
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1959

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 19th March, 1959.

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

PRESENT

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS (*Speaker*); Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER (*Leader of the Opposition*); Hon. Dr. R. G. H. CUMMINS, C.B.E., M.D., C.M., (*Premier*); Hon. M. E. COX, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*); His Honour Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., (*Deputy Speaker*); Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr. T. O. BRYAN, (*Chairman of Committees*); Hon. F. E. MILLER, (*Minister of Social Services*); Hon. D. D. GARNER, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mr. H. A. DOWDING, M.B.E.;

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move that under Standing Order No. 5, the Appropriation Bill, the Public Assistance Bill and the Public Health Bill be exempted from paragraph 8 of that Standing Order.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Appropriation Bill, the Public Assistance and the Public Health Bill be exempted from the provisions of Paragraph 8 of Standing Order No. 5.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot see my way to support this motion, because as I gather, the purpose of it is to enable this House to carry on with one of those marathon sittings such as we were accustomed to in the past, if necessary to 3 o'clock or until 6.30 a.m. the next morning. That seems to be the effect of it. We have been meeting every day, Tuesday, Wednesday and today Thursday, and I take it we are likely to meet tomorrow. That is quite all right for the Ministers because they are whole-time politicians, but we are not. We are not complaining about meeting Friday, but if we also have to meet at night and to any hour, how can one obtain the necessary minimum amount of rest to be fit to come here the next day, even if one neglects - and one must neglect other business if one is working everyday of the week consecutively from Tuesday until the Estimates are completed. It is not reasonable to work until any hour of night or morning without the reasonable amount of time for relaxation; it is asking too much of the human frame, and

I do not think it is a fair request. That might have been all right if there had been any suggestion on our part not to sit every day, but we are sitting every day and nobody is complaining; so we should not sit every day and every night and with power to sit until any hour in the night or morning as the majority Party thinks fit.

I think it is unreasonable and that is why I cannot support the motion to suspend the Standing Orders so as to carry on indefinitely. The main reason why we changed the Rules was to ensure that we would finish at a reasonable time, and I think it is only reasonable to regard from 12 noon to 9.00 p.m. each day of the week as sufficient and as reasonable, and as much as could be asked of any person who wants to be able to give of his best - which he certainly cannot do if he is required to carry on until 11 p.m. or 12 midnight and be back at 12 noon the next day as I gather the Government is prepared to do.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I must support the Leader of the Opposition. We are sitting again tomorrow and we are prepared to sit again next week. It is no fault of ours if these Estimates were started late. We have been told over and over again that it is not fair to the House and it is not fair to the Other Place to come down with these Estimates as late as they have been coming. The Opposition on this occasion have spoken at great length having no other reason than to point out to the Government their promises. I do not think it is fair to be sitting from 12 noon and then come and spring on us that you are carrying on until any hour of the night. As I said, we are prepared to come here day after day to do the business which is very important at this time, but we cannot see our way to support Government in this matter.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, this is another indication where the Leader of the Opposition is to be blamed. He does not realise what kind of people he is dealing with. This reasonable attitude and acting honestly with people who do not regard any sort of decencies cannot work. When you are dealing with a man with a gun, you have to try and get a machine gun, hand grenades and all sorts of things. When I asked a question about the times of meeting last week, the hon. member looked over here and said he would have to talk with the Leader of the Opposition.

12.25 p.m.

When I rise in here, stop me if you think I have no right to speak. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition agreed to this arrangement. I had made arrangements in my own private affairs to meet people this evening. I am not a professional idler: I have to work for my living and in an organisation in which I have to give of my best. I have to go out to negotiate business on behalf of workers. When I promise to meet you at 12 o'clock, I want to do that. If we are going to meet from 12 (noon) until 10 p.m., what is the point of putting in the rules from 12 (noon) until 9 p.m.? Yesterday, you met from 12 (noon) until 11 p.m. and you come in today and say that you are suspending these Standing Orders because you want to go through until whenever you like. You are only going to

make people get violent and probably make a man come over there for one of you. The Hon. Premier does not undertake to do these things himself; he puts the Leader of the House to deal with them. You have brought us in here for three consecutive days and on the third consecutive day, you come and tell us that there is no hour for ending the meeting; therefore, you can go on until tomorrow morning. Are you elected here because you are an idler? Do you elect people whom you think do not like to work? If that were so, they would put in here an army of people who want to get some work or who do not have any work to do. They would say: elect them to the House of Assembly, it does not matter, they do not have anything to do. You come here to do work for the people but not for somebody to say how and when you should come or not come. That would work for some people but not for me because I do not look at coming in here as a means of working for a living. Ministers sit down in their offices and they can leave everything in their Ministry tomorrow and say that they are not meeting you there tomorrow. We cannot do that. You come here this morning and say that you are postponing all these things because you want to meet until 10 or 11 o'clock tonight and that means that you can go on until morning.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I should like to say that on this side of the Table there are members who are at least as reasonable as hon. members over on the other side and it is not our intention at all to use our members as any pressure to keep this House any later than we consider it necessary to get this work through.

