
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1959

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 23rd June, 1959.

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. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, C.B.E., M.D., C.M., (*Premier*); His Honour Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., (*Deputy Speaker*); Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Hon. F. E. MILLER, (*Minister of Social Services*); Mrs. E. E. BOURNE; Hon. D. D. GARNER, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mr. C. B. SEARLES; and Hon. L. ST. A. THORNE, (*Minister of Education*)"

Prayers were read.

Mr. C. E. TALMA and Mr. G. E. S. STRAUGHN entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the Meeting of the 11th June, 1959, have been circulated amongst hon. members and unless there be any objection these Minutes will be taken as read and confirmed.

There being no objection, the Minutes were taken as read and confirmed.

LETTER FROM CLERK

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the following from the Clerk:-
23rd June, 1959

His Honour the Speaker,
House of Assembly.

Sir,
Owing to a swollen jaw caused by an abscess, I am unable to attend the House today.

I am therefore asking to be granted leave from my duties for today's date.

I have asked Mr. D. A. Banfield to act as Deputy Clerk, while Mr. H. Lisle Thomas will, subject to the permission of the House perform my duties as Clerk for today.

Yours faithfully,
H. O. St. C Cumberbatch,
Clerk, House of Assembly.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Clerk be granted leave of absence from today's sitting of the House.

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

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

MR. THOMAS TO ACT AS CLERK

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Mr. H. L. Thomas, Deputy Clerk, be appointed to act as Clerk for today's sitting of the House.

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

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

MR. D. A. BANFIELD TO ACT AS DEPUTY CLERK

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Mr. D. A. Banfield be appointed to act as Deputy Clerk for today's sitting.

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 the following:-

The Customs (Fees for Overtime) Regulations, 1959.

The Customs (Petroleum Products Bulk Storage) (Amendment) Regulations, 1959.

The Warehousing of Rum in Bond (Amendment) Regulations, 1959.

The Harbour and Shipping Master's Department (Fees) Regulations, 1959.
12.25 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

Resolution to approve the Customs (Fees for Overtime) Regulations, 1959.

Resolution to sanction the Customs (Petroleum Products Bulk Storage) (Amendment) Regulations, 1959.

Resolution to approve the Warehousing of Rum in Bond (Amendment) Regulations, 1959.

Resolution to approve the Harbour and Shipping Master's Department (Fees) Regulations, 1959.

QUESTIONS

Mr. C. E. TALMA: To enquire of the Honourable Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:-

1. Is the Minister aware of the construction of the trench or gutter along Dayrell's Hill Highway, Christ Church?
2. Is the Minister aware that such construction causes water to lodge harbouring flies, mosquitoes and other insects, and to endanger the health and well-being of the residents of this district?
3. If the answer to Nos. 1 and 2 is in the affirmative, will the Minister take steps as soon as possible to remedy this public nuisance?

DOCUMENT

Hon. F. E. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave at this stage to lay a document.

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

Hon. F. E. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Film Censorship (Fees and Travelling Allowances) Regulations, 1959.

Hon. L. ST. A. THORNE entered the House and took his seat.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 12) ORDER."

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day is to resume debate on the Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 12) Order, 1959." On the 16th June, 1959, the Hon. Premier moved, seconded by the Hon. Leader of the House, that this Resolution do now pass. The hon. junior member for St. Lucy spoke. The hon. senior member for St. Philip was speaking at 8.30 p.m. of the clock when the business under discussion was interrupted. I observe that the hon. senior member for St. Philip is not now in his place.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues who have already spoken, I am in favour of the creation of this post for reasons somewhat similar to what have been already adduced. I agree that there is a conflict at times in so far as the duties of the Queen's Solicitor are concerned; and by the creation of this new post, that conflict of duties which existed in the past would not recur. It is not that we are ungrateful for the services rendered in the past by the former Queen's Solicitors, but the time has come when Government Business has increased enormously, and entirely out of proportion with duties which could be properly and expeditiously performed by a part-time officer. It is for that reason that I welcome this Resolution.

I hope that in the creation of a permanent post of Crown Solicitor, attention will be paid by the proper authorities to selecting, in the first place, a Solicitor of the necessary skill, experience and ability, not to mention integrity; a Solicitor who will actually perform these duties expeditiously and as skilfully as they have been performed in the past. When I say a Solicitor of the necessary skill, experience and ability, I am thinking of a Solicitor of no less than five years' standing. To appoint a Solicitor who is just fresh from his books, to use the expression of the former Premier of this island, that would not be in the best interest of this island. You really need a Solicitor of about ten years' standing, one of wide experience and one who is in the habit of handling big work in so far as local conditions are concerned.

If you were to secure the services of a Solicitor of that standing you would have to remunerate him properly; you could not think of paying him any \$300.00 or \$400.00 a month and expect that he will be satisfied with that. You have to attach to that post a salary commensurate with a man of the proper calibre whom you are

trying to attract. For that reason, the question is whether the proposed salary which I think is \$5,760 to \$6,240, should be considered as being adequate.

Even if you take the maximum which is \$520 a month, the question is whether you can attract a man of the proper calibre. I personally do not see that you can attract a man of the proper calibre at that salary. In time the Government will have to increase the salary. You are asking a qualified solicitor to accept a salary which is very much less than that of a Permanent Secretary and many of these Permanent Secretaries are not specially qualified - you are asking a qualified Solicitor to accept a salary which more approximates the salary of an Assistant Secretary. Speaking for myself, I would not be interested in a job like that.
12.35 p.m.

Now I think, Sir, that it is a move in the right direction, but I am not in agreement with the proposed salary scale. I consider it too small and insufficiently attractive; and even assuming that the salary scale is in line or nearly in line with the salary paid in British Guiana or some of the smaller islands - certainly not that in Trinidad or Jamaica - certain prerequisites should be accorded the Crown Solicitor, and by that I mean certain fees. If for instance he is appearing in Court, he should be given some fee per day. Just as Counsel is given so many guineas per day, in like manner, it should be possible to give the Crown Solicitor so many guineas per day in handling contentious business. Government might find itself involved in some contentious business, land acquisition or misappropriation, and that may require the attendance of the Crown Solicitor in the Law Courts from day to day, and it would be wrong in principle to expect the Crown Solicitor to attend in Court everyday in contentious business and receiving no remuneration whatever apart from that of his permanent salary.

I am just throwing out that for the benefit of the Government and the Cabinet. It may be wise, if you are going to attract a man of the proper calibre, to consider a thing of that nature, whether he will get fees for contentious business or whatever prerequisites you can attach to this post; in no circumstances will you secure a Solicitor of the proper calibre with this salary. I expect that in the office of the Crown Solicitor he will have the necessary competent assistance in making research and investigation into titles, work which is at present done by Articled Clerks.

You cannot expect the Crown Solicitor himself to undertake all that devilling work of researches and investigation in titles in the Registry and the Provost Marahal's Office and with the general running around he has to do to complete his job. I dare say he will not have Articled Clerks, although it would be a good thing to give him the privilege and permission of having Articled Clerks if he wants them. That should be left to the discretion of the Crown Solicitor. If he wants Articled Clerks, he should be at liberty to get them, which means that the Government Service in this island and in that particular Department will be reinforced in time by having trained Solicitors at their disposal.

I am throwing that out as a suggestion; and if a suggestion such as that is adopted, it will expedite the work of the Crown Solicitor in that he will have maybe two competent Clerks to assist him in doing this work, and the Government's work will be speeded up accordingly. After a few months it may be necessary to create a post of Deputy Crown Solicitor or Assistant to the Crown Solicitor. I can well see that it does not take two years to understand this. I happen to know a little of what I am speaking and I can speak with a certain amount of authority.

The Crown Solicitor with a Typist, Stenographer or Secretary is not much. You may soon find that the work, instead of being expedited, may go the other way about, or may go so slowly that you may see that you made a wrong move in creating this post. Unless he has an or-

ganisation of his own, or unless he has an assistant who is a Solicitor like himself or two Articled Clerks and what would be tantamount to an Assistant Secretary - he needs either a young Solicitor or an Assistant Secretary under him with two Clerks and then a Typist - the work will not be expedited as we expect. If you think that by appointing a Solicitor full time and having a Secretary the work will be expedited you will find that you are wrong; so, Mr. Speaker, I welcome the creation of this post generally, but that is not enough.

I think it is a fitting time to pay tribute to the present Queen's Solicitor who has shown at all stages how difficult things can be made to appear so easy by a person who is as highly qualified and as well trained in law as he is. He has done a very good job. We feel very grateful to him. So the appointment of this post of Crown Solicitor is no reflection on him in the performance of his duties.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr Speaker, we are doing something today for which we have a precedent when we made the Solicitor General's office whole time. Soon after that was done, we realised that it was not for the sake of economy, because, in every case where you go from part time to whole time office, the expense is increased tremendously. You have to set up an office apart from the part time; and as in this case now, this part time officer now has at his command many juniors in his office whom he can send for necessary research while he will handle the big matters.

The suggestion which came from the last speaker is worthy of consideration; to put the Crown Solicitor there alone without proper legal assistance might be running you into trouble, if he is sick or when he goes on vacation; and you cannot expect a well qualified Solicitor of vast experience, which this post should call for, to have to do the junior research work that would be done ordinarily by an Articled Clerk.
12.45 p.m.

The hon. senior member for Christ Church has suggested that this officer be allowed to take on an Articled Clerk, but I say that he should have a junior Solicitor in the office along with him, one who is qualified and has passed his examinations. Let us face up to it. do not let us do this today and, in six or eight months, come back and point out that something else has to be done. The last hon. member who spoke, spoke with greater authority than I can because that is his line. He has pointed out to me very forcibly that it will weaken the office tremendously if it is left as it is now.

As to the present holder of the Office of Queen's Solicitor, I understand that he will be retiring at the end of the month. He has done very excellent work indeed; and although there were criticisms in certain quarters when he was appointed to the effect that he was a junior solicitor in relation to the other solicitors in the island who should be offered the job, all that criticism is a matter of tradition. He has handled that office very admirably indeed. I think most hon. members of the Government side and other persons with whom he had dealings, know that he has worked very hard in upholding the traditions of that office. I only hope now he is relinquishing his post that he will be still very useful to the Government in another sphere.

I do ask the Government to consider very carefully the suggestion that this post should include a junior solicitor to it to do the junior work which no experienced solicitor will be willing to do.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Sir, I shall just reply to one or two remarks made by the senior member for Christ Church, relative to the salary of the office. The Government was at a loss as regards the question of salary for this post, but, since we are following British Guiana in many of our salary revisions, we have followed that country in this case; and the salary offered to the post is the same as that offered to the similar post in British Guiana. Therefore, as regards getting a suitable

man we are hoping that this salary will attract such a person and that we will have this office functioning within a short period of time.

Mr. TALMA: Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like the Hon. Premier to say whether the Crown Solicitor of British Guiana gets any fees, and if there are any perquisites attached to his office.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I am sorry; I did not hear the question.

Mr. TALMA: I would like the Hon. Premier just to cover the point in so far as the salary of the Crown Solicitor of British Guiana. I would like to know whether he gets that salary alone or whether there are any fees attached to the post; such as to say, whether in contentious business he gets fees for attending Courts or fees for commission. I am thinking that there is something extra attached to that salary in British Guiana.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: On the question of fees, I am sorry I cannot give any information. This is the salary which was given us but, as regards fees for contentious cases, I do not see how that can be applicable. Our Crown Law Officers have to go into Court and prosecute during the Assizes and they get no extra fees for so doing. If this gentleman has to go into Court, I think the same thing would apply to him. I do not know if there is any precedent in paying fees when a Crown Solicitor goes into Court; I take it that that is part of their duties.

In his office will be a Long Grade Clerk and a Stenotypist. If the work of the office increases, and additional staff is necessary, by all means the staff will be increased; but it is better to start on the small side and as soon as the work increases to consider additional staff.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 11) ORDER, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier to move the passing of the following Resolution:

Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 11) Order, 1959.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this is another Civil Establishment Order. This time it is for additional staff for the Auditor General's office, consequent on the setting up of Local Government. As you know, Sir, and I think other hon. members know, the Government in this case will do the auditing of all the books of the Boards that work with the Local Government and the Councils itself. That work will be done by the staff of the Audit Office. With that in view, certain staff is asked for. As set out here, the requirements are (1) three new posts of Senior Examiners (\$3,000 - \$3,816); and (2), three additional posts of Long Grade Clerks - (\$960 - \$2,400).

It is envisaged, especially in the case of the Senior Examiners, that they will have to travel and pay surprise visits and things of that nature. Provision is made for including those officers in the first Schedule to the Public Officers' Loan and Travelling Allowance Act of 1948.

That sets out the position briefly. It is hoped that the work will be done expeditiously and more thoroughly than in the past. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr Speaker, these posts are quite necessary. As the Hon. Premier has said, under Part XVI of the Local Government Act, the Auditor General

is charged with the audit of accounts of every Council, of every Committee appointed by a Council, and of every joint Committee appointed by the Councils. There are three Councils. That is quite a considerable amount of work and they will also have to audit the accounts of each Committee. I think there are seven or eight Committees in each area. Some of these Committees are very small but there are one or two that have quite an amount of work in hand.

We hope that in the appointment of these Officers you will have a selection of trained personnel who are familiar with auditing. That will be and should be the priority for the Public Service Commission. I think the entire island - I am not only speaking of Government but commercial houses as well - is very short of auditing staff. 12.55 p.m.

There are certain departments, I understand, in Government, which are in great arrears in having their accounts audited. Of course, if you are short-staffed you cannot expect to have the work done. There is a big demand in this island for auditors. This is somewhat off this Resolution, but I know the difficulty not only with the Government but with commercial houses to find adequate and suitable accountants and auditing staff to do their work. That is a matter which should be considered by the Education Department. Let the Government investigate what is the true position and see if there is not a great need for establishing evening classes at the Evening Institute. That is a vital necessity if this island is to continue because offices, both in the Government and in the commercial houses, are being called upon daily for new forms, new bits of information from Government Departments, from the Income Tax Department down to the office of the Controller of Supplies. We should have more trained accountants and auditors for the needs of this island. I have only mentioned that in passing and it is addressed to the Minister of Education.

This Order is necessary, and travelling expenses for the three senior posts will also be required because, as the Premier has said, spot checks will have to be made to the Councils and to every parish, for that matter, because a lot of the work is still being done in every parish by certain Committees. Under the present system, as I see what is going on both in the Southern and the Northern Councils, it is fortunate that they are being guided by somebody who seems to know.

It seems evident from some of these Committees already, that they do not know what they are doing and will have to be put right. It is not the auditor's job to put them right; his job is to draw to their attention what they have done wrong; their job is to see that the money which has been voted has been spent under the correct Heads and that no overspending takes place. Unless you have regular checks made, very frequently things will go so wrong that you will not be able to put them right. Therefore, these Auditors should be on the job as soon as possible.

Where I am Chairman of any Committees I am going to see to the best of my ability that things are right; but I think that there are a lot of inexperienced persons running these Committees and their work should be audited regularly and quickly. For that reason, I do hope that in the appointment of these Officers, qualified officers will be appointed. Do not look to bring them in at any \$960.00 to \$2,400.00; let the Government look for experienced people in the Civil Service, put them in the correct bracket and tell them "Go out and do a good check." As I see it, we are heading for a lot of irresponsible actions; and if that is not checked in one year, when the Estimates for the following year have to be made up, there will be no basis on which to do it.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this is not exactly answering the hon. member, but there is one point which I have omitted to mention. It is that after this year the Councils will be called upon to contribute to the auditing of their accounts. We have not been able to get through with the setting up of all the necessary assistance in time

for that to be included in their Estimates for this year, but for future years Councils will be called upon to contribute, to pay into the Government, a certain amount for the auditing of their accounts. That is nothing new; it has been done by the Vestry system under which the Vestries paid for their Auditors. As I say, in future the Councils will have to contribute to the auditing of their accounts.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I did not want to speak on this Resolution, but I had to rise after hearing the hon. junior member for Christ Church say that there are some inexperienced members of these Councils or Committees and there may be a possibility that if you do not have proper auditing you will be running into some trouble.

However, as far as I know and have heard, we have had some experts in the old Vestry and things were as rotten as they could be. You did not have in these days inexperienced members, and things were still rotten. I think that the hon. member may be travelling a little too fast; because up to now, the Councillors or the members of these Committees have nothing to audit. You therefore cannot be accused of inexperience or anything of the sort, not as yet, because there is nothing there to be audited.

I would say rather than have experienced Councillors or members of these Committees, we must have experienced Clerks to do the job. If you have a good Clerk and an inexperienced member the job can still be carried out; but if you have an incompetent Clerk and the best member or the best Council or the best Committee in the world you will still fall into trouble.

