these provisions, or if she is absent for a longer period because of illness ensuing from pregnancy or confinement, no employer shall, until absence has exceeded such maximum period as may be determined by a competent authority, give her notice of dismissal during such absence or give her notice of dismissal at such a time that the notice would expire during such absence."

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

"BE IT RESOLVED that the absolutely inadequate travelling allowance paid to postal carriers - viz two dollars per month - be increased to an amount more appropriate to the requirements of the position."

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution. It is a Resolution which Your Honour has already approved during the last Session therefore it is only re-introduced today; it is only a matter of formality. It reads as follows:-

BE IT RESOLVED that this House express dissatisfaction with the Reply given by the Honourable Minister for Trade, Industry and Labour to Question No.2/1958 asked by the Honourable Senior Member for Saint Peter in respect of payment of members of the unestablished staff in the Public Service on public holidays.

Also, the following:-
"BE IT RESOLVED that this House is dissatisfied with the Report of the Inquiry which investigated the economic state of the Sugar Industry of Barbados."

QUESTIONS

Mr. BRANCKER:
To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Whether Government is aware of dissatisfaction amongst police constables attached to rural police stations in respect of their hours of continuous duty?

2. Is Government aware of hardship suffered by such constables at rural stations which are not provided with a cook for the men stationed there, many of whom are unable to cook properly for themselves and who cannot obtain cooked meals from their homes?

3. Will the Ministry cause an early investigation into the number of consecutive working hours per day required of a police constable at rural stations, and, wherever such appears excessive, have steps taken to reduce same?

4. Will Government for the benefit of the many constables attached to rural stations who are inefficient cooks, cause provision to be made for a qualified cook to be attached to each outside station?

Mr. BRANCKER: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

In view of the necessity for absolute punctuality amongst members of the Local Constabulary, will Government take steps to provide every Police Constable (free of cost to the individual) with a watch?

Mr. BRANCKER: To enquire of the Minister of Health:-

Whether it is true that, at the Barbados General Hospital, there does not exist equipment with which operations in brain surgery may be performed at that institution?

2. If answer to above query is "Yes", will Government in view of the necessity for performance of such operations at this Hospital, particularly for poor persons who cannot afford to travel overseas for such operations without delay make appropriate provision therefor?

Mr. BRANCKER: To enquire of the Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries:-

Whether Government is aware that the average owners of powered fishing boats find it increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to pay private enterprise for repairs to their engines, as well as at the same time repay Government, by instalments, the amounts owed to the Public Treasury for their engines, whilst simultaneously seeking to eke out a livelihood for themselves and their dependents from such craft?

2. Will Government take immediate action for the purpose of (a) having such engines repaired by Government personnel at a workshop provided for that purpose, making only a nominal charge for such repairs? (b) importing all such engines in future, through the Crown Agents or otherwise?

Mr. TUDOR: To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:-

"Is the Minister aware that it is the desire of the residents of Clinketts Housing Scheme in the Parish of St. Lucy to own the lands on which their aided self-help houses were constructed?

2. Will the Minister undertake to instruct the Housing Authority to enter into negotiations with these householders with a view to giving effect to their desire?

3. Will the Minister further direct the Housing Authority to defray from its own resources all the necessary legal expenditure arising out of the transfer?

Mr. BARROW:- To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Communications:-

(1) Has it been brought to the attention of the Minister of Communications and Works that the number of postmen employed in the parishes of St. George and St. John is inadequate?

(2) Will the Minister consult with the appropriate authorities in order to have provision made for an increase in the permanent establishment of postmen employed in the said parishes?

Mr. BARROW:- To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries:-

(1) Will the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries explain the delay in the construction of the fishing jetty at Consett Bay in the parish of St. John, and state how soon the fishermen of St. John and St. Philip may expect to enjoy the use of the said jetty?

(2) Is any provision being made for the installation of a crane or winch or other mechanically driven machinery for lifting boats and/or engines in the same locality?

Mr. BARROW:- To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Communications:-

(1) Is the appropriate Minister aware that the road at Bath in the parish of St. John has been closed to vehicular traffic?

(2) Will the Minister state by whose authority the old railroad at Bath has been obstructed?

Mr. BARROW:- To enquire of the appropriate Minister:-

Will the appropriate Minister state whether Government proposed to construct the East Coast Road within the current session or at all?

(b) If the answer is in the negative, will the Minister undertake to have a road constructed from Martins Bay to Glenburnie on the said east coast in the parish of St. John?

Mr. BARROW:- To enquire of the Hon. Premier:-

Will the Hon. Premier give the House an interim report on the progress and financing of the Deep Water Harbour?

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, the Bill to amend the Pensions Act, 1947, was read a first time.

On the 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 the motion of Mr. TUDOR, seconded by Mr. TALMA, the Bill to amend the Workman's Compensation Act, 1943, was read a first time.

THE 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 next, 10th February, 1959, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 10th February, 1959, at 12 o'clock noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.