I think hon. members will agree that in the past, we used to begin consideration of the Estimates sometime around the 7th and 9th March and finish them in time in order that the Other Place would be able to consider them and get them passed before the end of the financial year. Today is the 19th March and we have only been able to pass the first Head and that forces us to ask for additional time to have these Estimates put through in time in order to give the Other Place sufficient time to consider them. I think the request that the Rule be suspended so as not to apply to these things and so that we may be able to go until 10 o'clock, 10.30 or 11 o'clock in order to get these things through is not unreasonable.

Here I must pause to say that I regard the Hon. Leader of the Opposition as the official member of the Party opposing the Government. While I mean no disrespect to anybody else, I do not think one should expect that Government should be running to every member to say something. It is true that the Opposition does not show any sense of cohesion or a party because everybody gets up and speaks, and speaks on the same item at the same time and contradicts themselves and so on. For instance, yesterday an hon. member spoke for between five and six hours ----

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is straying a bit from the motion.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg your pardon, Sir. I was saying that I regard the hon. junior member for St. Lucy as the Leader of the Official Opposition and therefore, I feel I should consult with him.

I should say this although it may be striking a bad note. No threats whatsoever would move anybody of this Government. They are used over and over again and we ignore them. No amount of threats will move us and I think those persons who know that will know that their threats would not prevent us from doing what we think is reasonable and just and in the interest of the people of this island. My life can always go for the cause.

12.35 p.m.

The question that the Appropriation Bill, the Public Assistance Bill and the Public Health Bill be exempted from the provisions of paragraph 8 of standing Order No. 5, was put and resolved in the affirmative the House dividing as follows:-

AYES: Mr. BRYAN, Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS; Hon. M. E. COX, Hon. D. D. GARNER; Hon. R. G. MAPP; Hon. F. E. MILLER; Messrs. STRAUGHN and SMITH - 8.

NOES: Messrs. WALCOTT, DOWDING; GODDARD and BRANCKER - 4.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATION BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day is to resume Committee on the Appropriation Bill, 1959.

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

HEAD II - SECRETARIAT

Head II - Secretariat - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, under this Head, I am asking leave to make some amendments as follows:-

Item 24 - Incidentals.

Delete the Note to the Item.

Item 28 (New) - Information Service - \$1,950

To meet requirements of the Information Office.

Item 29 (Formerly 28) - Furniture and Office Equipment - \$3,369.

Increased to provide furniture and equipment for the Information Office.

Item 30 (New) - Recording Equipment - \$1,510.

To provide Recording Equipment for the information Office.

There being no objection, leave was granted the the Hon. Leader of the House.

Hon. M. E. COX: The amount to be voted under this Head will now be 22,309 instead of \$17,811.

I beg to move that the sum of \$22,309 under Head II - Secretariat - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: I must thank the Premier for replying to my question in respect of Head I of these Estimates - Governor. Under this Head, "Secretariat", I am taking every opportunity to bring these matters to the attention of the House. It is not a question of the amount of money to be voted but what I am saying now deals with the Secretariat and as you can well see, this is the Head which deals with the Civil Servants of Barbados - the Head which controls the bulk of Civil Servants and the top people there. I will raise this question all the time until something is done about it. You will find that we have six Permanent Secretaries being paid out of the Treasury and I take it that when the Premier came down here and asked for this additional Permanent Secretary he felt that they needed this Permanent Secretary. It is now six months since that post has been created and gazetted and nobody has been appointed to the post yet. I believe that if the Civil Servants were less docile and more willing to fight for their rights, this state of affairs would not have existed for so long; but by and large they belong to a section of the community which waits for everything to be done for them. As a citizen of this country, I feel that this is an important matter and those concerned should see about it.

It was the Government's policy to create the post of an additional Permanent Secretary, and if that was the Government's policy you would have believed that the Government wanted to have this Permanent Secretary. If it is not the Government's intention to have all these Permanent Secretaries, well, let us know if you will revise your policy. The non-filling of this post presupposes that

there are not sufficient people in the Civil Service who are capable of acting in such posts; it is a very serious indictment and charge against the educational institutions and on the island itself, that this post is left vacant for six months with out anybody being allowed to act in it. I do not think that we should allow it to appear that we do not have enough people in Barbados to act until such time as a Permanent Secretary is appointed. I say that that is a serious indictment; when you talk about the freedom of the Press, I do not know if the same people who have to do with the Civil Service have anything to do with the Press. I am only echoing the sentiments of people. I am sure that if the Civil Servants were people who could show in any visible way that they were protesting against a thing like that, they would do it, but some of them are too much in debt. You cannot do these things when you are in debt because you do not know how long you will last. It is a serious thing to have a community emerging towards the Cabinet System but the people who will serve the Cabinet are people whom you say you want but it does not matter if they are there.

12.45 p.m.