1.05 p.m.

In some parishes, I know, there are some Clerks whom I call "Sergeant Baileys;" everything is up to mark; but there are some parishes to the opposite and that is due to the Clerks. When you pick up a piece of paper or whatever you choose to call it and can see uncollected taxes for years and nothing has been done about them, I do not know who would be responsible. It is the same thing to collect them as not to collect them, because the parish does not get them. So you want competent Clerks rather than Councillors as far as the accounts and the keeping of books are concerned.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I, like my colleague the hon. junior member for Christ Church, welcome the appointment of these auditors. I feel that the work which is to be performed by the Senior Examiners will be of a very onerous and very responsible nature, and I was wondering whether such work should be entrusted to Long Grade Clerks also.

I feel, Sir, that it is inequitable and wrong to expect a Long Grade Clerk to do such important work. I understand that the juniors and seniors will work together, but I feel that a junior in the Service should not be called upon to do work of that important nature. I agree that in the new set up great vigilance will have to be exhibited in perusing these accounts; and it would be as well for the Auditor General to assist in instituting proper systems of accounting from the very inception. If you are starting something new, it would be a good thing for the various systems of accounting to be instituted with the concurrence of the Audit Department, or you may find that the Councils may be adopting a system which is not as convenient as what could be suggested by the Auditor General.

My only point now is that, now that the Local Government Act has come into force, it would be as well in instituting various systems of accounting to do that with the concurrence and approval of the Audit Department, and not wait to find that after about a year or so the systems adopted by the various Councils are not in line with modern trends.

My only criticism is that you need experienced Auditors to assist in that sort of work and not juniors in the Government Service, because they will be of very little help. I think this is a step in the right direction and with the proper co-operation should be successful.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, in the creation of these three new posts of Senior Examiner one has nothing to quarrel with at all, but the salary attached makes one wonder whether one can reasonably expect to secure people sufficiently qualified and of sufficient status to perform this work efficiently. The hon. senior member for St. Joseph, the Hon. Deputy Speaker, has just pointed out to us that it is more important even to have perhaps a good Clerk than a good Councillor, because the Clerk is the person to guide you; just as you have, in certain other countries in the Summary Courts, a qualified man as Clerk and a layman as the actual Magistrate, and the Solicitor guides the Lay Justice.

I wonder, with this salary of \$250.00 rising only to \$318.00, whether we can hope or expect to get as examiners people who would not only have a certain academic qualification, and who would be specifically versed in accountancy, mathematics, book-work and things of that kind, but people with the necessary prestige to fill these posts in the manner in which it is necessary to have them filled. This rather looks as if the idea is to change the nomenclature of certain persons already in the Public Service, or just to increase the salary and give a new name to certain Clerks who are in the grade just below that which will entitle them to \$250.00 a month; but I do not think this will prove to be adequate for the purpose - especially with the new Councils which are now beginning to operate - of having very experienced people to fill these posts of Senior Examiners.

You will remember, Sir, that previously every Vestry had its books done by an experienced Auditor of many years' standing; not only were they men knowledgeable in their profession of accountancy, but they were full men who would not be afraid to advise the Vestry or members of the Vestry that they were going wrong or should not be operating a certain way. If you just get Clerks at \$200.00 a month now who would increase to \$250.00, I wonder if you would be able to get the type of man necessary. Of course, I can see that with this salary of \$250.00 you cannot hope to get experienced and qualified men as Senior Accountants who did the work for the Vestries in the past, unless this work is not regarded as sufficient for a whole-time man and you are getting experienced men on part-time for this comparatively small salary.

I am just throwing out the hint, Sir, that Government should be very careful about the type of persons who are going to be appointed to these posts. If they find they cannot get sufficiently experienced people for the posts of examiners at the salary at the moment proposed, they should not hesitate to come back to this House and state plainly and squarely that the salary has proved inadequately for the type of man they had in mind or who proves to be necessary for this job, and ask for an increase in the amount we voted, so as to ensure that people are appointed who are not only sufficiently knowledgeable, but the type of people whom every Councillor and everybody connected with these Councils will treat with the respect of a man holding the post of a Senior Examiner.

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

1.15 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 13), ORDER, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier, to move the passing of the following Resolution:-

Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 13) Order, 1959.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this next Order is another Civil Establishment Order which provides for adjustments in the establishment of the Housecraft Centre. As hon. members know, the Housecraft Centre has been established for a few years now, and has

been doing very good work. It has been responsible for the training of girls not only to work locally but to go abroad especially to Canada and sometimes to the United Kingdom. The girls trained at that Centre have built up a good reputation. The training there is of a very high order. It is appreciated locally as well as abroad.

The time has come when certain changes must be made to the staff. The first is the abolition of the post of Assistant Supervisor. Secondly, the creation of the posts of Lecturer at a salary of \$2,112 to \$2,880, two Assistant Lecturers at \$1,632 to \$2,400 and one Clerical Assistant at \$912 to \$1,392.

I believe that a complete re-organisation is under consideration but, at the present, it is desirable that the permanent staff of the Centre should be increased in order to provide greater efficiency. With the establishment of these permanent posts, there will be a reduction in the number of part-time lecturers who are now on the staff. The duties of the Clerical Assistant will be to assist with the registration of students, records, ordering and receiving of materials used at the Centre and so on.

As I have said earlier, in Barbados and even farther afield, this institution is considered to be doing very good work. We who are responsible for the working of this organisation, and hon. members of this Assembly, appreciate all that has been done.

With regard to the point which I just mentioned about complete re-organisation is under consideration later, I am not in a position to say anything further at this stage. I do not think anything concrete has emerged as yet, but I just want to give the warning that the Legislature may be approached further at a later stage for further increases on this subject.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

THE CURRENCY BILL, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: second reading of a Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to currency and to implement an agreement to provide for a uniform currency in the Eastern Group of the British Colonial Territories.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this is a Bill which is referred to as the Currency Bill, 1959. I think hon. members will remember that in 1957 there was an Agreement signed by the Governors of all the Unit Territories for and on behalf of each island as regards certain aspects of a uniform currency. That is the general background of the agreement.

This particular Bill before us, according to the Objects and Reasons, is to make provision for the Board investing a certain amount of money - ten percent of its funds which amounts to \$2 million - in securities in the Eastern Caribbean Governments. The share of the Barbados Government is \$1,340,000.00 and that amount will be taken up as required in Barbados Government debentures. Needless to say, that portion is not static; it will increase as confidence in our currency grows from year to year.

Now, Sir, in 1956 the House agreed to this provision which was passed on the 22nd May, 1956; but it was never proclaimed because the Legislature of the other islands were rather dilatory about it and so, Barbados did not want to go ahead by itself. It was eventually agreed to consolidate the Currency Acts, and as I have said earlier, hence the Bill which is now before the House. That shortly is the Objects and reasons of this Bill.

There are certain sections of this Act to which certain amendments have been made. So far as the amended agreement is concerned, the main change to the first

Agreement is the amendment and replacement of paragraphs (1) and (4) of Article 3 so as to permit investments contemplated by Clause 3 of the Bill up to a limit of £2,500,000 which represent 20% of the money in the currency Fund on the 31st December, 1954.

A proviso has been added to paragraphs (1), (2), (4) and (7) of Article one of the Agreement in order to ensure the continuity of the Office of Chairman, Executive Commissioner and Agents and officers of the Board. That certainly will be to the advantage of the Board and the administration as a whole, so as to have people continuing in the office. First of all, it will give them more confidence rather than if they were changed every year. As I have said earlier, the meat or the main reason of this Bill is to get permission for the investment in the Eastern Group of the Caribbean Islands of this amount of money. I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

1.25 p.m.

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

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

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BRYAN being in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 18 inclusive were called and passed.

The two Schedules were called and agreed to.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report the passing of this Bill in Committee.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER, the Bill was passed.

COMMISSIONS OF ENQUIRY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier:- To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Commissions of Enquiry Act, 1908.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this Bill is to amend the Commissions of Enquiry Act, 1908. The reason for this Bill is that, in connection with the Commission which was set up to enquire into the affairs of the Vestry of St. Lucy - the enquiry took place some time last year - it was found that there was no provision made for fixing the remuneration of the Secretary. There was also a question of the remuneration of the Reporters. There was no provision made for their travelling allowance and things of that sort, and so there had to be some make-shift arrangements made so that the Enquiry could go forward. This Bill therefore seeks to correct that position and make provision so that, in case of any future enquiries, there should not be any hampering by means of this sort.

1.35 p.m.

In short, we want to make it a part of the Bill to say who should be remunerated; and that permission be given, as is stated in the Bill, to remunerate not only the Secretary but any other person employed in or about any Commission issued under the Act.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee Mr. PRYAN being in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS 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. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS seconded in each case by Hon. D. D. GARNER, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to postpone Order No. 6 and to take Order No. 7 as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Premier is asking leave to postpone Order No. 6 and 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 Hon. Premier.

HARBOUR AND SHIPPING MASTER (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1959.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to amend Section 7 of the Harbour and Shipping Master Act, 1909, so as to authorise the Governor-in-Executive Committee, subject to the approval of both Houses of the Legislature, to fix rates for work performed outside of official hours by officers and employees of the Harbour and Shipping Master's Department. It also repeals Section 8 of that Act which fixes a fee to be paid to the Harbour and Shipping Master for the issue of a Bill of Health. These Bills are now issued free of charge by virtue of Section 18 of the Quarantine Act, 1947.

As you know, Sir, the question of overtime has been the subject of much debate and consideration, not only outside of this House, but inside the House as well. Hon. members will be pleased to see that the Government is trying to regularise this question of overtime in the Harbour. For instance, Sir, it has been recently discovered that carrying water to the ships after the official hours has been costly to the Government; and it has also been found out that in very many cases the lateness of ordering water for these ships has been due to the lack of attention, if I may put it mildly, by some person or persons either on the ships or probably in the office. In very many cases this could have been avoided, but since it costs no more as far as the agents and the owners of the ships are concerned, naturally they do not bother about it. But, at the same time, it does cost Government more.

We are therefore trying to remedy this situation. I am quite sure that it will have its desired effect; that the person or persons responsible for ordering water and other things as well will pay greater attention to them, and save Government the expense. By that I mean that, if water is ordered and supplied after the official hour, they should pay a certain amount of overtime.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, although I agree in principle that Government should not have to pay for overtime which they cannot pass on to ships, and that for that reason this Bill is now being instituted, I would warn them that in fixing the rates they should let it be only what the normal overtime rate should be. Do not let us fix rates over and above that to create the impression that our Port will be one of the most expensive to come to. That is something we must guard against. We must demand from them all due fees, but we should not ask more than what is reasonable. Do not let us earn the name of being one of the most expensive Ports in the West Indies. It is a thing which is happening to many places - I am not accusing this Port yet - so do not let it happen here. I do agree in principle that today if we are having to pay overtime it should be passed on to those who demand that service.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the hon. member that that consideration has been taken into account by Government. As a matter of fact, that is one of the reasons why this Bill has come down. A Bill of this sort should have come earlier; but we were weighing the pros and cons, and after lengthy consideration have taken this step.

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

1.45 p.m.

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. PRYAN being in the Chair.

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 were called separately and passed.

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE TRADE AMENDMENT BILL, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: second reading of a Bill to amend the Trade Act, 1910.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this Bill is a similar measure as the last. It is in connection with the remuneration of officers of Customs whose services may be required beyond the hours of general attendance by private persons, or by the Comptroller of Customs in the interest of the public.

I take it this House is aware that from time to time there have been questions relative to fees paid to customs officers. We have been told on many occasions that these fees were very low and not at all up to the standard of those paid to private employees for similar work.

This Bill seeks to amend those sections of the Trade Act so as to provide for the remuneration in similar circumstances of other employees of the Customs Department. As I have said, I think hon. members are quite familiar with the substance of this Bill.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I can remember quite well about two years ago during some debate, it was men-

tioned that fees paid to Customs officers were very low; and it was outlined that people in the employ of commercial houses doing similar work were better paid. We were told that it was not the desire of the Chamber of Commerce to pay fees to Customs officers which were below their standard of pay to people who did similar work in private employment; and for that reason I am pleased that Government has come down with this Bill to bring the fees paid to Customs officers into line with what is normal commercial practice.

I am one who will say that this will not make the Port more expensive. These fees are to be borne by local business houses, but they certainly cannot raise the cost of supplying ships; and for that reason I support this Bill for bringing these fees up to date and in keeping with normal commercial practice.

Mr. TALMA: I too welcome the principle of this Bill. It is long overdue. It is a matter which has been discussed in here from time to time, and I remember on the last occasion I had the honour of drawing and bringing it to the attention of the Government.

What I am going to say now is that it is not a question of the Government paying anything more, but it is a question of passing on what is paid by private firms by way of overtime; the question of what they are called upon to pay now will be passed on to the Customs Clerk. In other words, the Government is already in receipt of these fees, as I understand it, but the rate paid by Government is much less than that paid by private enterprise, but private enterprise has to pay Government for the work done by their Clerks at the Government rates. (A VOICE: That is not so.) I am sorry that I am wrong. I am glad that this is being done now. The fact is that Government is now bringing their Clerks into line with what private firms were paying their Clerks ever since when they have to work overtime. Mine has been a voice crying in the wilderness for this increase for long years.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Sir, it may give the wrong impression the way the hon. member put it. I believe he has corrected himself in one respect. This question has been debated in here when I held that Ministry. As was pointed out, it was simply that the Government had to take into consideration the overtime fees paid in other Departments as well. One hinged on the other. It was not a question of our wanting to rob any person. That is the impression gained from the speech of the hon. member.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. If the Hon. Minister wanted to be decent he will realise that I corrected myself. I had as much decency as to correct myself; therefore, what he is saying now is totally unnecessary.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I am not saying that he did not correct himself. It is a fact that the fees which we pay are below the rates paid to private enterprise, but we had to continue paying these rates in accordance with the rates of fees paid in other departments of Government, like the Post Office.

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

On motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BRYAN in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called separately and passed.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report the passing of this Bill in Committee.

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

The question was put and agreed to.

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

On motions of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

At this stage, it now being 2 p.m., of the clock,

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 2 p.m. of the clock, this sitting now stands suspended until 2.30 p.m., of the clock.

2.00 p.m.

On re-assembling, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no quorum present, and I ask that the bell be rung.

On the bell being rung, a quorum was obtained.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. (After a pause.) Are there any Oral answers to Questions ready? (After a pause). There being no Questions ready to be dealt with, the House will proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business.

RESOLUTION re STATEMENT OF THE PREMIER

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business is to resume debate on the passing of the following Resolution:- Resolution re Statement of the Hon. Premier on the 14th April, 1959. On the last occasion the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing was speaking.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on the last occasion when we were continuing the discussion on this Resolution, I had replied to certain statements made by the hon. members opposite, because I had felt that, both for the records of this House and for the sake of history itself, the history of Constitutional development in this island, I felt that those statements should not go unchallenged.

It seems to me that, following the recent constitutional impasse, there have been attempts made to devalue the constitutional position of Barbados - there has been a subtle attempt made by certain members of this House to do so - and we on the Government side and members of the Barbados Labour Party could hardly ignore these attempts. I recall on the last occasion some of the criticisms and accusations hurled at this side by members opposite; to two of those accusations I have replied. One was raised by more than one member; and it was that Barbados was constitutionally behind Jamaica and Trinidad because we were given adult suffrage after these islands had it and not before. I attempted to show that far from that being so, the opposite was the truth; it was because we were constitutionally in advance of those islands that we were able to obtain Adult Suffrage after those islands obtained it.

A historian, Dr. Elsa Goveia, in writing recently on the Aspects of the History of the West Indies, remarked that after the Morant Bay disturbances in 1865, those who held power in the West Indies preferred to hand it over to the Crown rather than see it pass into other hands. She quoted a statement from another historian W. L. Burn, that "the rule of a white oligarchy had failed; the rule of a coloured democracy was likely to be even worse; nothing remained but patriarchal government by officials." 2.35 p.m.

That Sir, was the attitude which prevailed in Jamaica, and Crown Colony Government was instituted in Jamaica in 1866. In 1876, ten years after Crown Colony Government was instituted in Jamaica, an attempt was made to institute it here and it failed, Mr. Deputy Speaker, specifically because we had a form of Representative Government under which what could be done in Jamaica and Trin-

dad could not be done in this island. We had the local Oligarchy then in power, being able to defy the Colonial Office; and they neither transferred power to the Colonial Office nor to the hands of the majority of descendants of slaves in this island. They kept it in their own hands because they could manipulate our Constitution through the genius of Sir Conrad Reeves so that power would remain in the hands of the representative institution - this House. It was not fully representative but nevertheless as in England, it was the chief organic power in the Constitution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I maintain that that is the strength of our Constitution. That is why in Jamaica, and in Trinidad, the Colonial Office could institute Adult Suffrage whereas, in Barbados, it could not institute Adult Suffrage. They had to wait until power had passed into the hands of the people here who could demand it effectively, and who could so influence public opinion that there was a great demand for it. So, Sir, any attempt as has recently been done - to say that Barbados is behind Jamaica constitutionally because of the recent impasse is merely to denigrate this colony and reduce us to Constitutional subservience. It could only redound to the disgrace of those people who made that attempt, rather than to the present Prime Minister of the West Indies who had a lot to do with bringing the new constitutional development into force and into play in this island.