I do feel that this idea should stop and it is time that someone is appointed to all of the posts you have in the Civil Service. Whether it is an Assistant Secretary, Permanent Secretary, Head of a Department or any of these posts, these posts should not go abegging for a long time in Barbados. At the opening of a Conference at the Health Centre which the Minister of Social Services attended, it was stated that if we did not stop breeding as fast as we are breeding what is going to happen. Have we bred a lot of inferiors, numb-skulls and people who are incapable of undertaking tasks in Barbados? These are posts which West Indians must take, and until such time as brighter West Indians than the ones we have can be found, why can't Barbadians fill these posts? What is wrong with that?

There are supposed to be ten Assistant Secretaries, Mr. Chairman; are you suggesting that out of the ten in the Public Service you cannot find one to act as Permanent Secretary? This is shameful and disgraceful.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, I have been very assured by the inclusion of this Item 28. At first I was a bit alarmed and wondered whether the Information Service being new might have been left out in the cold; but I happen to see the inclusion and I am certain it will do well.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I am extremely happy to see the inclusion of this item for new equipment for this particular office. I am wondering exactly what this equipment is and what will be the functions of this office.

It was extremely noticeable, Sir, that on the recent occasion of our Budget Speech which is usually broadcast from first hand recordings in any civilised country that the services of Rediffusion were not required; but at the Conference which took place the day afterwards on Family Planning, the services of Rediffusion were present to record everything. Nothing was recorded from the Budget Speech and put over to the public.

Now, Sir, there used to be a service to the public which I have not worried to go too far into, because I personally was concerned; it is a programme called "In the House", but it has stopped. (Laughter) I hope they will laugh when they hear their speeches over this recording equipment. I should like to find out whether it is the intention of the Information Office to disseminate information on public business which occurs in this House of Assembly. I would be very grateful to be assured in words and not by laughter or applause that that will be one of the functions of the Information Office, that is, to inform the public of what goes on in this Hon. House, and not have what occurred before of something written in this House and then reported over the Radio. Actual recordings should be made in this House on important speeches and the information disseminated to the public of this island. I am anxious to be told whether that is one of the purposes for which we are going to grant this money.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to rise again, but now that this question of the Information Service

has arisen, it has been drawn to my attention that the Information Service, since it has been created, has written certain voluntary Organisations in Barbados about its service. I do not believe that there is any voluntary Organisation, industrial or otherwise that is bigger than the Barbados Workers' Union, and I should like to know, if you are going to have an Information Service on industrial matters, why the Trade Union was not written. I want to make it clear - and I will speak on the Development Board later - that I am not doing this with a view to asking for anything for your humble servant. The Barbados Workers' Union is a powerful Organisation in Barbados, and if the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Girls' Guides Association and any of the other Welfare Societies could be asked about the Information Service, I feel that just like in Great Britain where the T.U.C. would have been asked, the Barbados Workers' Union should have been sent similar information as was sent to the other Organisations, and I hope that that will be corrected so that the Organisation would be able to play its part in the community life in a similar way as other sections are asked to do.

Hon. M. E. COX: Sir, as far as the question asked by the last hon. member is concerned, I am not in position to explain that one; it comes under the Premier's portfolio and I hope he will soon be back.

The Hon. member for St. George wanted to know what the items were: they are as follows:-

Tapes, gramophone records, photographs, publications (periodicals and books of reference), stationery, office equipment and recording equipment.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I would particularly like to be assured that one of the purposes of this Information Office will be the disseminating of actual recordings of members' speeches first hand from this Hon. House to the public. (Mr. WALCOTT: They cannot bring anybody in here to do that!) Mr. Chairman, this is money being voted for recording equipment; Government Information Offices in other parts of the West Indies record on tapes the proceedings in the House of Assembly. Indeed it was a pleasure to turn on my radio and listen to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture in Trinidad, a man who knows Parliamentary procedure and his job. I want to be able to listen to all and sundry who know their job in this Hon. House, and I want to know whether it is Government's policy that at the request of this House it will be allowed.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I will take up the matter raised by the hon. member, but I thought he would have been the last person to make that request.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, hon. members are getting a bit facetious. This is Parliament. I heard the Hon. Minister say that he will take up the matter, but nobody can be sent to this Chamber to record speeches; so I want the member who has said that to understand that this is Parliament. Nobody can come in here and take pictures unless the Speaker gives that person permission. That is not a conference you are holding at which you can send people to record speeches. The hon. member does not understand that it would be a breach of privilege for anybody to come here and record speeches and play them back. Speeches in Parliament are privileged so that what the Hon. Minister said to me last night could not have been said on a public platform; therefore nobody could come here and record that one member told another that he stole Union money.

12.55 p.m.

Do you believe he can record that? I would like him to record it because I know if he has it broadcasted all that he owns would be sold out.

In so far as asking for permission to record certain parts of hon. members' speeches, may be, certain parts of the Budget Speech can be recorded; but I would not be one to agree to have somebody coming in here with a tape recording machine and taking eight hours of speeches. The question is how much of the Government's speeches and how much of the Opposition speeches, and so on, are they going to record? As far as I know, speeches made in the Canadian and American Parliaments are not

recorded for broadcast. The closest thing to that is in the House of Commons, but you have to ask the Information Officer what can be done. The Information Officer if he wants to make a transcript of a particular part of a debate or give the public some idea of what is taking place in Parliament on a particular matter would do a short transcript. It is true to say that I have heard some excellent commentaries of a debate in the House of Commons. I do not think transcripts are taken in the light of partisanship. There is an Indian Lady who is an excellent commentator on political matters that take place in the House of Commons and when you hear her comments, they are something to which anybody can listen. However, I do not like this incursion on parliamentary rights. I believe that members of the Government cannot send the Information Officer or anybody else in here to take recordings; this House by a Resolution will have to give consent to such a procedure.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I, too, would like to add to the remarks by the hon. senior member for St. George in so far as having *verbatim* recordings of the actual speeches delivered in here for the benefit of the public. There can be no better service rendered by the Information Officer than to be engaged in work of this nature because although the *Advocate* Newspaper Reporters may do their best, in most cases, certain high points of one's speech are left in mid-air and never see the light of day because the material part of one's speech may not appear to the particular reporter as the material point. The Information Officer will actually take one's speech word for word and then leave the public to judge what is the material point made by the particular member, what is the crux of his speech: and by that, they will know who is really trying to represent them or not.

Sir, I too have had the pleasure of listening to the recordings of those Budget Speeches which were made recently in Trinidad and I found them very illuminating and interesting indeed and I commend any person to listen to them.

I agree with the proposals put forward by the hon. senior member for St. George and, as I have said I think no better service there is for the Information Officer to be engaged in than work of this nature. While I am on that point, I feel that the Information Officer has a very important function to perform. Take, for instance, the Local Government Act which was recently passed and by which elections were recently held. I am not criticising the Information Officer because he has not got in his stride yet. If he had been here for one year, well then, you would say that he had failed in his duty because in the last Local Government elections people of the rank and file who normally would vote for Labour candidates like myself did not turn out to vote because they were not interested in the elections at all. There were these elections for Local Government for the first time and the people did not understand what it meant and probably it would take ten years or longer for them to understand what it means. If we had the Information Officer here for the whole of last year or so and if he had got in his stride in his duties, he surely could have assisted the Local Government Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner and his assistants in trying to put it over to the people. The Local Government Commissioner tried his best in bringing to the notice of the public what Local Government means and some of the politicians did try their best to explain it; but if the Information Officer was here long enough to give the necessary assistance, the politicians may have succeeded in awakening the interest and enthusiasm of the public at large in the elections. The public does not understand what it means up to now. This is one of the functions of the Information Officer among other things.

There are numerous Acts which are passed here in this Chamber which are not very well reported in the newspapers and along with that, thousands of people do not read the newspapers but listen more to the radio. The Rediffusion Service touches all parts of the Island, yet still there is a large amount of illiteracy in the Island. There are a lot of people who are not fond of reading but very often would listen to Rediffusion; so I am saying that the Government having a certain amount of Rediffusion

time allocated to it - or when Government has the opportunity of setting up their own Broadcasting Station - should see to it that all the time they get is being utilised in a way to enlighten the public on what is happening in here and other material things. The duty of the Information Officer is a very important one and I hope he will be given full co-operation.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to prolong this debate much longer but I feel quite serious and conscientious about this matter. When the Leader of this House said that I should be the last person to ask for that, I consider what he said as a joke. This is the public business of this Island and I want to go further and warn the Information Officer that his recordings should be made of all parties in this House and not one party.
1.05 p.m.

I have not said that it is so; do not let them draw that inference or deduction from what I have said. I said that it should not be so. I want to issue these words of warning; I feel very strongly on this matter. The public of this island are entitled to proper information on the public business of this island. I know the privileges of this House, but if it is not the Government's intention or policy to put these facilities at the disposal of this House, as is done in other West Indian Islands, then the Government should say so. If provision is not made for the recording of speeches made by hon. members on particular occasions, it is obvious that the public will never have the facilities of hearing or getting from the Information Office what actually takes place on important matters which are being dealt with in this House. The present newspapers report whom they like, how they like and when they like, and they take down what you did not say and make head lines of it. "The Government should modernise the sugar industry" - that has never been said by whom it was reported to have been said. Therefore, it seems to me that the people of this island need the facts as to what is going on, but there is nothing by means of which they can get the facts of the situation.

Mr. Chairman, I apologise for being somewhat heated on this matter, but as long as I feel sincere and honest about a matter in the interest of the people of this island, my voice goes up. This is a matter which is in the interest of the people of this island. It was a pleasure to me to listen to the facts and read the debates of the Legislature in Trinidad, and I do not see why we should not receive at first hand the speeches made by hon. members. As far as I am concerned, my speeches can be recorded at any time either now or in the future.