I felt it my bounden duty to say what I have said. Although there is a sparse House today, nevertheless I am saying these things because there has been this subtle attempt, since the recent constitutional crisis, to convince the people of this island that the Prime Minister of the West Indies is just a blow-hard, that we are boasting that we have this constitutional power when in fact we are behind Jamaica and Trinidad because they had Adult Suffrage before us.

As regards the point about the Governor summoning a meeting of the Executive Committee, I have already replied to that showing that under the new constitution of Jamaica, the Governor can summon a meeting of the Cabinet and preside over it; but that does not necessarily mean that Jamaica does not have full authority in internal affairs. The mere fact that the Governor can summon a meeting of the Cabinet does not in itself amount to any mitigation of the Constitution, or any hindrance to their attempt to have self Government in internal affairs in Jamaica. How that argument can be used against us in our claims to have an advanced Constitution as good as Jamaica is a mystery to me.

I do not think that any of us on this side of the House have any doubt that the claim made by the Leader of this Party and the Prime Minister of the West Indies that we had a constitutional status alongside that of Jamaica and Ghana, before they had full self Government, is any less factual today than when he made it. As to the present constitution of Jamaica, the Governor has the power to enforce the passing of legislation by means of reserve powers; that is, he has reserve powers; but the Governor of Barbados has never had reserve powers. In fact, in the new Constitution, the Governor can reserve certain legislation in Jamaica - legislation dealing with international relations or affecting the Royal Prerogative; the Governor can still reserve such legislation for the pleasure of Her Majesty.

In Jamaica, under the new constitution, the Governor can send for the person whom he thinks is likely to command a majority in the House and appoint him as Premier without notifying the House. That was not so up to a year ago; that is only so under this new constitution. Up to a year ago, and previous to the institution of their new constitution, the Governor of Jamaica had to refer the name of the Premier to be to the House of Representatives for its ratification and agreement. As you know, Sir, in Barbados since the Bushe Experiment, that has not been so; the Governor sends for the person whom he thinks is best able to command a majority; and, since the institution of Cabinet Government, that person has been the Head of the

Government. It is only recently that the name "Premier" has been applied to that person who commands a majority and the person who leads the Government either in Jamaica or Trinidad. Formerly, they were referred to as Chief Ministers.

It is only because of this subtle attempt to devalue our Constitution and to say that the man who has done so much to put Barbados on the map in these affairs was only boasting and giving vent to an empty boast that I have been constrained to speak on this matter, and bring these things to the attention of the House, and for the sake of the record. I do not expect that they will get into the newspapers. I notice that very little appeared in the Press of what was said on this side, but that does not matter to me. At least for the purpose of the record we will make that clear, so far as this side is concerned.

I, Sir, am not going to say much more. I thought I would refer to those two points because we could debate these things at extraordinary length - constitutional progress and comparisons.

I would just like to say that we on this side of the House congratulate the Government and people of Trinidad on attaining their new constitutional status and this new advance towards self-Government. We believe that that is a significant factor in the advance of the West Indies as a whole towards Dominion status. We welcome them in coming alongside the islands of Jamaica and Barbados in the march towards constitutional progress. We hope, Sir, that they, along with us, will point the way to still further advancement in the West Indies towards self-Government.
2.45 p.m.

When I ended my speech last Tuesday there were *sotto voce* remarks by certain hon. members on the other side which I will forego because those hon. members are not here today. I am not going to refer, in view of your past rulings, to the constitutional crisis which arose out of the Local Elections except to say this: as hon. members will know, any restrictions on the powers of the Sovereign even in Great Britain today are still by way of conventions. We are working the system of conventions in Barbados. I see where the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has debated this matter of a written constitution as against an unwritten constitution. I do not intend to touch on the subject because there are pros and cons to it.

The protagonists of an unwritten constitution say that it is more flexible; and the British people, by their pragmatic way of doing things, have succeeded so far in the running of their Government by conventions; but it is a fact that the guarantee of an unwritten constitution and of the system of conventions depends very largely on the public's will and on the public's unity as to what the conventions mean and their observance.

I think it was the hon. senior member for St. Lucy who said, at the time this particular convention was made in Barbados, there must have been mental reservations about it. It is a horrible thing if you have mental reservations about the spirit of a thing, because these are things on which all parties should be quite clear. All parties should be clear about what a particular convention means, and of observing the convention. Therefore, it should be perfectly clear that this is what the convention means so that it will be upheld in spirit as well as in deed, whatever be our differences.

I believe hon. member opposite will agree, for instance, that when King Edward VIII wanted to marry Mrs. Wallis Simpson, he could have defied the wishes of Prime Minister Baldwin since there was no law enforcing restriction against the will of the Sovereign. He could have married Mrs. Simpson and continue to sit on the Throne; but, because he respected the convention and the traditions followed by British monarchs, he stepped down rather than go to the country about it. At the time there seemed to be unanimity as to what he should do, but there was nothing to prevent him forcing a constitutional crisis on

Great Britain; there was nothing in the constitution to prevent his disobeying the wishes of his Cabinet in Great Britain. If he did not do that, would any person say that the constitution of Great Britain was behind that of France, which has a written constitution?

Many people here, because we had this crisis said "oh, this man Sir Grantley was fooling you; he was only making an empty boast!" Because of the fact that certain people have so little faith in their leaders, because they suffer from colonialism, because they lose faith in the leaders in the time of crisis our opponents hope that any intended punch would go home.

However, I have every reason to believe that the people of Barbados are much stronger than that. They realise that the leadership of the Barbados Labour Party has taken the initiative in the past in these constitutional matters; and because the leaders have faith in the people they believe that these islands are ready to go forward.

So long as you have unwritten constitutions you will always be in danger of having these growls and crises; and if the public of Barbados and the public of Great Britain are united in seeing to it that the constitution is upheld, that we are standing up on our constitutional rights and privileges and are jealous of them, then I am sure that we will strike a blow for self government and future advancement to dominion status. If there is one thing which the Barbados Labour Party has done, it is to tell any future Governor that we do not accept any precedent such as has been set recently in the constitutional crisis that arose as to the appointment of Aldermen. We have told them that we do not accept that as a precedent, and anything like that will be violently opposed.

If that action was accepted as a precedent, it would be a very dangerous convention in the circumstances of Local Government in the future. Therefore, without fear of contradiction, through the stand we have taken, in spite of the fact that our enemies may say that we were slapped in the face or anything of the sort, we have let it be known in no uncertain manner that we have taken that stand and that what has taken place cannot be taken as a precedent which can be used by any future Governor.

Sir, that is my only reference to the constitutional crisis because we are still members of the Government. We have not resigned. Hon. members over on the other side have laughed, but they should hear all sides of the matter; and that will come out in due course. We are working an unwritten constitution, but all sides should work it, the Ministers of the Cabinet, the members of the House of Assembly, the Governor and all sides; and as long as we remain in the Government, we will work it as it should be worked.
2.55 p.m.

I do not think it is appropriate at this stage to debate whether we would continue to have a written constitution as distinct from an unwritten constitution. I saw where the Hon. Leader of the Opposition wrote a letter to the daily newspaper in which he apparently modified his views on the matter. He seemed to have given unqualified support to a written constitution.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of explanation. What I wrote to the daily newspaper was to correct what was wrong, what was misquoted and misinterpreted. If the hon. member, like the Reporter of that newspaper, was not paying attention to what I said, thank heavens that the Reporter of this House was doing his job although he is the least paid of the three.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I have been taking notes and I can only say that it appeared to me at the time that the daily newspaper was not far wrong, although it is usually wrong. It gave the impression that the hon. member had come down on the side of a written constitution.

I should just like to say that I do not think any constitution can take care of any and every eventuality. You

cannot write everything in a constitution. The Canadian Federal Constitution is still partly written and partly unwritten; restrictions on the powers of the monarch are in the form of a convention; but even in a written constitution you cannot provide for anything that might happen. With an unwritten constitution, it is so flexible that you can forestall certain dangers and crises which may arise.

In Great Britain, if it were not for the fact that they had an unwritten constitution, she might have been in the throes of a revolution; but she has a flexible constitution so that she could avoid a revolution. Be that as it may, I think that if and when we do have discussions with all parties on these constitutional improvements, I think that is the time when we should enter on these discussions as to what type of constitution we should have, whether we should have a written constitution or an unwritten constitution. I will not venture on the point now; I simply referred to it because the Hon. Leader of the Opposition mentioned it in his speech.

Whether a constitution is written or unwritten, the fact remains that it is the expression of the people's will, that it is something sacrosanct; and if all parties agree to a constitution, if all parties agree to the making of a particular constitution, then they should agree to the defence of such a constitution. This attitude on the part of that political Party in this House towards the recent constitutional crisis is catastrophic. Their Lawyer with his legal opinion - if we were to read through their speeches chapter by chapter, line by line, if we were to go through the speech of the hon. junior member for St. John - what does he say? He went all round but never once did he come out on one side or the other on the recent constitutional impasse. That is a very deplorable attitude.

At this stage, Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I do not think we should blame the stars if we are underlings; rather, if we are underlings, let us blame ourselves. The constitution is a thing which is sacrosanct. It is on our defence of it that the fate of the constitution depends and the fate of the people themselves. Anything which is worth having is worth defending. We on this side of the House can say quite openly that we took a positive stand in the matter. I am sure that history will judge us by the stand we took, and by the fact that, whatever has been done, it will not be a precedent to be followed in the future. If we look upon the matter in that way, I believe that history will come down on our side.

If the leaders of the people are ignorant as to what the constitution means, then it can hardly be expected that it will be defended. I heard some serious statements made even last Tuesday to the fact that the Governor was still responsible for certain things, and not the Cabinet. I could not imagine more profound ignorance. Our Cabinet functions by delegation. You cannot find any reference to a Cabinet in an English Act except in 1937, when they wanted to pay members of the Cabinet and there was some reference to it in an Act; but here, in matters of policy, we function by instrument of delegation from the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

In certain respects the Executive Committee may deal with subsidiary matters, or it may deal as a judicial body in certain respects and an executive body, like administering Labour Welfare Funds and that sort of thing. Certain buildings are vested in the Executive Committee; other property is vested in the Executive Committee. There is no Executive Committee to be found in the other islands. Because of our peculiar circumstances, we had to retain these functions as functions of the Executive Committee; but the really important policy making body is the Cabinet. When an hon. member says that because the Governor can preside over the Executive Committee, therefore it means that we do not have any power in our hands, I say that is sheer "baloney".
3.05 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will tell the hon. member that the word "baloney" is not a good English word.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I should say "balderdash"; I believe that is an English word. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that it is perfectly true that enough has not been done to explain these things to the people of this island.

I welcome very much that we have, for the first time, made some attempt to introduce text books in our schools dealing with the local history and local fauna and flora of this island rather than hearing "Rule Britannia", and reading English History and Welsh History. Instead, we will know something of our own island and of our own people and customs. It is very fundamental to the future of our nation, Mr. Speaker, that we do a thing like that. There is absolutely no doubt about it that, prior to this attempt by Mr. Hoyos in this book, school children knew very little of the form of Government of this island. I believe he has made an attempt in this book to teach something of our form of Government, what it means to the island, local institutions and what they mean, and some idea of how the Government is run. It is so very important because we know the old Biblical expression "can anything good come out of Nazareth?"; the smaller we are, the more likely we are to devalue and debase ourselves. It is very important that we know much more about ourselves - and we know the importance of these institutions to our people. Therefore we are on the move.

I am very optimistic, but it is perfectly true to say that we should place the correct values on these things by probably teaching the people more, and doing what Trinidad has done now that Cabinet Government is being instituted; that is, have a public holiday or something of the sort. I see that the *Advocate* newspaper attacked them, but you do not talk about these things as though they were not important. They have asked why we have another Bank Holiday. When we cut out a Bank Holiday which they do not keep up in England, the *Advocate* did not say anything at all. Nothing was said by that newspaper, or by conservative members on the other side, when we abolished the celebration of Empire Day, though it had a very historic significance since it showed that at last we were moving on and thinking not in terms of Empire but in terms of Commonwealth. Our attitude was, why should we celebrate a day which had attached to it imperialist notions and a halo of imperialism rather than a halo of self-government?

Trinidad quite rightly has declared a public holiday, but you find some stupid criticism about it on the basis of how many holidays we have. You do not treat these things as though it was merely going out and earning bread and butter; and by that, I mean as insignificant things. These things are of the greatest significance, both spiritually and otherwise to the people; they prove that the people have a right to stand on their own feet; and if they are worthy of recognition, it is only right, proper and meet that some mark should be given them. What better mark could there be than having a holiday to celebrate these things?

I say, Sir, that we are sorry that we in this island had not ourselves celebrated in that way, because it would have brought home to the people that here was something worthy. Just as Empire Day and the Queen's Birthday are Bank Holidays, here also was something worthy of the mark of official recognition and status when we achieved Cabinet status. But we went along very smoothly as though nothing significant happened. We have not sufficiently brought home to our people in this island the worth, and the great meaning of these things, and it is a point which we should correct in the future and bear in mind.

I feel sure, Sir, that if people are educated along these lines, and if they are made more knowledgeable along such lines, we will stand on firmer ground in the future and will command the respect of other nations who have achieved self-Government. There is no doubt in my mind that we are ready for it. The mere fact, Mr. Speaker, that this constitutional crisis in Barbados has taken place here and has not taken place, say, in Nyassaland, should show members of this House that we must hurry up and get self-Government. It could not happen in

Nyasaland arising out of the recent crisis there, because they have a token of self-Government. I want to bring that home to the members opposite who talked about Adult Suffrage. The Africans do not have Adult Suffrage in Nyasaland, but constitutionally the Colonial Office found it absolutely impossible to annul any order made by the Federal Government there to bundle a member of Parliament out of that country simply because he spoke on behalf of the millions of Africans suffering under the hands of a handful of Europeans. Even although they do not have absolute self-government, yet they have a token of it in that the Prime Minister, who, I believe, is Sir Godfrey Huggins, sits in on Commonwealth Conferences at Prime Minister level. They are not on the same footing as Canada or New Zealand; yet he is given the recognition of sitting in on Commonwealth Conferences. You have a position there where the Premier of one Party, Sir Roy Welensky, a former wrestler - I do not know if he has any other particular attainment, though he has attained the highest honours in Government there - can make all kinds of statements about the majority of African people. You can have millions of Africans being held under subjection, and democracy being flouted, yet the Colonial Office can do nothing about it.

3.15 p.m.

They backed the decisions and actions of the Government of Nyasaland even to the point of saying that they believed Sir Roy Welensky's story about plots and plans to massacre Europeans. That is what you got there. Why? Because they have a modicum of self-Government; because they have a constitution which has been given them whereby the Colonial Office cannot go in and tell the Federation there: "Well we think that you are wrong and we would like to upset your constitution or to do something of that kind, or that your policy should be reversed." The Colonial Office cannot do it, so you have these preposterous statements made in the House of Commons backing up Sir Roy Welensky and the ex-Governor of the Central African Federation and the others; that is the reason why Dr Banda and the leaders of the Africans were held in subjection and prescribed and detained.

There is no freedom for these people yet; there was no interference, there would not be any; there was no upsetting of the constitution. Colonial Office cannot go in and say that what they are doing to the African people is anti-democratic; therefore, Colonial Office has to come down on the side of the Africans. And that is all Dr. Banda is asking for. The Africans are not asking for self-Government; they are asking that instead of placing them under the rule of the Europeans, to place them under the rule of the Colonial Office. That is the mild proposal which they are putting up. They are saying: "We are not ready for self-Government because our people are not taught. They are excluded from the universities. If we are put under Colonial Office rule, we know that we would be safe from the tyranny which we are suffering now. Therefore, take us out of the Federation now, under which we would be perpetually ruled by that tyrannous regime."

What has the Colonial Office done? Nothing. Simply because the Central African Federation is constitutionally right. They sit down and talk together and they have to show them a good face. They have to yield or give the appearance of yielding to that Federation; of not interfering in their internal Government. Yet that is an anti-democratic regime. Democracy is flouted there and they are telling millions of Africans there that "This is good for you." The Africans do not want it but the regime in power says: "Oh no; never mind what you feel is good for you; you must give in to what we want." Could you want anything more farcical, more oppressive and more undemocratic?