The question that the sum of \$22,309 under Head II- Secretariat - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD III - ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

Head III - Accountant General was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: In dealing with this Head, Mr. Chairman, I should like to point out that the Note to Item 17 "Office Equipment" should read "For the purchase of two (2) adding machines, "Instead of "For the purchase of an adding machine." I beg to move that the sum of \$4,631 under Head III - Accountant General - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, as to this Item No. 17 "Office Equipment" I am wondering what is proposed in respect of the purchase of these two adding machines? Have these machines been purchased yet? Are tenders to be called for, or is there someone who just goes around and selects two adding machines which may happen to meet with that person's favour? The answer to that question will answer the question as to the entire principle adopted in the purchase of new items, - adding machines, typewriters or anything else - out of public funds. One

wants to be wary about the charge of selecting a particular agent, who is one's friend, to purchase everything possible for him. I should like to know the principle which is supposed to be followed in the purchase of these machines and whether it fits in with the present principle of purchasing items of equipment.

As to Item 14, "Books and Stationery" I see that there is an increase of \$200 this year, bringing the total to \$900. I would appreciate a further clarification of the Note which states: "Provision in respect of Stationery previously under-estimated". What is meant by the words "previously under-estimated? How long ago was this estimate made and by whom was it made? Is the Stationery being imported by the Government Printery, through the Crown Agents or what? How are we getting this stationery now that we have our own Printery? Sooner or later we would expect that stationery to come to us through the Government Printery.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that I have not got all the information required by the hon. member, but, as far as I know, the purchase of these items referred to, is not done by tender. The Department buys the best it considers it can get for the money and as far as I know, there is no friend of the Government who has these various items for sale. I see that the hon. member is smiling but if he knows any friend of the Government, I would be glad if he could tell us who that friend is. I presume that when the hon. Premier returns to this Chamber, the information will be given. The hon. member will appreciate that the Hon. Premier had to leave the House in a hurry and I am just holding on for him.

The question that the sum of \$4,631 under Head III - Accountant General - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD IV - AUDITOR GENERAL

Head IV - Auditor General - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of \$2,125 under Head IV - Auditor General - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: In connection with Item 11, "Travelling expenses," I see that there is a proposed increase of \$150 making the total \$950; and the Note states this: "Cost of travelling in carrying out surprise checks and visits to various Government Departments." I quite agree that there is the necessity for that; however, I would like to know, in respect of this travelling, if it is an increase in petrol allowance for members of the staff, who are using their own cars. Does this mean that more travelling is done, do the members of the Staff hire cars, is this a higher travelling allowance than in the past or what? I would not say that a higher travelling allowance would not be justified, but I am wondering, in respect of these checks, what the procedure is.

1.15 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: I think the hon. member will remember that some time last year we increased travelling rates; so this is a result of that. We have given increased travelling rates to all Government Departments and persons who are qualified for travelling.

As far as the use of cars is concerned, from what I know I do not think it applies to more than the Auditor General who is a scheduled Officer and maybe the Assistant Auditor.

The question that the sum of \$2,125 under Head IV - Auditor General - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head V - Harbour and Shipping - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$134,469 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member said he was only holding on; well, sometimes you are holding on but you are resisting! It is only for Government to hold on because the Minister cannot resist what I am saying.

As regards the Port Management, these are the Estimates for 1959-60, so that when we get the Estimates for 1960-61 we would be within the period when we expect to have the Port in operation; but up to this present moment the Government has not declared its policy as to how the Port will be run, whether it will be a Port Authority run on the basis as in England, that is, having certain functions to perform, or like the Port Authority in New Jersey. I think it would set certain things at ease if this was known, because it is known that Government has made arrangements for certain things to take place at the Port - the question of bulk loading and bulk shipment and so forth - and I believe it is not too much to ask. I do not think they should wait on the Port Manager to determine what their policy should be. I say that because nothing has been mentioned; and this is 1959-60; there is not much time left for us to know what are the views of the Government. I have read that the Government has had a Report from the Mercantile Association, but I do not think that that can be regarded as anything for Government to go on because these are people who are in the main interested in having control over the Port. They have given some figures, but some of the things stated are not factual and are subject to a lot of scrutiny; the number of people they say will work is not strictly correct, but I feel that at some stage we should know, and I am very interested to know what is going to be Government's policy about this Harbour and how it will function. We do not have too long to run because the next Estimates will include the Deep Water Harbour in a different way, and it is not too early to know what are the Government's views.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, I may tell the hon. member and the Committee that the Port Manager is due to arrive in May which is pretty soon, and eventually I think the hon. member will know. This will of course involve new legislation, and I think it will be wise to wait until he comes before going into every aspect of policy. It is a very big undertaking and I do not want to say much right now. I have my personal views like the hon. member on how the Port should be operated, but obviously I would not be sticking my head out, because it would be a matter for the Government as a whole to decide upon.