Sir, I am speaking now as a Minister because I do not see in the face of all that is happening in the world today, some of us can be silent. We have to be very careful when we see some people saying: "Will you not save us?" which is the same phrase used in the Conservative element over here. You still want the extraneous authori-

ty. You are in effect saying: "Let there be interference from outside because democracy is interfered with in this island." Why do they not plead that democracy has been upset in the Central African Federation and push Sir Godfrey out of it? So far as Barbados is concerned, they say: "Oh no; we want to have somebody coming from outside and from the Colonial Office to interfere because democracy is threatened here."

Mr. Speaker I say that if there is one comparison that should bring home to the people of this island the need for us to go forward and frame a constitution that aims at complete self-Government, it is that comparison which I have just given. There it is you have an example of an oppressive regime flouting all the democratic principles of which we have ever known. And yet, what has happened? Dare the Colonial Office to interfere? No one doubts that the Colonial Office can interfere but they fear the repercussions. But it is a matter of dealing with public opinion.

However, let us have unity here. What do we have here? We have this doubt and the ambivalent attitude. We have these attempts to cast doubt on the people's leaders and to draw down the one symbol which they have of equality, of their being equal to other people which is the symbol symbolised by a man like the present Prime Minister of the West Indies Federation. He has been a symbol to us and to Barbados, and to the majority of Barbadians; therefore, when you drag that symbol down, what do you leave us with? We have no tradition. Our traditions have been destroyed long ago since our forefathers left Africa; therefore you have left us with nothing. We are left a pathetic people with no cultural background. What is it that we are doing? We are only making sport. That is the subtle attempt that is being made at us as soon as we have this impasse.

In the speech by the hon. senior member for the City, what have you heard but something to destroy us? You have heard from him: "Oh, the Prime Minister of the Federation! What has he ever done for Barbados?" All that is a combination of circumstances. You get the Colonial Office giving him a big slap and now, you try to destroy our history and twist it in your own way. You are now going to destroy the symbol. Having destroyed our traditions and our prestige, what have we now? Nothing.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said, it has moved me to speak in this debate because these things are so fundamentally important to a people who have been robbed of their rights, so to speak, for such a long time and who are now struggling to form a society and a nation. You may have a constitution framework but that does not make a constitution. You have to form a society, and if we do not come together and fight for the things that are worthwhile, how can we ask for further advancement? How can we go forward to become a united nation?

3.25 p.m.

There is no use our talking about economic and other progress until we learn to stand on our own feet. We think it worthwhile therefore in these matters, to assert ourselves and to make it known where or in what direction our aspirations lie. Speaking for this Party, we admit the necessity for unity in promulgating constitutional reform; we are not opposed, in fact we welcome and we will urge the desire of members opposite to have an all-Parties discussion in this matter. I repeat what we have done in the past we will do now; that is, we will act as we have done in the past, that is to consult all Parties. We cannot promise to agree to the amendment which has been put forward. If that procedure was not necessary when we were going forward to Cabinet Government, I cannot see why it should be necessary today.

If the members opposite really and fundamentally believe that all-Party discussions are necessary, then I think they will see the genuineness of our statement; that we will have an "all parties" discussion and that they will

enter into it willingly and freely. It puzzles me however to see why, after the Hon. Leader of the Opposition had introduced his motion in such style, in fairly lofty style supported by his colleague the hon. senior member for St. Lucy, it puzzles me why this amendment should have been introduced. I cannot see why we cannot have an "all Parties" delegation without making trips at the expense of the island. After we have had these fundamental agreements in the past around the discussion table in this island, I cannot see why we must have some different procedure now. Did not hon. members on the other side make up their minds before? Did the hon. Leader of the Opposition not know what they wanted? He should have known what he wanted when he brought forward this Resolution. An amendment has been moved, but we do not accept the amendment. But in the making of the Constitution all sections of this island should be involved, and they should have some say and participation in the formulation of that constitution. With that principle we are in total agreement.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, for the past few weeks we have had a prolonged debate on this matter and I do not propose to say very much on the matter because the members on the other side who have already spoken have repeated over and over again the procedure which was followed in discussing any constitutional change. This procedure is to discuss it with the different groups of this island. Almost every hon. member who spoke repeated that, and I rise only to say that that procedure will be followed in this case. As has been repeated, the Governor and the Premier come to certain agreements which are discussed with the Executive Committee, then with representatives of the different groups in the House and then with members of the Other Place. When a full agreement has been reached, further talks are carried on with the Colonial Office. I want to assure the House that the same procedure will be followed in this case.

There is hardly anything more that I want to say, or that I am prepared to say at this stage. The Hon. Minister who has just sat down, made a point in replying to accusations which have been made on the other side with reference to Sir Grantley Adams. I intended speaking on that point, but the Hon. Minister has said almost everything that I wanted to say. Sir, it is quite true, as the Minister has said, that when Sir Grantley Adams made those remarks before the Royal Commission, he was trying to show that here in this colony where we have a representative institution we had made no progress, either economic social or political progress, as compared with those other colonies in the area who were under Crown Colony Government. 3.35 p.m.

In short, under Crown Colony Government Trinidad, British Guiana and Jamaica had made strides which we in Barbados with our representative institutions had not made.

I repeat again that I can assure the House that the procedure which was followed on the three or four occasions in which I had anything to do with constitutional developments, since becoming a member of this House, will be followed on this occasion.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I take it that all hon. members have contributed who intended speaking on this Resolution. I shall briefly exercise my right of reply.

Now, Sir, while reference was made by the Hon. Premier and the Minister whose speech preceded his as to the following of procedure, may I remind this Chamber that what happened in respect of the introduction of Cabinet Government in this island was that I was invited by the Head of the Administration to a meeting at which a plan and details were unfolded; and I was, on that occasion, committed to secrecy as to that which was unfolded. So much so, I was unable to divulge to my colleagues what had been put to me as the proposals which were the subject of discussions with the Colonial Office and which had the support of the Government. It was only after there appeared in the Trinidad Press a report of the speech of the then Premier made in Woodford square, Port-of-Spain, as to the proposed

constitutional changes and the publicity which that obviously obtained, that I communicated with the Head of the Administration showing to him a copy of the Trinidad newspaper with what purported to be a report of the Speech made in Woodford Square by the Federal Prime Minister. I was told that the vow of secrecy which I had taken no longer operated, and I might disclose to my colleagues what had transpired. But the important thing is, Mr. Speaker, that that was not a discussion in the ordinary sense of the term; that was an explanation or elucidation given to me which I was enjoined to keep secret.

Only after the Trinidad newspaper reported the first Premier of Barbados on the same changes did we get permission in writing - after we had drawn it to their attention - to discuss it amongst ourselves; for me to tell my colleagues the secret of what they had read in the Trinidad newspaper, a paper with the largest circulation outside of the Jamaica *Gleaner*.

Now the original Resolution, Sir, asked for an all-Parties Committee to be set up to make recommendations for extension of the Barbados Constitution. An amendment was made which was proposed and has been accepted by us. I would say, Sir, that in a constitutional issue so far as English conventions are concerned, you know as well as anyone of us here the practice in the United Kingdom on matters of this kind is to have all three Parties in consultation - the Government Party, the second largest Party, - the Official Opposition, and the Minority Party in Opposition.

Even although the Liberal Party of Great Britain represented only five or six out of 600 odd members, you know perfectly well, Mr. Speaker, that in any constitutional matter or in any matter which is fittingly treated as all-Party, the Minority Party in Opposition is invited. So is the Labour Party which is the Official Opposition, and the Conservatives, who are the Government. All take part in these discussions because they affect everyone. It should not be said on a future occasion that what took place took place as the result only of the activities and deliberations of one of the three Parties, but that all shades of public opinion as represented by the Legislature should be and are quite fittingly represented in any delegation in the United Kingdom.

I was rather intrigued to hear, of all people, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas talking about trips. One seems to remember when there was a few thousand dollars left in the vote and the hon. senior member had a personal invitation and took a trip to Ghana. So far as we are concerned, the trips do not worry us. As an alternative, I wonder if we might, with the approval of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, invite Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies to come to Barbados where we would discuss with him here and he would meet an all-Party delegation, so that there would be no trips for any of us in this Legislation?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I think I have heard that phrase being used about Ghana and about a personal invitation. I would like to let the hon. member know that all the invitations in that respect were sent to persons. I think the self-Government territories of the Commonwealth had one form of invitation but the Colonial territories had another. In every respect it was a kind of personal invitation from the Prime Minister; to that extent only was it personal, but they were all worded the same way. The other representative from Barbados had an invitation from the Prime Minister of Ghana, Dr. Nkrumah, but it was no different from mine in that respect and the others in the West Indian area.

Mr. BRANCKER: Well, Sir, I probably made the mistake of quoting the hon. member. It is a mistake which, for the first time, I have fallen into; and I can assure you that I will never repeat it again. It was he who said in this House whether or not Hansard says otherwise, that he received a personal invitation when the matter was being challenged. We learned afterwards that a certain amount had been

voted for Conferences and delegations, a certain amount was outstanding which was not spent, and that was an opportunity for the hon. member to avail himself of the personal invitation. He used the words, Mr. Speaker, of this personal invitation to Ghana.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. In case the hon. member may be hard of hearing today or a bit dense, I repeat. Of course, it was personal; but I said that mine was also of the same nature as any other; he should not refer to mine as if it was unique. Everyone in the West Indian territories and non-self-Governing Territories who represented the island or the Government received a personal invitation. The hon. member is picking me out as if I am unique or different from anybody else. 3.45 p.m.

Mr. BRANCKER: I cannot differ from the Hon. Minister when I know that he is unique, that he is different from anybody else. There is no other hon. member in this House whose speeches provide such a cause for insomnia than the speeches of the Hon. Minister. Your Honour, yourself must have known that.

In that instance, the Government of Barbados was represented, and typically so, by the Premier of Barbados. This branch of the Legislature could only have been fittingly represented by Mr. Speaker; and when the Hon. Minister, who does not suffer from any undue amount of honesty, spoke of his personal invitation in reply to the hon. senior member for the City, he said: "I received a personal invitation and it was irrespective of my office." We could only understand that he received a personal invitation; and whether or not he had been a member of this House that invitation would have come to him personally.

Let it be understood that it would be quite welcome to us if the Government of the day would invite the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Barbados here where we could unite ourselves in an all-Party delegation. He may meet all Parties together or he may meet them separately. There would be no objection to that. There would be no need for any trek to the United Kingdom; therefore, we would not need to worry about any plane trips or anything of the sort and we would get the same results if he is invited here.

Now, Sir, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas said, in reference to the learned and gallant hon. junior member for St. John, that never once did he come out one way or the other in the course of his long speech. We took a positive stand and history will judge our action. That is in reference to what the Hon. Minister calls the constitutional impasse.

I am afraid that the Hon. Minister was not listening or was not present or did not hear the hon. and gallant junior member for St. John on this case, because my colleague could not have come out more emphatically than what he said. He said that so far as we are concerned that there was no crisis; and that we would not come to their rescue, much as they wanted us to come, because we would have to produce bad law. That is the only way we could have defended them.

The best lawyer in their Party did not disagree with the decision or the point of law, as it was interpreted and decided by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies legal advisers. The Governor of this colony arrived at a certain decision after he had consulted - he could not help doing so - with the Law Officers of this colony. I am not advocating that they are the best, but they are the Law Officers of this colony, and on this occasion they happened to be right.

When the hon. senior member for St. Thomas used the word "subtle" he was trying to avoid coming down to brass tacks and explaining why he did not resign as one of the Queen's Ministers. According to the conventions, he should have resigned and the other Ministers - the hon. junior member for St. George and the hon. senior member for St. Michael - should have resigned. It is not technically a

question that personal unemployment may arise. If you are a Minister and your Government has been defeated, you resign.

There was not unanimity amongst Her Majesty's Ministers on this impasse; so those who differed, their only duty if they were responsible and if they placed the Constitution above their personal employment, was to tender their resignations to the Premier who would have handed them in to the Governor and then he would fill their places from some of the numerous backbenchers, some of whom may regard themselves as not incompetent and equal enough to fill the places of those who resigned. That was the only honourable thing for the Minister to do. When you disagree on a fundamental thing, you resign. That just did not happen and the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has to throw his red herrings across the trail and talk about people, when he knows that there is only one honourable thing for him to do and for which there is precedent. (Hon. R. G. MAPP: Where is the precedent?) When the Hon. Minister in his typical loud aside asks where the precedent for it is, in Barbados there is none, because, since we had Cabinet Government, we had no precedent because none of them had resigned.

Sir, do you know the reason why we have not raised a motion of "no confidence" in that Government? The result would have been the same; they would not have resigned. There is no use your following recognised parliamentary procedure when a person or persons care more for personal employment than for recognised parliamentary procedure. That is what we are perfectly aware of; and that is what he understands that we have to cope with.

Only in legislative matters can the Governor take the advice of the Cabinet. Appointments to Boards are not within the scope of legislative matters. Even in purely legislative matters, if it so happens that the Governor as the Queen's Representative regards the circumstances as either grave or exceptional, then he needs not take the advice of Her Majesty's Ministers. There is precedent for that in the Canadian Parliament some time ago when the same sort of impasse occurred. We know of an Australian case, in which on grounds that the circumstances were grave or exceptional, the advice of the Cabinet was not followed. We know of the historic case in Great Britain when the Cabinet was formed by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and Mr. Stanley Baldwin. The advice of the then Prime Minister was not accepted by the late King George V, and the result was that we had an all-party Cabinet headed by Mr. James Ramsay MacDonald and a Deputy Leader, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, who commanded the majority. 3.55 p.m.

There was ample scope and justification for the action which was taken by the Head of the Administration and he was correct. Had we intervened, our intervention in the first place could only have hampered the case which the Government was trying to put up; and, in the next place, we decided that we would just sit back until the matter came to this Chamber, which is the appropriate place, to have on the record, in Hansard, the views of the Official Opposition on this important matter.

Much as we dislike, politically, the hon. members who form the Conservative membership in this House, we will not be any party to anything which is disgusting or disreputable with a view to putting someone in power or getting someone out of power. We want to see that, when the electorate has spoken, no official action is taken to negate the decision of the electorate. (Hear! Hear!) We want to see that no action like that is taken.

The only issue in the municipal election was the issue of the Mayor; Mottley or Miller. When the electorate by a vote of nine to three came to a decision, whether we agreed with or disapproved of it, no officer who was administering the Government should do anything to ensure that the side which had landed nine members should have its point of view frustrated by a decision to appoint six members who would support the three. That would have

been a state of affairs which would have caused a riot in this country. There is no question about that. If the Head of the Administration is not to act on the advice of the Commissioner of Police as to what is grave or exceptional from the point of view of the peace and tranquillity of the island, on whose advice is he to act? Is he to act on the advice of a politician or a rabble rouser from somewhere?

I do not think that I will labour that point any longer; I would much prefer and advocate a written Constitution rather than an unwritten Constitution. So long as we have an unwritten Constitution the English conventions must be observed rather than our introducing some of our own. The principle to be observed among these conventions which apply is that no rejects by the electorate should be pitchforked into the position in which the electorate has decided they would not have them. The Government, on being defeated on a fundamental measure in the House, must resign; and if there are Ministers who disagree profoundly or openly on any matter of fundamental importance, their business is at least to offer their resignation to the Head of the Cabinet. Even if there is an understanding that it would not be accepted (*Laughter*) it is their duty, their clear, inescapable and constitutional duty to offer their resignation to the Head of the Cabinet in event of such a disagreement; and if he accepts it, then he proceeds to the Queen's Representative and says: "This resignation has been offered and I am disposed to accept it and I am asking the approval of somebody else in his place." Then a backbencher becomes a Minister. The members will remain the same; although in every second, the year 1961 is getting nearer and although members of the public tell me that we may be asked sooner or later, probably next year, to pass a Bill to extend the life of this House by another five years, thus freezing the members in their places. That is a rumour which, for the moment, I am not discounting until I hear something more by way of confirmation. As I have said, in the absence of a written Constitution the conventions and what I have mentioned, apply to the present time.

When the hon. member spoke about the office of "Premier" and pointed out that Barbados was the first place in the West Indies to have a Premier, we have heard it stated on the floor of the House why that title was granted Barbados. It was that the first Premier insisted on the Colonial Office that all Barbadians would be disgusted with any changes except that with the changes, the person in charge of the Cabinet was called the Premier. That is how we got this title "Premier".