I do not think, Sir, that it would be wise of me to say what my personal views are at present, but I can assure the hon. member that the questions will be gone into, though obviously all the ramifications will be finalised when he arrives. He will have to be consulted on many matters including legislative matters as well; therefore the House will soon be told of the final policy as regards the operation of the Port.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, evidently the remarks of the hon. senior member for St. Peter have been well taken and I can see that the Minister himself is aware that there will be some need for a categorical statement on this matter by Government. Following on the remarks of the hon. member for St. Peter, evidently it is everybody's business; it is Government's business, it is the Shipping and Mercantile Association's business and it is also the business of the people working there who come under the arm of the Barbados Workers' Union. I think it would be a good thing not only for us to hear that there has been a memorandum submitted by the Shipping and Mercantile Association, but I would like to know that the Government will also be in a position to possess a memorandum from the Barbados Workers' Union in as much as they are a representative body of the workers there. It is everybody's business and it is a good thing for everybody to be able to submit some kind of memorandum to show how they look at this proposed scheme.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I must thank the Hon. Minister too, but I must let the hon. junior member for St. Joseph realise that the Barbados Workers' Union just

like the Minister has said is not going to stick its neck out, because you know what you get when you stick your neck out. The Shipping and Mercantile Association submitted a memorandum on how the Port should function, but many of the recommendations they have made are not positive recommendations. The Port as such will be the Port of the people of Barbados, and therefore we want to know about the detailed operations and other things. Nobody but the Government can decide on what type of Port they are going to have in Barbados. Are you going to have a Port which you will allow private people to run, are you going to have a Port run as a Port Authority allocating certain things to private people, or are you going to have a mixture of both? That will have to be a matter for Government's policy.

I have my own views and the Union in a broad way has stated its views in general terms; but when it comes to these things, I must tell the hon. member for St. Joseph that it is not only the preparation of a memorandum that matters: it is sitting down around a table in conference and discussing these things. We are quite willing to give our views because we feel that our views are essential to the happy operation of this new Port. I cannot see Government working it unless they have some sort of Port Authority, because you cannot take up \$24,000 and give it to private people and tell them to run the Port; so I have no doubt in my mind what it will be. Sometimes you get a Port Manager or a person from another part of the world who is very conservative in his outlook and wants to transplant lock, stock and barrel what he finds in his country on you; but I guess that any Minister, member of Government or any member of this Legislature may have found that sometimes you have to fight people on these matters because they want to transplant their ideas on you.

1.25 p.m.

I met people in London; and I met a man there who was asked, not by this Government but by the authority whom we asked to do our work for us, if he would undertake this job. Of course, the man was greatly advanced in years and his family did not want him to come. Dealing with him on the London docks would be a different thing when he lands in Carlisle Bay and that is why I was pressing the Hon. Minister to say who was the person. The time looks long, but you do not have much time and this is a serious matter: so serious that although I see hon. members on the other side are smiling, I know that in the next three years if we are alive, we are not going to smile because it is only just today that the steamer people have sent me a memorandum of 150 people whom they are considering laying off. You can very well see that this is no small problem. You will see that soon you will have an army of 2,000 people who were working on the waterfront whom you will have to look to give them something to do. I am not saying that you should make provision for 2,000 people. This is something about which I know what I am talking and I think I know more about it than any other hon. member in this Chamber because I live by it day by day. This is nothing which can be settled in six weeks or six months. At half-past two today I have to meet people on matters connected with this matter. We have already decided that we will have to spend about one year in discussing certain things on this matter. That is why I say that in connection with the Port, even from the point of view of discussion only, it is going to take more than one year on that. Today is the 19th March, and I can see the 19th March, 1960, will come and there will be certain problems concerning the Port which that gentlemen, any other member or myself will not be able to straighten out. I say that from my own knowledge of what we have in the Port to settle.

Sir, this is not an easy matter. There will be no more lightering of cargo and only a few people will be working on the Port. It will be a question of shipping sugar in bulk at the rate of 5,000 tons an hour and it means that ships will be turning around faster. There are lots of things which you will have to discuss with the Government on a general basis if you want a complete stoppage. It is going to be a sudden change and not a grad-

ual change, and nobody will be able to determine how many people are going to be absorbed in the new harbour. These are some of the things which are going to call for a lot of discussion. As yet there is no Provident Fund for them. That is something which we have been discussing with the Government and the Government has not said yet what they can allocate to that and they have not said how they can capitalise the redundant workers. The Manager of the Port is coming, but there are going to be matters for Government policy and not for the Manager to decide. The Manager cannot tell the Government what it should do after the completion of the Deep Water Harbour. The Port Manager cannot tell you that this man or that man cannot work, because the formula which suits England may not suit Barbados and that would be the end of the matter. You must remember that there is no social security for that man and all it means is that if there is no work for him there would be no money for him to carry home; therefore, there would be no food for him, his wife and his children and so far as his getting credit from the stores, that would be limited. In this matter we have special problems to solve—and at a time when people are not accepting the same standards as, say, the same sort of people accepted in Trinidad when they began to operate their Deep Water Harbour. No one is partisan in this matter; we are partisan only in so far as representing the workers. I realise that the Deep Water Harbour would be a benefit to the community in general.