Further reference was made by the Minister of Communications to the empty boast made by the Premier and we only have to remind him - I do not know if the Minister of Communications is among the most well read of Her Majesty's Ministers and I wonder if he has read that the same Federal Prime Minister has said that not only did he know beforehand, but he welcomed as Acting Governor-General of this Federation, the same Governor of Barbados who had gone so far astray and been accused of hypocrisy and who had done what was absolutely wrong and could not have been constitutionally more vile - the Federal Prime Minister welcomes him there to the Governor General's residence and the swimming pool at Spanish Acres!

4.05 p.m.

That is enough to dispose of the constitutional *bona fides* of the Federal Prime Minister; but, having deluded his unthinking followers into pursuing a certain course of following him for a certain distance, he then turns around and laughs heartily at them and tells the Colonial Office when they notify him of this proposed appointment "I welcome it". I wonder, Sir, what were their feelings when they read that for the first time.

I think, Sir, that there is little more that I need reply to, except this in connection with the timing. The hon. senior member for St. Philip said that it was our view that constitutional changes which are agreed upon after discussion, and which are entirely approved of, should not come into effect until there is a new Legislature, because

these changes are changes which will advance our present constitutional status, and we did not feel that the Party at present in power is worthy or is fit to be entrusted with an advanced Constitution; but if in the process of democratic action the electorate felt - we know they would not - that the Party at present in power is worthy to be entrusted with the reins of Government as a result of a general election, well then, that advanced Constitution is in the hands of whomsoever the electorate entrusted it. That is the point which the hon. senior member for St. Philip made, with which we all agree 100%.

We would prepare our Constitution now; and in view of what the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has said, we suggest inviting the Secretary of State for the Colonies out here. Then, having evolved it, to put it into effect as soon as the new Session of the Legislature meets consequent upon the next general election. May I say this if you will permit me; from this side we would welcome that general election next week; but this tenacious holding on, this great lack, shall I say, Mr. Speaker, of principle, I am sure will result in a general election not coming one minute or second before the last possible time in 1961.

As I mention this, I see consternation on the face of the Hon. Minister who is now looking at me. We know it is within the power of his Party and of his Cabinet not to advise the dissolution of the House until the very last possible time; so when the hon. senior member for St. Thomas spoke of destroying the symbol and prestige and traditions, those three things, Mr. Speaker, were destroyed by the Queen's three Ministers who failed to offer their resignations to the Head of the Cabinet. They could have said: "Well, we disagree profoundly with this; we are upholders of the Constitution; more than anything else we live for that; here are our resignations, Mr. Premier, accept them if you will". That was never done. The result was that the most important convention of the Constitution has been flouted, ignored and thrown overboard.

I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that I need add anything more. I made my original contribution. This is just in reply to the speakers from the Government side who have followed me. It is rather a pity that the statement of the Premier was not printed and circulated as a document of this House. Strictly speaking, I know it was not produced as a written statement; therefore I am not going to treat it with any propriety. We have to defend on what we heard, what we remembered and what we read in the Daily Newspaper in that report which was headed "Premier's U.K. visit not related to local elections."

Mr. Speaker, as I intimated at the time, and as I repeated earlier in my rejoinder, I accepted the amendment proposed by the Hon. Leader of the Minority Party to the original Resolution; but, Sir, the matter has been extremely fully discussed particularly from this side, the Premier and the Hon. Minister have replied on behalf of the Cabinet, and there could be no misunderstanding as to the point of view certainly of the Official Opposition; and, having ventilated the matter as fully as we have and put our point of view, I am asking leave to withdraw the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave to withdraw his motion. Unless there be any objection, leave will be granted.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy: to move the passing of a Resolution re Statement of Hon. R. G. MAPP on 21st April, 1959.

RESOLUTION re STATEMENT OF HON. R. G. MAPP ON SANDY LANE PROJECT

MR. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, the next Resolution is that which appertains to Sandy Lane in the parish of St. James. It was introduced by me in this Chamber immedi-

ately after a statement was made by the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing in this House on the 21st April, 1959.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that Statement has been printed and circulated. The motion which I now beg formally to move reads as follows:-

WHEREAS the Honourable Minister of Communications has made a Statement in this House on 21st April, 1959 on the proposed diversion of Highway No. 1 at Sandy Lane in the parish of Saint James.

AND WHEREAS such diversion will materially affect the lives of thousands daily who travel from Bridgetown to Hometown, Speightstown and St. Lucy:

AND WHEREAS the Sandy Lane scheme, in throwing 180 acres of agricultural land out of cultivation, will throw out of employment a number of agricultural labourers for whose future adequate provision must be made; and the closure of Sandy Lane Factory will leave without employment a number of factory workers currently employed and for such persons' economic future provision must also be made.

AND WHEREAS a deviation as proposed will involve increased mileage with consequential expense to travellers by motor transport from the parish of Saint Michael to St. Lucy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed scheme be submitted for consideration by a joint Committee of both Houses of the Legislature for its impartial findings and recommendations to be laid before Government.
4.15 p.m.

Now Mr. Speaker, I make that motion and I hope to deal with the statement of the Hon. Minister of Communications in close detail. I assume that in making that statement the Hon. Minister, on behalf of the Government, had in mind or was legally advised that Section 13 of the Department of Highways and Transport Act of 1945, 1945-12, paragraph 2 which states:-

"Whenever it appears to the Governor-in-Executive Committee desirable for any purpose, and particularly for the giving of a road to church or market to any person who shall be without and shall require one, to alter the course of any highway to which this Act applies rather than to repair such highway, the Governor-in-Executive Committee is hereby empowered to proceed to lay out and allot such highway, but the power of the Governor-in-Executive Committee in this behalf shall be exercised with as little detriment to any private person as practicable, and shall not extend to the pulling down of any house or building, or to the taking away of the land of any garden, orchard or yard."

That is as far as I think I need to go to deal with this discussion which I am initiating. Let us consider the statement of the Hon. Minister of Communications in the light of the proposed diversion. I will deal with the subject from certain aspects; one is as regards reference having been made of improved opportunities for all-year employment of the workers there.

Sir, as this debate will not conclude today, these are questions on which the Hon. Minister should obtain accurate information so as to assist the course of this debate. My questions are as follows:-

- (1) "How many persons were employed at the Sandy Lane Factory up to the last reaping season?
- (2) What is the exact acreage of land which is proposed to take out of agricultural cultivation?
- (3) Give the number of agricultural workers employed during the 1959 reaping season in the crop at Sandy Lane Plantation?
- (4) Whether it is proposed by the multi-millionaire who is sponsoring this scheme to provide an adequate pension scheme for each and every person presently employed at Sandy Lane who does not secure either as an agri-

cultural labourer or a factory labourer employment if this scheme goes through?"

Sir, as we know, this scheme is being sponsored by a banking concern. Their active agent in the West Indies is a multi-millionaire who does not disguise the fact that he is a personal friend of the Federal Prime Minister, although he does not realise that the Federal Prime Minister is no longer Premier of Barbados and, as such, no longer runs this island despite his week-end visits to Barbados from the Federal Capital. It is entirely within the competence of the powers behind the multi-millionaire to provide a scheme and put it up to the Government to ensure that any person who works at Sandy Lane Factory or the Plantation will have, in the absence of future employment, an adequate pension for herself, himself and their children. If with his influence the sponsors of this scheme can guarantee employment for these persons in other parts of Barbados convenient for them to work, well then, there is no necessity for the pension scheme; but if there is a single person who will be unemployed by the factory or the plantation as a result of this scheme going through, then it must be made quite plain to the Government that adequate provision must be made for such persons.

You know, Sir, that this was the ideal opportunity for the Government to accept the advice given in this Chamber some time ago by the hon. senior member for the City: that the Sandy Lane Woods and Beach should become part of the property of the Government so as to become a playground for the people of this island and not for the ailing millionaires from abroad. The Government should have bought it for the people of this island to go and enjoy their picnics.

Sir, I know I would be told that there is a barbed wire fence there at present, and the people have the opportunity every day of driving through the most beautiful stretch of road in this island. It is short, but it is exquisite. There is no roadway in Barbados more picturesque than that stretch between Reid's Bay and Hometown. Who of us was not moved by that beautiful poem of Justice Vaughn "Sandy Lane"? So beautiful was it that the title of his book was "Sandy Lane and other poems."
4.25 p.m.

There you have a road which it is proposed to close permanently to the people of this island and allow it to become just a walk for the millionaires who are not prepared to cross the same stretch of road as Her Majesty's humble subjects of this island have been crossing from the time that Barbados was a Barbados. They are the sort of people who would find that the Marine Hotel is not good enough for them or who would spurn the notion of going to the Windsor Hotel. These people for whom the Antigua Mill Reef is not good enough, want a deterioration of the Queen's Highway, simply because it is alleged they would not be happy unless they have this elegant, super-duper and extremely elaborate hotel which will be erected on the site of the Sandy Lane Factory.

We entirely agree with any building project, with more hotels being erected, with as many more tourists being attracted to this island as possible; but it is possible for the price of any commodity be too high. Even tourism can be bought at too high a price. As a result of civilisation here and with many tourists coming to Barbados, this is what they have told me: that the people coming from the U.K. want ample hotel accommodation at \$12.00 a day. They say that if we build hotels with five hundred rooms at \$12.00 a day, that would encourage tourists innumerable to come from England, Scotland and Wales to this country.

At this stage it being 4.30 p.m. of the clock,

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 4.30 p.m. of the clock and the House will revert to Government Business.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE PENSIONS (PENSIONABLE OFFICES) AMENDMENT ORDER"

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier:- To move the passing of

the following Resolution:- Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) (Amendment) Order, 1959"

At this stage, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution deals with another Civil Establishment Order. Hon. members will observe that, for the last few months, there have been certain changes of nomenclature taking place in various Departments, and Resolutions have been brought before the House to give effect to those changes in nomenclature. Civil Establishment Orders have also been laid on the Table of the House in this connection.

Under the Head "Government Markets", the office of "Meat Inspector" has been changed to "Senior Supervisor"; under the Head "Legal Department", after "Assistant Legal Draughtsman", there is the addition of "Crown Counsel"; under the Head "Judiciary", the office "Judge, Petty Debt Court" is deleted and after "Clerk (female)" there is the addition of the office "Chief Clerk and Accountant"; Under the Head "Education", the office of "Chief Inspector" is deleted; for "District Inspector," the office "Education Officer" is substituted; for "Inspector of Handicrafts" the office "Buildings and Handicraft Officer" is substituted and after "Administrative Secretary, Technical Institute" the office "Office Superintendent, Clerical Assistant" is added and so on down the line. All of these deletions and substitutions are effected under Section 2 of the Pensions Act. This Order seeks to make provision for these additions, substitutions and deletions. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 14) ORDER

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the Hon. Premier:- To move the passing of the following Resolution:- Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 14) Order, 1959."

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution deals with another of these Civil Establishment Orders which this House is being asked to approve. As hon. members will see from the Addendum to the Resolution, on the Recommendation of a Committee which was set up to examine the duties and responsibilities of accounting posts in the Service and to make recommendations regarding the salary grading of such posts, it is proposed to make the changes shown hereunder in the salary scales of certain of these posts; and the posts are set out. In connection with the Audit Office, the present salary of the post of Auditor is \$3,000 rising to a maximum of \$4,392. It is now proposed to alter that minimum salary and make it \$3,528 rising to the same maximum of \$4,392.
4.35 p.m.

The same thing applies, Sir, to the Accountant, Treasury; Accountant, Department of Science and Agriculture; and Inspector, Department of Inland Revenue where the proposed salary is now \$3,528 to \$4,392. In the case of the Accountant - Post Office, and Accountant - Savings Bank, the proposed salary is \$3,960 to \$4,944.

It is proposed to change the title of the post of Accountant in the Public Works Department and the Department of Highways and Transport to "Accounts Officer". This Order seeks to give effect to all the above proposals, except in respect of the post of Accountant in the Savings Bank which will form the subject of an amendment to the Savings Bank Act, 1914.

In short, Sir, this deals mainly with Accountants in the several offices and seeks to make the salary uniform, except in the case of the Accountant, Post Office and Accountant, Savings Bank which is placed on a higher scale with greater responsibility and more work. Also in the case of the Accountant, Savings Bank, that will be dealt with by an amendment to the Savings Bank Act, 1914.

As is set out here "The Committee referred to above considered the commencing salaries of the posts to be too low when related to the duties and responsibilities attached to the posts. It was also considered that there should be no overlapping in the scales of these posts and other accounting posts immediately junior to them. It should further be mentioned that accounting posts above and below these have salary scales of two segments each as compared with the existing scale of three segments for these posts."

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Order entitled "Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 15) Order, 1959"

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 15) ORDER, 1959

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: This Order, Sir, deals with the Customs Department. According to the Addendum, Sir, it is proposed to create (i) one new post of Senior Supervisor (\$4,560 to \$5,520); (ii) the addition of two posts of Assistant Supervisors (\$2,640 to \$3,360); (iii) four new posts of Rum Bond Clerk (\$2,112 to \$2,400); and (iv) the reduction of the number of Long Grade Clerks in the Department from 48 to 41.

In other words, Sir, there will be no additional personnel. It was felt, on account of the greater responsibility in some categories of service in that office of the Customs, certain new posts should be created to let more responsible officers fill these posts.

The Comptroller of Customs feels, and I think quite rightly so, that Customs is becoming a specialist subject, so to speak; and rather than have a change of officers every now and again, and being robbed very often of senior officers who are transferred to other offices, and having also to train the new people who are brought in, that by creating these posts the officers who fill these new and responsible posts will be assured of continuity of service in that Department.

Further in the Addendum, the duties are set out. In the case of the Senior Supervisor, this officer will be required to supervise the working of the entire Department. Neither the Comptroller nor the Assistant Comptroller can at present devote sufficient time to this duty which is very important in a Department of this size.

As to the post of Assistant Supervisor, one of the two additional officers requested will be posted to the Baggage Warehouse in place of a Long Grade Clerk. The other one will supervise the bond books in which records of all warehouse goods are kept.

I think, Sir, that there are more warehouses now; and with the coming into operation of the Deep Water Harbour, more will be needed; and these more responsible officers will remain in that Department and give the service required.

In the case of the Rum Bond Clerks, the note reads as follows:-

"Now that the bottling of rum is carried on in the number of privately owned rum bonds, it is necessary to attach a customs officer to each one. The responsi-

ties of such an officer merit a higher salary than that of a Long Grade Clerk. When the bottling was done in the Cheapside Rum Bond an Assistant Supervisor (\$2,640 to \$3,360) was in charge of the Bond."

As you know, Sir, the bonding of rum is no longer done at the Cheapside Bond which is now being reconstructed into a Market. There are more rum bonds and, consequently, we need more clerks to supervise these bonds.

In the case of the Long Grade Clerks, in view of the creation of the posts mentioned above, a corresponding reduction will be made in the number of Long Grade Clerks in the Department.

As I said earlier, there is no new additional personnel in this case; only upgrading because of status, seniority and responsibility with increased emoluments.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Education: To move the second reading of a Bill to consolidate and amend the Law for making provision for Government scholarships and exhibitions and other purposes connected therewith.

GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS ACT, 1959

Hon. L. ST. A. THORNE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill seeks to increase the facilities which have been more or less provided through certain scholarships and exhibitions which have been established in this island. The particular scholarship to which this Bill relates is that known as the Barbados Scholarship.
4.45 p.m.

Hon. members will recollect that there are five such Scholarships, one of which is more or less awarded to girls only, while the other four are competed for by boys and are awarded one for each group of subjects, the subjects being Mathematics, Science, Classics and Modern Studies.

The Act which is at present in force, lays it down that, in the case of the four Scholarships for boys, whenever it happens that no boy wins or is considered eligible for a Scholarship in either particular group, then two or more Scholarships, as the case may be, may be awarded in any one group; and in the case of the Scholarship for girls that this Scholarship can only be awarded to a girl.

In order to improve the facilities and to widen the scope, this Bill is seeking to make provision whereby it can be possible in the case of the Scholarship to be awarded to the girl, if no girl comes up to Scholarship standard, rather than award the Scholarships to a boy, to legislate to the effect that the Scholarship should be awarded to a girl who comes up to Exhibition standard. In the case of the four Scholarship for boys, where no Scholarship for any particular group can be awarded by reason of the fact that no boy was considered to reach the required standard in any particular group or set of groups, that the boys who came up to Exhibition standard be awarded those Scholarships. We are seeking to go even further than that. Where no pupil is considered to have reached Scholarship or Exhibition standards, we are being asked to consent to the idea of making grants to pupils who are considered to have reached the standard of attainment which would enable them to profit by a course of training abroad.