The point which I am raising and which I want the Hon. Minister of Trade and this Committee to note is that the employment policy is the major thing. It must be realised that Barbados has never yet been through a change like this one which it will be going through and it means that the coming into operation of this Port is going to affect everything in the sugar industry. The sugar people have not yet said it, but we know that they are putting different types of machinery in their factories; and if I may give one instance, you have people in the factories now sewing bags of sugar; but that will be no more. All these things will be mechanised. When we change over from the ordinary windmills to sugar factories, the change was not a sudden change; it was a gradual change because sugar factories did not come into being over night. Sir, I am saying that the day when Messrs. Costain gives you notice that ships can come alongside there will be all mourning and looking at the past, but that will not solve the problem that is taking place. You must remember that the people are Barbadians with whom we are dealing.

1.35 p.m.

The investors are going to suffer like the workers; all the worker has to invest is his labour and when there is no room for him, he will have to take a little room in Westbury Road. (Laughter.) The people who have business there will take the money for investment and place it in somebody's factory. The investment company runs around a certain group of family and friends and their relative position would not be very much different from what it is today; but the workers' position is quite a different one; the workers have no other means of investment than their labour and you cannot send them to Dominica to work for five shillings a day. We have to push the wages of Dominicans up before we send Barbadians down there. This is just like telling a man to go and drown himself and as far as this matter is concerned, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has done it superficially. This is something which will take quite a lot more time to examine; it is not a question of writing a memorandum; what you want to know is what is the Government's policy as to many of these matters, but the port manager cannot tell them what it should be.

Mr. TALMA: I am speaking on Item 21 "Classes for Able Seamen". I wonder if the Hon. Minister is in a position to give us some idea as to what kind of classes these classes will be. I think that this is a very commendable thing; I would like to know how many instructors there are and how many able-bodied seamen take advantage of the courses, how long they are to last and what practical benefit will be derived by going through these courses. Do these people receive certificates at the end of the course and are jobs secured for them? Seamen generally

receive very little assistance from the Government and is good to see that something is being done to assist these people. It may be that the time has come when assistance should be given to these seamen - able-bodied and prospective - especially in view of the fact that conditions on the waterfront will be changed very shortly and there will be any amount of unemployment. Therefore, if some scheme were to be provided at this stage before the new port begins to function, it may be possible to assist many of the young port workers in being trained as workmen.

I would like the Hon. Minister to give us, if he can, some idea of the courses which are to be undergone. There is an increase of \$684 over last year's amount and this total amount of \$3,944 includes the sum of \$3,096 for salaries, \$848 for text books, equipment, instructional gear and maintenance of life boat. That is set out in the Note. The Note goes on to state that the increase in salaries is due to an increase in the hourly rate paid to instructors in accordance with the rate paid to instructors of a comparable status at the Government Technical Institute. I would like the Hon. Minister to answer the questions which I have asked; how many lessons are given in a week and so on. If there are unofficial courses for seamen to undergo why not extend the courses to people other than able-bodied seamen? They will be greatly compensated when the Harbour is completed and when the Port begins to work as outlined by the hon. senior member for St. Peter who knows much about this matter.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I must sound this warning about the Deep Water Harbour. It is a serious matter if the hon. member cannot give us the information to the point that he cannot stick his neck out. If everybody is going to stick his neck in the sand and not consider that the people of this island will wait for a man from overseas to come in and take their heads out of the sand for them when this project is nearing completion, it is a most dangerous situation. As I have said in this House before, there is a new Deep Water Harbour being built and due to the fact that the Government did not foresee that when it came, overnight they could not change people's habits and things lie idle for several years, that would be a sad thing to occur in this island at this juncture. I heartily agree with the hon. senior member for St. Peter that it is not my Party but all parties concerned should join and every effort should be made and the Government should take every possible step in this matter and not await any person from overseas to tell them what the policy should be as far as the Deep Water Harbour is concerned.

I take it that this person from overseas will say how shops will be moved and where they will be moved, what business is transacted and where it has to be transacted. I am sorry that the Hon. Minister cannot take his head out of the sand; it is a matter for regret that the hon. member cannot give any information on this matter which will show that the transitional period will be a completely different set up of lighterage and so on. It is a completely new system which is about to take place and the fact that we have not got any agreement on operational methods or any Authority at least sitting down and getting things set out is deplorable, and it is getting late in the day.

1.45 p.m.

I beseech Government to try and let us pull our heads out of the sand and get down to brass-tacks on this Deep Water Harbour as soon as possible.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member's head is in the sand, mine is not on this particular matter. I do not know if he was listening, but if he had heard what the hon. member for St. Peter asked me which led to my reply, he could not have said what he has just said. The hon. member asked me a specific question. Obviously what he had in mind was whether we had decided that this Port should be run by a Port Authority and he said something about handing it back to private people. That was the particular question to which I replied, and it was only after the member replied to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that he brought in the other serious ramifications and problems which are bound to arise as regards dis-

placement of labourers and what we are going to do about them. All those were matters brought in after; so I never replied to that question at all. Nobody is waiting until the Port Manager comes to discuss these questions; these are questions which Government is already considering and which we have to consider in relation to and taking into our confidence the bodies concerned such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Barbados Workers' Union, the Sugar Producers' Association and so on. All these questions are being discussed now, so how can I get here and pronounce upon them? They are very serious matters and nobody is saying that we will wait until the Port Manager comes to discuss them, but what I do say is that I will not stick my neck out about this particular point of having a Port Authority or the suggestion of giving it back to private enterprise. I think the alternative is to have a Government Department as in Trinidad or Jamaica. I am not saying which I favour because it is a matter for Government to decide.