Of course, we do not anticipate at the moment that the day will ever come when no candidate who sits the Barbados Scholarship will reach Scholarship standard; but we are prepared to make provision for any eventuality which may arise; hence the suggestion that where students who sit for the Barbados Scholarship do not reach Scholarship standard in the opinion of the examiners and they reach Exhibition standard in the case of boys, exhibitions should be awarded. In the case of the girls, where a girl does not reach Scholarship standard, before you decide to award the Scholarship to a boy, you should think in terms of awarding it to a girl who has reached Exhibition standard. Therefore, we feel after careful consideration that this would be a means of making it possible for children, who experience financial difficulty and who possess the necessary ability, to get the required help which would enable them to develop to the fullest their God-given talents.

This Ministry, since it has come into existence, is dedicating itself in numerous matters pertaining to education; and I think I can safely say that we have reached a point where we are in a position to offer many worthwhile solutions for the ills from which our educational system suffers. We have got quite a number of schemes which we are prepared to put forward, but these will more or less involve expenditure of fairly great sums of money; therefore, instead of merely sitting, sighing and waiting on the tide, we are prepared to push those schemes which we feel can be put into execution immediately. This is one of the several such schemes at which we are aiming.

I do not think that it is necessary for me to go into greater detail with respect to this matter. I have seen to it that hon. members of this House have been supplied with copious notes in the Objects and Reasons. I presume that each hon. member takes a mighty keen interest in his work and would have read the notes; therefore, I will not waste any more time going into detail. If any question arises on which hon. members need an answer, I shall try to supply it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have great pleasure in asking that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member who has just sat down, the Hon. Minister of Education, may rest assured that on this side of the House he will be met with great sympathy in what he is trying to do. At the outset, however, I am going to say that some of us are very puzzled over certain features of this Bill, although we understand—or we think we do—its main provisions.

Before going any further, I wonder whether the Hon. Minister does not think the time has come when a comprehensive Education Bill should be drafted and presented to the Legislature containing all the provisions which have been made for all types of education which the Government of Barbados has to offer to its people. I think that this piecemeal way of tackling this problem, though it may serve a certain limited purpose, it is not exactly what we would like to see. I admit the redrafting of an entirely new Education Act would be a matter of hard work, and would take a lot of time. I hope the Hon. Minister would take it to heart that he should get down to it and, within the next 18 months, produce a new Education Bill to replace the Acts which we now have, so as to consolidate the whole educational system into the provisions of one Act. In that one Act he could clearly lay down the different types of education to be offered, the facilities, the funds to be provided, the powers and functions of the Minister of Education and those who work under him.
4.55 p.m.

It will make for greater efficiency, and the smoother running of the system. Meanwhile we are here to discuss and decide upon this proposed amendment to the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act and also the new

changes which will accrue as result of this Bill in the administration of the Act.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill, if it has any salient feature at all, seems to have been drafted around a fear that, at this stage of this island's development, you have to make special provision for girls in the event of girls not reaching the required standards. Apart from the fact that the sexes are thought to be equal nowadays in almost every sphere of human endeavour, there is something to be considered which is even more important. If you have an educational system and the aim of that system is to provide the best possible training particularly at the secondary level, and if you make sure in addition to all that, that you are getting the best for the money which you are spending, then you need have no fear that girls will fall below standard as such. Indeed it can happen in any year that when the results of a particular examination are known, nobody comes up to standard; that is quite possible. But in a case like that, while nobody says that you should not offer whatever scholarships or grants you like to offer for a certain level of attainment, I think that you are setting a very bad precedent if you admit in an Act that your standards of attainment might fall so frequently that you might have to make special provisions for girls or boys not reaching Scholarship standard.

I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister particularly, a certain thing. Some months ago, this Legislature and the public generally were very much disturbed and alarmed at the proposed policy of the Government, at any rate the Department of Education, in reorganising and abolishing, in some cases, the Sixth Form teaching in certain grant-aided Secondary schools. If you remember, what we were told - without any justification - of the proposed measure was this: that the standards of teaching attained at Harrison College, Lodge School and Queen's College were so good and high that all Sixth Form teaching should virtually be concentrated in these schools thus rendering the Sixth Form teaching in the other Government-aided schools unnecessary and costly.

If that contention is true, we have reached the stage when we should have no fear of a falling standard of attainment. The Barbados Scholarships are awarded on results obtained from the Advanced and Scholarship Level of the General Certificate of Education. Now I think that we have a proud record in this island in that, from the time we awarded more than one Scholarship, there has never been a year when at least three people did not come up to Open Scholarship standard. Usually, there have been four; and in one or two cases the examiners have said that particular candidates had not come up to Scholarship standard but they reported favourably on their work.

You must expect that sort of thing to happen in any examination; and when it happens there is no reflection either on the pupils or on the staffs of the various schools. However, if it were to happen repeatedly that from year to year no pupil came up to Open Scholarship standard or Exhibition standard, that would be alarming enough to cause the Government to enquire into the teaching at the various schools. But we know that the standards have been attained and therefore we do not have to worry too much about people not coming up to standard.

In this modern and progressive age the Minister of Education should never admit that there is a fear, or give the impression that there is a fear that standards would fall so low that special provision must be made for people who are below standard. This may sound unpalatable if taken in a certain light; but I think it is a good thing to say on an occasion like this. It would be far better in any year if, for some reason or other, no scholarships could be awarded, although that would be an extreme case, but it would be far better not to award any scholarships at all and give an extra three, one or two in the following year, than to admit that the standards were so low that you made provision that such level of attainment should be lower than it should be.

Our University in the West Indies has accepted the standards for entrance which are now known, and it is geared to Sixth Form teaching in secondary schools. Therefore, if for entrance in the University you must do the ordinary Sixth Form course, you do not need to aim below that level. All schools within the Federation and beyond it, who have to prepare pupils for University entrance, have accepted a high standard of Sixth Form teaching; therefore, the Barbados Government should not have any fear, except in rare cases, to be judged on their own merits, that a time would come when we would have to make provision for people who do not come up to standard.

5.05 p.m.

In any year it can happen that some pupil, whether boy or girl, just manages to miss Open Scholarship standard. But that is a different thing from a situation in which the pupil's level of attainment is so far below that you may feel, for political reasons that it is expedient to award something; and therefore you give these grounds, not because a standard has been reached, but precisely because a standard has not been reached. I think that the Minister, if he is to administer this Act, should tell his advisers very carefully and clearly that it would be a bad thing to let the impression get around that standards can now be lowered because Government will make up for these lowered standards.

We are spending a lot of money on these secondary schools - not as much as we should, and certainly not always in the direction that we should - but nobody could claim otherwise; and on the contrary everybody agrees that Sixth Form teaching in at least three of the nine schools is as high as it possibly can be. If you can manage to keep these schools staffed and staffed with well qualified West Indians, when you can get them at that, you have no fear whatever of standards being lowered. The standards will remain as high as they have always been. You will always find examiners from overseas easily discovering the five or so persons who could be awarded Barbados Scholarships.

While I have some sympathy with a special Scholarship being awarded for girls, I must say that I know the time will come when it will be unnecessary to make special provision for them. Automatically their own performance will be so good that, in some years, more girls than boys might qualify and get to Open Scholarship standard. When you keep your standards high and when your level of teaching in schools continues to be uniform, good pupils will take advantage of it; and the best of them will always do the best they can.

Now, Sir, it is unfortunate, too, that the awarding of the Barbados Scholarships, at least in its recent history, should have been surrounded by a lot of political considerations. I would not weary the House at this moment with the history of how the five came about. We are thankful that there are more than one, and whatever the origin we now have five.

There is something, though, which is very disquieting, both as I understand it, to the holders of these Scholarships, their parents, as well as some of the people overseas who have to teach them. I noticed certainly one disquieting feature in this Bill in that part of it - the Schedule which deals with the amendments to the Barbados Scholarships in which it is laid down quite clearly that the Government of Barbados is not in favour of Barbados Scholars pursuing a second or further degree. It says in Subsection (c) of Section 5 of the Barbados Scholarships Schedule: "Where the holder of such a Scholarship or Exhibition undertakes a course of study elsewhere than at the University College of the West Indies, such Scholarship or Exhibition may be extended for such further period not exceeding one year as may be approved by the Governor-in-Executive Committee and on such terms and conditions as may be provided by regulations made under this Act, for the purpose of enabling the holder thereof to undertake a course of post-graduate study, not being a course of study for a second or further degree."

If a Scholarship holder has done so well in his first degree and is recommended by those who should best know, that is his tutors at the University, to pursue his studies further for the gaining of a second degree, why should the Government of Barbados—and on what grounds—step in and say "No"? I should like the Hon. Minister to bear in mind that this is probably one of the things that should not be done.

I have been told of a case concerning a Barbados Scholar now overseas, and who, I believe, is doing medicine. He proved so brilliant in the course of his studies, he was recommended by his Professors to do some specialist work with them for one year; and that work was so good, they further recommended him to continue his studies in that particular direction. But he was not permitted to do so by the authorities here—at least that is the story as I have got it—who took the view that since it was a little off the beaten track, it was not medicine proper. He had, as it were, broken his bond to read medicine and had gone on to something else. If the facts as I have got them are true, I cannot conceive Mr. Deputy Speaker, of a greater crime than that.

When awarding a Barbados Scholarship or any kind of scholarship to anybody, you are not doing him a favour; it is the community searching out the talent which it has at its disposal and enabling that talent to make its way in the world to be of benefit to the same community. It is a community investment; and if a pupil, having got through a degree or in the course of study for a degree decides under the direction of those competent to know to pursue his studies further or amplify his knowledge, it is not for the Government of Barbados to say "thus far shall the pupil go and no further".

The principle is wrong and indefensible. I hope the Minister will bear in mind that the very thing and the one thing that the Government of Barbados should not do is to intervene in this sort of matter. It should be sufficient guidance for the Government—after the persons competent to teach the pupil—to decide that he or she is worthy of pursuing a particular course of study or a second degree. Once you have heard from the recognised tutors of the pupils at the University that should be sufficient guidance for the Government of Barbados.

If you retain this Schedule as you have it here, you cannot hope to escape the charge that you have retained it for political reasons so that you should have some sort of control over what overseas Scholars should or should not study, or that you should withhold facilities from pupils whose parents or whose political connections you do not approve. (A VOICE: Oh!) It is no use shouting "Oh" and "ah"; the interpretation will be there; the Government of Barbados may be expert in a lot of things, but it could not be expert in all things.

When you send a Scholar overseas and his tutors and professors say he is so good that they recommend him to continue his studies, that should be sufficient for you, the pupil and everybody else concerned. All you have to see is that the money which is awarded to him by this community is well spent and not wasted; and that should be the limit of the interest of the Government of Barbados. It is morally wrong and indefensible to have any Regulations which give the Governor-in-Executive Committee or the Director of Education or the Minister authority to tell the student that he or she should not pursue his study for a second degree. No Government ought to have that power, and no such power should exist at all. I am saying that to indicate to the Minister where the main feature of our opposition to this Bill will lie, not at all with most of the principle of it, but in certain disquieting features.

5.15 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if you talk to some of the parents of Scholarship holders, you get the almost unanimous complaint that the Government appears to believe, as I mentioned earlier in another connection, that it is doing these people a favour when it provides money for overseas study.

The parents of some of these Scholars and Exhibitioners contend, in some cases, that they are hard put to because the Government insists that Barbados Scholars should buy their books out of their living allowance. If that is so, it is wrong and I am drawing the Hon. Minister's attention to that now.

When you send a student overseas, you have no right to force on him the purchase of books out of what you are giving him for food and shelter. When you give Scholarships to secondary schools, very often, the more important books are provided; therefore, the principle which holds good in giving books to Scholarship holders at Combermere, St. Michael Girls' the Coleridge-Parry and other secondary schools should also be extended to Barbados Scholars. Do not force the students to buy books out of their living allowances. That is something which the Hon. Minister and the Government can rectify almost immediately. It is wrong to do it. Stop doing it if it is a fact that you are doing it.

Another complaint is this, and this concerns medical students: It appears, the policy with respect to medical students when they have graduated is that they are required to purchase their instruments out of their own money, and then Government refunds them half of it. Here again, when you award a Scholarship to someone to enable him to become a doctor, his instruments, his books and the things he needs in his experiments should all be part of his Scholarship. On what grounds, therefore, do you refund to him half of what he spends and not the full amount if that was not your feeling? A doctor who qualifies out of the expenses of a Scholarship is coming back to this community to give back to the community intangible service of what the community put into him in terms of money.

If you look at it in that way it is only an investment; and you should not put the parents of these scholars to that inconvenience to make them find even half of the money for the buying of these things. The person is coming back here to work in your Hospital or Public Health Department or in general practice. Into whatever category he comes, he is rendering service back to the community which has invested its money in him. I cannot make it clearer than that.

Sir, I rather see you spend money this way than throw it down the transport gutters. Whatever you do for the people, you have to spend money; it is all a question of how you spend it. If you can throw away a quarter million in buses, you can give scholarships and you can buy the necessary books and the instruments for the medical men when they qualify. You spend money badly enough, and you spend it in good directions in some cases.

My last point is this. The policy of awarding Barbados Scholarships in different study groups is a sound one, but you must bear in mind that the world is changing rapidly. That is what everybody says. New fields of study are opening up day by day; and in this community of ours—I mean the West Indies generally—we have need for doctors, barristers and teachers certainly, but we also have need for more than them. We need agricultural experts of differing varieties. We need statisticians, public health experts, engineering experts, experts in buying and selling, experts in industrialisation and all the hundred and one fields which, if properly exploited, will build our nation well.

It is time that the Government of Barbados, in consultation with the other Governments of the Federation, decide on the pruning and the scope of weeding in fields other than in Classics and Modern Studies. Just, for instance, as you have in this Bill the welcome provision that there should be reciprocity between Units of the Federation, that is to say, children of Trinidad living in Barbados being awarded Barbados Scholarships if they qualify and Barbadian children living in Trinidad being awarded Trinidad Government Scholarships, I want that principle of reciprocity extended where the various Unit Governments can get together and every year decide in a certain number of specialised studies how they will

award Scholarships in them. Let us say the Government of Jamaica might say this year that they are giving two Scholarships in Agricultural Science, therefore, they will tell you that you need not do so in that direction in Barbados; you do it in something else, because we are going to make our people when they qualify not only to be available for Jamaica, but for all parts of the West Indies. The Government of Barbados would then say that we will award two Scholarships that year in Civil Engineering and therefore nobody else must award Scholarships in that field in that year.

If you can have that kind of reciprocity, in the course of time we will have available people in varying fields in sufficient number to serve in British Guiana or any part of the West Indies. If each Unit does that, in twenty years you will find that this Federation will have at its disposal a galaxy of experts in the various fields. Those experts will be of service to the whole Federation, irrespective of the country of their origin. That is how I would like the principle of reciprocity extended.

Altogether, Sir, the Bill is not a bad one. It has certain features which I have drawn to the Hon. Minister of Education and when he replies I hope he will clear up many of the points. I will end on the note which I began and that is, it is time that the whole educational system of the Island should be overhauled; that its provisions and facilities and its schemes should be consolidated into a single Act.
5.25 p.m.

I engage the Minister's interest in this matter because I think that, from the point of view of his own interest in his own work as Minister, it would be better to have a comprehensive Act to administer which enables him to systematize the job in such a way that he knows what is the scope of his primary school system, how it dovetails into the secondary school system and how that, in its turn, dovetails into the further educational system. The powers of the Minister and his immediate supports should be set out clearly; and the various Advisory Bodies to him and all of their functions should be set out.

If you have the system in one Act, you will be able to watch the progress of the system more clearly and be able to see whether it is going wrong and in which part. I do not pretend that a consolidated Bill could be drafted in two months; it may take the better part of a year or even of two years, but the Minister should do credit to himself and start now so that by the end of next year we will have a new Education Act being undertaken of everything which not only traces the story of our educational development, but sets out what is to be done in the future. Being a member of that Government, I cannot expect the Minister to be very clear as to what he wants our educational development to be like; that is something amiss of him by the company he keeps. Let him bring down that Bill and the Opposition will do its duty to the House and to the people and fill in all the defects of that Bill. We should like to have a Bill setting out these provisions and consolidating everything into a whole.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who has just spoken said in general that he thought this Bill was a good one, and that would be the general feeling of all the members of this House. I would like to say that the part which strikes me as most forcible, and certainly the most valuable one, is the explanation given in the last part of paragraph 4 of the "Objects and Reasons" where it states this:-

"It is considered that in view of the fact that the necessity arises not infrequently of reviewing the value of such Scholarships and Exhibitions in the light of the cost of living currently existing in the places where the Scholarships and Exhibitions are tenable, it would be more convenient if the value of such Scholarships and Exhibitions were provided for in regulations"

I know that that matter is covered in Section 6 of the Bill which gives power to the Governor-in-Executive

Committee to make regulations prescribing the value of the various scholarships, exhibitions and grants which are awarded. I think that that is especially welcome. I have heard of one case in point where a certain Barbados Scholar, after having completed his studies overseas, was told that he owed the Government some money because of the cost of his scholarship overseas which increased during the course of his study. Therefore I think that that is certainly a most welcome change and it is something to be highly commended. I would welcome the Hon. Minister giving some kind of explanation to the hon. senior member for St. Lucy when he questioned the restrictions placed on the pursuit of the second or further degree. It is mentioned in the "Objects and Reasons" of the Bill that some restrictions will be placed, provided that the course of study is not one for a second or further degree. I would welcome that explanation from the Minister.

On the other hand, I cannot help deprecating the innuendo by the hon. senior member for St. Lucy who thinks that one wants to withhold, for political reasons, some scholarship from a winner who would be in some political camp. I cannot picture a Government, not even the Government of the hon. member who spoke on the matter, thinking along such terms. If you have a Barbados Scholarship winner, you are not thinking of what particular political philosophy that particular scholar might hold. I think that remarks like those must be deprecated most strongly.

Besides that, on the question of the redrafting of a completely new Educational Bill, I certainly look forward to the statement which was explained in the Schedule of the recent Resolution about the further staff of the Housecraft Centre. There is a paragraph in that Resolution which says that a complete reorganisation will be considered later. I hope that it is sooner than later. At the present time it is quite desirable to change the particular staff of the Housecraft Centre. I am quite certain that sometimes, from the way in which these Resolutions are drafted, we cannot help suspecting that the Minister of Education and the Minister of Social Services might be finding it very difficult to persuade their colleagues that more money should be available for the development of education and of social services. I would just throw out the warning that as to whatever phase of development we are pursuing, it should be made known that we cannot pursue this course of development without the human resources of the country as a whole. In the long run the human resources of the country will be the major factor in the development of the country.
5.35 p.m.

I say, Sir, in conclusion that we do welcome the proposition that the scholarships would not be a fixed sum anymore, but will be regulated by the Governor-in-Executive Committee according to the particular financial needs of the respective scholars.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was very amused to hear the hon. junior member for St. Joseph observe in his remarks that no discrimination might take place on political grounds since the power to extend a grant in the case of postgraduate study is vested in the Governor-in-Executive Committee, when all those members in this House who were living in the island of Barbados during the past, let us say, six or seven years, know that there have been occasions on which the treatment of Barbados Scholars has been a serious question.

The Hon. senior member for St. Lucy mentioned in passing one particular instance which occurred not so very long ago. This particular Barbados Scholarship holder is one in whom I have shown a certain degree of interest; his father was one of those Barbadians who sacrificed his life during the last World War. He was a contemporary and a colleague of mine, himself a journalist of great ability; and it was due to the good offices of the Ministry of Pensions - and not the munificence of the Barbados Government - that his children were able to get any kind of education at all.

Now, for the benefit of the hon. junior member for

St. Joseph, it is now a matter of public and general knowledge that this Barbados Scholarship holder did so brilliantly in his medical examination, he was recommended by his Professors to specialise in the subject of anatomy; and there is no doubt in my mind that, had he been allowed by the Education authorities here in Barbados and the Executive Committee in particular to pursue the course to which his lecturers and tutors had found him so admirably adapted, he probably would have ended up by being one of the foremost specialists not only in the British Commonwealth, but probably in the world on that particular subject. Persons of that calibre are born about once every hundred years. The last time we had a scholar like that was the late Astronomer Royal of Scotland who was a mathematician of no mean repute.

When you have Government in the hands of a bunch of people who set a premium on ignorance, who themselves are not able to evaluate the benefit of higher education, to place in their hands such powers of academic life and death over people who are their intellectual superiors, although younger in age, is the antithesis of democracy. That is my respectful submission.

I know of other occasions on which Barbados Scholars have been denied the right to proper grants because the Governor-in-Executive Committee and the particular Education authorities for the time being, being the Director of Education and the Ministers, recommended that these students had not been attending colleges at which the extravagant cost of living would merit an increase in the annual grant. In other words, it has been the policy of this Government since about 1952-53 to set a premium on extravagance and not a premium on ability. Anyone who goes to Magdalen, Balliol or Trinity College, which have a purely snob value over and above the excellent institutions of British Universities, has been given preferential treatment in the form of grants.

To come a little closer to home for the benefit of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, I would point out that the son of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, who has just left his seat, had considerable difficulty after winning a Barbados Scholarship in getting into a College of his own desire and choosing. They have got a theory now that the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge must be reserved for friends of the Government Party, or people of European descent, and not for other students and Scholarship winners who are capable of profiting perhaps from exposure at one of these ancient institutions. That is an absolute fact.

There was a young Barbados Scholar in the same year as the son of the Leader of the Opposition who would be too embarrassed to mention this, who had considerable difficulty with the Education authorities here in Barbados over the selection and choice of the University which he should attend. I quote these only because the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has thought fit to say in his speech that political discrimination would not be or could not be exercised, and such thoughts were to be deprecated. It is only by sad experience that we have considered it proper to raise this issue at all.

When you vest in the hands of the Director of Education and the hands of the Executive Committee the power to decide, not only what course of study a scholarship winner should pursue, but the amount of the annual grant which he should receive, and the College which he should attend, I am respectfully suggesting, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that you are placing in the hands of these people power which is not only likely to be abused, but which, by experience, has been abused in the past.

The history of the amendments to the Barbados Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act since 1949, to say the least, has been a sordid history in the annals of legislation in this island. I will give hon. members of the House another example which also is relevant to one of the amendments which is sought to be brought about here. There was, in this island, attending one of

the leading girls' schools, a girl whose parents did not have the necessary residential qualifications; and by that I mean being born a citizen of Barbados. At the same time there was attending one of the leading boys' schools, Harrison College to be more precise, a member of the family of the hon. junior member for St. Andrew who recently resigned his seat; he came up to the required standards and, by the existing law, he should have been awarded a Barbados Scholarship. But the Governor-in-Executive Committee in that particular year thought fit to grant a special dispensation to this girl who was not a Barbadian. The question of her race is really irrelevant, because it is not on those grounds that I am here objecting or getting on the record of disapproving of the action which was taken; but the facts were, here was a Barbadian who was up to the required standard, and here was a girl student who did not even have the qualification to enter for the Barbados Scholarship.

5.45 p.m.

When the hon. junior member for St. Joseph talks about deprecating those remarks, what he should deprecate is the behaviour of the Government in a situation such as this. It is not only inimical to the best interests of the people of Barbados, but it is hostile to all that we have stood for. It is undemocratic and, to say the least, it is reprehensible.

What they have sought to do is to lower the standards of education because there has been a steady decline in the standard of education in this island since the present Government Party has been presiding over our destinies. There is no doubt about that at all because so far they have to create a Minister of Education and I do not envy the task which the hon. senior member for St. John is undergoing. I am not going to deal too harshly with the hon. senior member for St. John. I think he should be given a chance to clear up the horrible state of affairs which he has inherited so far as education is concerned.

It has never been drawn to my attention before 1954 or 1955 that there was an inadequacy in the number of students sitting the Barbados Scholarship; nor that they failed to reach the required Scholarship or Exhibition standards.

In this amendment to the Government Scholarships and Exhibitions Act of 1949, they are putting us back down to the level of the Windward and Leeward Islands before 1954 or 1955, when the Scholarships in those islands were awarded on the basis of the School Certificate. The Government Service in Barbados is overcrowded with Civil Servants today who have been living in the neighbouring colonies of St. Vincent, St. Lucia or Grenada and who, as early as their sixteenth year, far outpaced and outshone Scholarship winners in this island. We have had Barbadians here who got their School Certificate at 13 years of age. We have had Civil Servants entering the Service working for \$20 a month with four or five Higher Certificates to their credit. That meant that they studied in school four or five years too long.

I see no reason why a boy with that ability, just in order to follow the slavish tradition of winning a Government Scholarship of which there were too few anyhow, should spend four or five years doing the same thing again in the hope that he will get a Scholarship; he can, in the same time, get a degree externally from the London University and pass on. But we have had in Barbados a plethora of ability of people who have been vegetated in the Sixth Form of Harrison College because of the inadequacy of scholarships which, until quite recently, were awarded by the Government of Barbados. There has always been abundant reason for the increasing of Government Scholarships but the occasion did not arise until it touched on the life of a member of the Government of Barbados.

We have seen in recent days, instead of a decentralisation of power, instead of what Dr. Eric Williams described as a spreading of responsibility amongst all

levels of people in Barbados, a steady centralisation of power in the Executive Committee of this Island. The reason it appears to be that is, although they are eminently unsuited to value or to judge in a matter of this kind, or in any of the other Departments of the civic life of the colony which they seek now to control, they are particularly anxious to make every single aspect of life in Barbados - which formerly used to be decided on merit and qualification - the gift and favour of the Executive Committee. In a word, if you want a job you must come to them. Even if you win a scholarship you have to be beholden to the Executive Committee as to the amount of money which you should get, and the course of study which you should be allowed to do. That is the dangerous state of affairs which we have now; and one which is likely to infringe on the well established principle of academic freedom. This is the device which the ignorant employ to control the wise; by putting everything in the gift and favour of the Executive Committee. You will soon not be able to breathe and wake up in Barbados unless you ask them pardon.

It was not very long ago when the Barbados Scholarship was £1,000. I remember when it was £750. You would remember it was my uncle who moved a Resolution in this House to move it from that starvation figure of £750 to £1,000; and you will remember that it was only after he had the courage to do that - assisted by Mr. "Chrissie" Brathwaite - that the then hon. senior member for St. Joseph decided to expose to the general public that he had to live in penury for a long time because of the paucity of the allowance. Before that, he was Abdul Krim plodding about in his "Oxford Bags!" 5.55 p.m.

You will remember that many distinguished Barbadians have since been able to give this country the benefit of their service, unfettered in their choice, and unfettered in respect of the allowances which the scholarship afforded; unfettered, too, by any supervening intervention on the part of the Executive Committee. When the Scholarship was of the value of £750, a scholarship winner got £250 for three years and that was the end of it. Today a successful Barbados Scholarship candidate, if his parent or guardian is the type of person who subscribes ostensibly to the policy of the Governor-in-Executive Committee, he can look forward to an allowance of £700. If, on the other hand, the parent or guardian of that scholarship winner is not prepared to go cap in hand, canvassing members of the Executive Committee or forming fours before the Director of Education and saluting, he might find himself restricted to the princely allowance of £400. That is the state of affairs which exists even today.

You have discrimination existing between one scholarship winner and another; not based on ideology, but on the shibboleth that a particular candidate is a more expensive quality. We should not start off young people so early in life with the political corruption that they must be beholden to somebody in order to get a decent and adequate allowance. What is good for one should be good for all. I feel that some of the Barbados Scholarship winners who are given grants of £600 a year do not deserve them, because I have had some experience of what takes to maintain a student, not only at a particular College, but at nearly all the Universities in the United Kingdom.

I was appointed as a member of a Committee which did some research on the particular problem for the Minister of Labour at the Colonial Office and the Educational Authority in England. I think that if you give a child too much money to spend he may get a false idea of economy; but once we do ascertain what is a general economic grant for a student, I think that we ought to stick to that, and not give one student £700 and another £400 because one has decided to live in a rarified atmosphere such as at Trinity College, Magdalen College or Balliol College.

If the relatives of any of these candidates feel that I am using extravagant language in the circumstances, it is purely by accident and not because there is any

malice in my mind towards these individuals at all. I do not think that attending expensive Colleges moulds the character of a young student in the way in which attending one of the provincial Universities and enduring a certain amount of privation would do in moulding his character. The only thing I regret is that every time we amend legislation in Barbados one can read in to it, in the light of our past experience, an aspect that we are centralising the powers which normally would be exercised either by Statutory Boards or by independent Committees, into the hands of the Governor-in-Executive Committee. I do not think that is a desirable or a healthy sign at all. I do subscribe to the view that as large a number of people as possible should participate in the political and economic decisions which are taken for and on behalf of the people of this country from day or from time to time.

Far from having a centralisation of power, I would like to see more Committees set up which are not necessarily controlled by the Executive Committee; Committees who are not always bound to follow the recommendations of the Executive Committee; Committees who can discuss the Reports of such Committees and experts like the Richardson Report, and Mr. George Cumper's Report. We here have not been given the benefit of public discussion of either one of these Reports.

I would enjoin the Minister of Education to consider the possibility of vesting the control of the Barbados Scholarship winners and the award of grants and the quantum of allowances, not in the Executive Committee at all, but in some independent group of persons to be appointed with the approval of the members of this House.

There is one other matter to which I would like to allude. It is this: In Section 5 (2) of this Bill this is stated:-

"Scholarships, exhibitions and grants available under this Act shall be awarded only to persons of the following classes. - (a) natives of this island; or (b) children of a native of this island; or (c) children of a native of any colony forming part of the West Indies who has been resident in this island for a period of not less than five years provided that reciprocal provisions have been made in such colony qualifying the children of a native of this island who has been resident in such colony for a period of five years for the award of Government Scholarships and exhibitions tenable at a University or other institution for higher education....."

Now, the first difficulty, I see is this: in Section 5 Subsection (2) paragraph (a) if you look at the Immigration Act, in the absence of any definition of what is a native of Barbados, you will find in the Immigration Act that a native of Barbados is any person who has been domiciled in this island for a period of two years - I am speaking under correction, I will find it in a moment or two - who has been ordinarily resident in the island of Barbados for a period of seven years. That is the first anomaly which we have to consider. 6.05 p.m.

You will see that in 1952 Chapter 26 Section 2 "For the purposes of this Act a person shall be deemed to be a native of Barbados if he is a British subject and-

(a) was born in the island or of parents who at the time of his birth were domiciled or ordinarily resident in the island; or

(b) is domiciled in the island; or

(c) has been ordinarily resident in the island continuously for a period of seven years or more and since the completion of such period of residence has not been ordinarily resident in any place outside of the island continuously for a period of seven years or more; or

(d) obtained the status of a British subject by reason of the grant by the Governor of a certificate of Naturalisation under the British Nationality Act. 1948; or

(e) is a dependent of a person to whom any of the foregoing paragraphs apply."

Now, you will also notice that a person who is domiciled in Barbados can also be a native of Barbados; but domiciled for the purpose of emigration consists of being resident in the island for two years; so if we have to fall back on the interpretation given in the Emigration Act of 1952, a person who has been domiciled in Barbados for two years is qualified to sit and be awarded a Barbados Scholarship; or if his or her parent has been resident in the island for two years, that person may possibly be also eligible for the award of a scholarship. But if you have been resident in the island for four years, and you may even be attending a school in this island for all that time, according to this same section, you still would not be eligible.

That is something which I think the Minister of Education ought to take up; because there is no definition in the Act of what a native of Barbados is. The only Statute Books of this island which describes what a native of Barbados is is the Emigration Act. You have this situation that a person who may not be a West Indian at all can come into Barbados, as long as he has come from Australia or New Zealand, be resident for two years, and both he and the children of such a person would be eligible for the award of a Barbados Scholarship; but a West Indian who has been here four years and resident here, or whose parents may have been here for that time, would not be eligible.

There is one other definition which seems to be unfair; it is unfair because up to now we have not been told that the other West Indian islands have made a reciprocal arrangement with us in respect of the award of Government Scholarships. There have been no reciprocal provisions stated as far as we know; so you will get this situation that a person whose father, let us say, has got a job in Barbados and who has been resident here for four years and who is a West Indian would not be eligible on two grounds, firstly because he has not fulfilled the five year qualifying period, and secondly there is no reciprocal provision in the island he has come from; but you may get a German who is a naturalised British subject in Australia or South Africa coming to Barbados for two years - not a West Indian at all - and the question of reciprocal provision does not apply because, according to the Emigration Act, as long as he is a British subject, and that means naturalised or otherwise, or born a British subject, and you have been living here for two years, that did not require you according to Sections 5 and 2 (a) and (b) to come from a territory which affords us similar facilities in the award of Government scholarships. That is the kind of legislation we have coming down nowadays.

We have at places like Harrison College very brilliant students that I know about whose fathers come from neighbouring West Indian islands. They have been here for as long as seven years - some of them - and up to now they are not eligible to take scholarships at all; and even although they may come under the five year period, the islands that they come from have no similar provisions to those which are outlined in the amendment to the Government Scholarships Act which we are now considering. The whole thing is really in utter confusion and chaos as far as I am concerned.

I therefore suggest to the Hon. Minister that they should talk this matter over not only with the Law Officers of the Crown, but with the Heads of the different schools from which Barbados Scholars are most likely to come - I refer particularly to Harrison College Lodge School and Foundation School, Combermere and Queens College - and try to find out what hardships would be visited upon children who have a considerable amount of ability, whose parents have rendered yeoman service to this community, awarded Government Scholarships.

I only hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that we are not going to have any more of this nonsense of the Director of Education or the Governor-in-Executive Committee telling

certain Scholarship winners that they are not going to let them go to this University or that University; but, in the same year, you can find the children of other parents who are more *persona grata* with the Government authorities not having any difficulty at all about University entrance. That has been going on now for the last four, five or six years. We have had several complaints about that; we know of actual cases in which it has happened.

I hope that the Minister of Education does not consider the passing of this amendment by the House to be a further licence granted either to him or to the Director of Education or to the Governor-in-Executive Committee to further abuse the academic freedoms and constitutional and democratic privileges of the citizens of this country.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before the Minister replies, I like to say that all the anomalies in this Bill, and the various Sections which readily lend themselves to abuse, have been detailed at some length by hon. members on this side of the Table. Whether or not the strictures which they have voiced and the recommendations which they have made have fallen on deaf ears remains to be seen; but I certainly do not propose to take up the time of the House in any way by recapitulating on the various complaints made so far against the Bill.

All I propose to do is this, Mr. Deputy Speaker: I want to draw to the attention of the Minister, now we are dealing with scholarships, that, at present, the Local Government Bodies in Barbados are legally prohibited from awarding scholarships at University level. No Local Government Body is legally empowered to award a scholarship to any boy or girl to any University, not even to the University College of the West Indies. This is rather peculiar, I submit, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because it is common practice outside of this island for Local Government Bodies to be legally entitled to award University scholarships.
6.15 p.m.

If, therefore, this Government claims to be so profoundly interested in the receiving of higher education for the children of the citizens of this country, I cannot, for the life of me, see them sitting idly by and allowing this prohibition to continue without repeal. I, therefore, want to suggest to the Hon. Minister that at the earliest opportunity there should be an amendment to the appropriate Act in order that all the District Councils in this island should have the right to award scholarships at University level.

The award of scholarships to the First and Second Grade schools in this island is of course quite good in its way, but, apart from the possibility of being able to send scholarship winners to these First and Second Grade schools of this island, there is no reason why any Local Government body in the country should not be able to utilise some of its funds provided by ratepayers in the area for awarding University Scholarships to children of parishioners.

If the consideration of the Ministers has not been exercised in this direction, I sincerely hope that the Hon. Minister will regard it as an obligation to take some steps at the earliest possible date in this direction for the local prohibition to be removed, so that if any Local Government body so desires to award so many scholarships to children to the University College of the West Indies or schools of similar level in other parts of the world, they can do so.

Hon. L. ST. A. THORNE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall begin my reply by saying to the hon. member who has just sat down that I quite appreciate the point which he has raised. If there is anything I can do about it I shall be only too willing to do it. I stand for educational progress.

I was a little bit amazed to hear the hon. senior member for St. Lucy impute political motives in so far as any change in this Act is concerned. I have no political

ambitions which would make me more or less inclined to use any privilege that I have got so far as education is concerned.

I have listened quite attentively to all the criticisms levelled by hon. members on the other side. I can say that I have not heard from any of them that the Bill which is before this House was worthless. Even the hon. senior member for St. Lucy does not state that it is an impossibility for us to find ourselves in any one year in the position of not having all these five Scholarships taken up by winners and without anybody failing to get a Scholarship.

All this Bill seeks to do is to prevent any money which is voted for Barbados Scholarships from lapsing. We like to know that it is a fallacy that the winners of Barbados Scholarships are the only people who have brains. It is my great and deep interest in education that has caused me to take this step; but it falls not on my part - neither do I have the power - to dish out this or that. Where the award of the Barbados Scholarships are concerned, I am under the impression that some hon. member was trying to say that the members of the Government, including the Ministers, would use some pressure; but I happen to know, and hon. members know too, that these Scholarships are recommended on the advice of the examiners. As far as the implication of all these things, which are more or less imputed, I am not a party to that.

As a matter of fact, I was not in here in 1949; I was only in the Ministry of Education from September, last year, and I have not seen thus far any attempt being made to indulge in that sort of political thing which the hon. member imputed. I am positively sure that no member of the Labour Party would dare tell me that sort of thing; so I cannot subscribe to the view that any member of the Cabinet would do that. I have not seen it; they have not in any way suggested it; no one has ever come to dictate to me what they want me to do. If they ever came to me with such a sort of thing I would know exactly what to do. Therefore, I am asking hon. members to believe me that this Bill is an honest-to-goodness effort which is being made to provide more opportunities for the underprivileged, in that no hon. member of the Opposition has said that it is an impossibility to find ourselves in the position where grants for the Barbados Scholarships can lapse.

Let me say that in the making of such provision I do not see how it can lower our standards. We are not saying that you must study what you do not want to study. Another thing is this; the award of an exhibition is more or less on par with a Barbados Scholarship; so in connection with continuing to a second degree I do not see any fear.

The present regulations stipulate that, if a student is recommended by his college, he can have time for getting an extension. All that we are saying is, where scholars see fit to go to the U.C.W.I., they are guaranteed another two years which will enable them to go overseas to any University of that calibre to study. We are saying that, because we are convinced that the U.C.W.I. has something worthwhile to offer, it should be given every opportunity to show its worth and to cater to some of our best brains. We also stipulate that if you get the additional two years that are recommended, we do not say that you must go to the U.C.W.I.. It is left to the scholarship winners to decide where they should go.

I want to assure hon. members that there are no smutty dealings where I am concerned. Everything is above board. The hon. junior member for St. John made some reference to a section of the Bill which deals with the native. I want to assure him that I will take the matter up with the Crown Law Officers and see if there is anything wrong there.
6.25 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: Before the hon. member finishes, I wonder if he would say something on the point I raised about the prevention of Barbados Scholarship holders from pursuing a second degree.

Hon. L. St. A. THORNE: I have no data on which I can go. Since I have been in the Ministry no such cases have come up. Whenever recommendations have been made for extensions I have allowed them; I did not see why I would object to them. I am not in a position to say if any such thing obtains.

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

On the motion of Hon. L. St. A. THORNE, seconded by Hon. R. G. MAPP, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BRYAN being in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 were called and passed.

Clause 5 was called.

Hon. L. St. A. THORNE: I beg to move Mr. Chairman, that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, this is the Clause, at least Sub-section 2 of it, which has brought forward the very interesting point raised by the hon. junior member for St. John. In answer to what the hon. member said, the Hon. Minister said that he had taken note of it and would consult with the legal advisers of the Government as to whether anything of substance had emerged.

I would like to ask the Minister what procedure he prefers to follow; if it happens that a point of importance emerges from the discussion will he bring back this Clause here, or wait until it goes to the Other Place and the same point is taken up and the same assurance given? Inasmuch as the Minister has agreed that there might be something in the points raised by the hon. junior member for St. John, I wonder if he would consider a postponement of a decision on this Clause so that he might inform us next week as to the matters raised in it. There is the matter of the difference between "native" as defined in this Bill and "native" as defined in the Immigration Act. The Hon. Minister himself has said that he regards this point as an important one and he would take it up with the legal advisers. I do not think he would want to take it from here to the Other Place and then have to bring it back here, rather than leave it off now.

Hon. L. St. A. THORNE: Mr. Chairman, I am not thinking in terms of trouble. The Crown Law Officers who advise us are responsible people and they ought to know their job. If I talk about a postponement of this Clause it would give the impression somewhat that I doubt these legal officers and I cannot rely on them. Therefore, I would prefer to go through with this Bill now. If what the hon. member says is such then I would come back here with a new Bill. I would prefer going through with it now.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am in agreement with my colleagues but I should like to say that each Act carries a definition attached to the particular Act; so that when the Immigration Act in the definition refers to "native" it does not necessarily relate to any definition which is contained in this Act. In other words, I am saying that definitions refer to the specific Acts and not to other Acts.

That being the case, I agree that the Minister should check up with the Crown Law Officers on this particular point so that no hardship will be meted out to West Indians or parents who have been domiciled here for long periods, but who might have been victimised by not having reciprocal arrangements in the colony from which such parents or guardians might have come, as against non-West Indians who may have come from New Zealand, Australia or South Africa or those who might have been naturalised and who are only living here for a short period, being granted the facilities to the exclusion of West Indians by virtue of the fact that restrictions are not obtained in this Clause that

their children will be debarred from these facilities. That should be checked or otherwise there might be a great hardship meted out to such West Indian parents and pupils. 6.35 p.m.

It would be as well if the Hon. Minister checks on it. It may be well too if this Section was postponed until he is clear on that point. It would be pointless passing this Bill under a certain amount of doubt as to this specific point which is an important feature of this particular Bill.

Hon. L. ST. A. THORNE: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the hon. member who has just sat down, but I want to assure him that I have absolutely no doubt in my mind. I have agreed to raise the point with the Crown Law Officers which was made by the hon. junior member for St. John purely out of courtesy, but not that I have any pricking of conscience. When I say that, therefore, you can quite understand that I would not be prepared to accept any idea of postponement.

Mr. TUDOR: I must say, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister is going somewhat out of character. We do not expect that sort of behaviour from him at any rate. I understood him to say that he regarded the point raised by the hon. junior member for St. John as an important one which he would take up with the Crown Law Officers. I believe that he said so because he was not prepared at a moment's notice to explain the difficulty to the House.

Well, then, how can he come and tell us that he has no doubt in his mind that he would only be consulting them as a matter of courtesy? We did not ask for consultation with them; we drew the difficulty to his attention. If the Minister feels he has got the difficulty solved, it is his duty to let the Committee know it so that our doubts can be removed as well as his own; but it does not help the situation to tell us that you are not doubtful in your own mind and you would only be seeing them as a matter of courtesy.

I would like to tell the Minister that, if he understands the problem, if in his view there is no doubt and he can see the issue clearly, it is his bounden duty to explain the matter and enlighten the Committee on the point. I myself do not know what to think about it. I am grateful to my colleague the hon. junior member for Christ Church for pointing out what I had overlooked; that each Act carries its own interpretation. That came from this side; the Minister did not say that.

I take it that he has a solution to the problem which is even different from the one which has been offered from this side. It is certainly not courteous to constructive criticism when you tell the Opposition that you are only going to ask the Crown Law Officers out of courtesy. We are not asking for courtesy; if you ask them or if you do not, it is the same with us, because if you had to come back here all we could say is "We told you so"; so the Minister has really mashed the crease a little by saying that he would only ask out of courtesy.

Hon. L. St. A. THORNE: I think I may enlighten the hon. member by saying that the old Act which we are seeking to amend now uses the word "native" and in this Bill I do not think there is any difference.

The question that Clause 5 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 6 was called "It reads as follows:

6. (1) The Governor-in-Executive Committee shall make regulations prescribing the value of all Scholarships, exhibitions, and grants awarded under this Act, the amount of money to be paid into the Fund pursuant to subsection (2) of section three of this Act, and the amount of such allowances and other payments as he shall consider fit in respect of Scholarships and exhibitions awarded under this Act.

(2) It shall be lawful for the Governor-in-Executive Committee in prescribing the value of Barbados Scholar-

ships to prescribe different values according to whether or not the course of study which the holder of the Scholarship wishes to pursue is offered at the University College of the West Indies and whether or not the holder of the Scholarship is able to gain admission to the University College of the West Indies to pursue such course of study where it is so offered."

Hon. L. St. A. THORNE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 6 stand part.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, Clause 6 is one of the three or four important Clauses of this Bill apart from the Schedule. The second Subsection says this: "It shall be lawful for the Governor-in-Executive Committee in prescribing the value of Barbados Scholarships to prescribe different values according to whether or not the course of study which the holder of the Scholarship wishes to pursue is offered at the University College of the West Indies and whether or not the holder of the Scholarship is able to gain admission to the University College of the West Indies to pursue such course of study where it is so offered."

Now this is a very important part of this Bill; and a very dangerous one interpreted a certain way. Let me explain what I mean, Mr. Chairman. Everybody admires the University College of the West Indies; it is our product, the results of our own efforts, and we want to see it flourish and grow; but we do not want to see the University College of the West Indies grow to the exclusion of the opportunities for our people at other centres of learning. This Subsection gives the Governor-in-Executive Committee power to say to a prospective scholarship holder: "We feel that in your case you ought to go to the U.C.W.I.; if you do not go to the U.C.W.I. we have power to alter the value of the scholarship you are receiving and give you less in allowances per annum."

That is a very dangerous thing. It certainly should not be allowed to escape the attention of interested parties. You are giving the Governor-in-Executive Committee power to alter the value of Barbados Scholarships; that means, to discriminate between Barbados Scholars on the grounds that those you may want to send to the University College of the West Indies did not choose to go, but may perhaps like to go to Canada, England or somewhere else. That is not a provision which we can readily accept; it is wrong in principle; and although the Minister may say that he is willing to give us assurances of his good will and his honesty of intention, and much as we may think differently of him as to what we think of his colleagues, his personal assurances are not good enough for us.

The Governor-in-Executive Committee has no right whatever and should have no power to discriminate between Scholarship holders. We have had a lot of trouble in recent years with this kind of thing. I know that the Minister can say that he was not there - he was not even a member of the House - when the most controversial features of this matter came to light, but he is a member now....

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. All this Clause says is that "the Governor-in-Executive Committee shall make regulations". Regulations have to be passed by this House. We would not be discriminating because it would be a reflection of the House. How can you discriminate in Regulations? The hon. member talks as if we chose somebody and discriminated.

I have listened to those slanderous remarks made on members of the Government - slanderous, lying statements that we did this and that and discriminated for political reasons. I want to ask them if they were referring to the Government of which the hon. senior member for Christ Church was a member.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, that hon. member who has just sat down always approaches the problem of politics with an open mouth; all he does is to contribute

noise. He is talking to somebody who has never heard of Tom Adams' case, Brathwaite's case or Waldron's case, or the case of the son of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and the discrimination which they practised. What the devil does he mean by it?

Mr. CHAIRMAN knocked the gavel and rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have stopped the hon. member to make one remark. You cannot refer to hon. members as "he"; say "hon member" please.

Mr. TUDOR: That is a courtesy, Mr. Chairman, in which I cannot indulge at this moment because I do not feel in the mood for that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will have to, or I am going to stop you on each occasion.
6.45 p.m.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, you cannot stop me unless you are on good grounds for stopping me. I am not the hon. junior member for St. James. You cannot stop me unless I am wrong because I can better them at any time.

The hon. member - as you want me to call him - pretends that he has never heard or has not in any way known cases of Barbados Scholars who had complaints and grievances, when those cases are too numerous to mention, where they were discriminated against by the Government of which the interrupter is a member. There is the case of the son of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who, with another Barbados Scholar, had all sorts of obstacles put in their way of going to the University of their choice. What could that be but political discrimination?

There was the case of the increased allowances for Barbados Scholars about two or three years ago; and only when the then Premier saw his way to increase the allowance of his own son. Go and ask Mr. Brathwaite or Mr. Holder in Westbury Road about that.

The more recent case is the case of young Waldron. His teachers discovered that he had been so brilliant as to pass all his work in anatomy, they requested that he should change from studying medicine and pursue the course in which he had shown his brilliance; but the Government would not allow him to do that because he had left here to do medicine. (A VOICE: That is not true.) How do you mean that it is not true?

All that is happening merely because some of them on that side may feel that the parents or the guardians of the particular scholar are not supporters of their own. You have an ignoramus getting up to tell me that there are regulations and pointing out to me something entirely different from the matter under discussion. What am I

to do with regulations coming up in this? Since when can this House alter regulations? Regulations are laid and we cannot alter them. Can you imagine the Government bringing regulations giving them and their hirelings power and then this House altering them?

Mr. Chairman, there is a simple provision in this Section which says it should be lawful for the Governor-in-Executive Committee in prescribing the value of Barbados Scholarships, to prescribe different values according to whether or not the course of study which the holder of the scholarship wishes to pursue is offered at the University College of the West Indies; and whether or not the holder of the scholarship is able to gain admission to the University College of the West Indies to pursue such course of study where it is offered. What is that to do with regulations? Let us say that you have a Board and that Board says: "I want you to go to the U.C.W.I." You do not want to go. The Board then turns and says: "We were giving you £600: but you would not go where we want you to go; therefore, you can only get £550." If that is not the interpretation of that Clause, I do not know what else is. I am saying, and all right people will say, that you should not have that power because it is open to abuse. You should not tell a Scholarship holder the University to which he should go and study.

Mr. Chairman, I now beg to move that Your Honour do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in view of the fact that there is this request at this stage for an adjournment, rather than to have a suspension of the House when there was provision made for dinner, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, next, 30th June, 1959, at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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

6.55 p.m.