As regards the other serious point about the displacement of workers and what we are going to do about them, all these matters are being discussed at top level and decisions are not yet ready.

As regards the question asked by the hon. member for Christ Church, this, Sir, was brought to the House by me in a Resolution, I believe late last year, and I explained in some detail what was proposed so far as these classes were concerned. As the hon. member has commented, it is a good scheme conceived, I believe, by Commander Easey who is a very active man and does quite a good job for seamen in this island, seeing that they are in regular contact with ships and so on. There are twelve classes held during the year; I do not have at hand how many instructors there are, but I believe there are two. Of course the AB Certificates are given to those trainees who are successful.

The member talks about extending it to unemployed and so on. As far as I know there are a number of unemployed seamen who take advantage of the scheme. We cannot go beyond our capacity; we cannot tell them all to come and let us train them to find that there are not enough ships to take them. We have a number of seamen who do not have the AB Certificate to keep us fully occupied with classes, but there is no point in having it as an unemployment agency for all and sundry. It is a good scheme and I can tell the Committee that so far 135 candidates have been trained and examined and 75 have passed while 59 have failed and will obviously be given another chance. For the Life Boat Men's Certificate 127 have been trained and examined, 83 have passed and 44 failed. Many of the successful candidates are regularly employed on foreign going ships.

I think, Sir, that I have given enough for the hon. member to realise that the scheme is proving successful and is doing a good work.

Mr. WALCOTT: I must thank the hon. member, but I should like him to get it clear, if he is mixed up, that what the hon. member for St. George said is what I said. When it comes to these very important matters, Mr. Chairman, it is not a question of personality with me; it is a question of fact as I mentioned just now. We received a letter from 126 people and what I want the Minister to understand is that this is a responsible Organisation dealing with serious problems, and it is good for the community and Government when you have a nondescript group coming to you - it is just an indication - if you can say this is something we agree to and these are the reasons. I have been meeting the Ministries for nearly three years; so when the hon. junior member for St. Joseph says that he does not know the facts, I must tell him that it is not a question of waiting to draw this to Government's attention. I know it may be very embarrassing for the Minister to say "yes" or "no", but I have by my own calculation come to the conclusion that within the Government Service there seems to be a lack of material, and when I say material, I mean human material, to do the job that is to be done and I can recite certain things. This matter was put to the Ministry on an occasion when Mr.

Secchi was here; he went on six months' long leave and we never heard one word on this matter until he returned; but when he returned he left the island and the Minister would know how long he left. There is an unfortunate delay in certain matters and then people come to you at the last moment and say that you did not do anything. I want the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to understand that a specific aspect of this matter was brought to the Government's attention. The Ministers cannot say what I want to say, that too many delays are taking place in Civil Service matters and that the Civil Servants' hands are too full. The hon. member can look back in the files and find a Resolution which was passed at a meeting at the Labour Department on this question of what is likely to be the situation for people who are displaced as a result of the Deep Water Harbour. He might not have been the Minister of Trade and Labour in those days, but I am sure it was as long as three years ago; so the Minister would know that on these matters it is not a question of raising them from the point of view of thinking that you are not doing anything; I am raising this matter from the point of view of its urgency, and the Ministers may be right in that you cannot now rely on your local staff to give you all the information that is required, because I am positive in my mind that at least we could have come to some broad arrangement on the other questions.

I would like to tell the Minister that when it comes to these matters, I am a Barbadian and I have no intention of making my living anywhere else than on this little rock. Notwithstanding the jobs I am given all over the world, I love to live in Barbados and as far as this country's progress is concerned, I want to make it as much my business as anybody's business in this island. This is not a monopoly of the members of Government, because the success or progress which is made in a country in which one lives gives a feeling of pride to a person before he dies. 1.55 p.m.

I want the Hon. Minister to understand what I am saying is not a criticism in the sense of criticising the Government in any way. It is an analysis of a situation in which I am deeply concerned. The jobs for these people are going to take too long to come. There are 126 people already and if they apply, you will not know how many more people there will be. I advocate more positive and stronger views than what members of the Government can give because they are pure, simple politicians. I am a Trade Unionist; I live with the workers more closely than other hon. members. I have to explain things to them sometimes in a brutal fashion and I am not afraid of the political repercussions. I can chase a man out of my office if I feel he is talking nonsense. On this question I want the Hon. Minister to understand that it is not what the Minister says; it is a question of what I feel about it.

The question that the sum of \$134,469 under Head V, Harbour and Shipping, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD VI — CUSTOMS

Head VI - Customs - was called.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to move that the sum of \$191,506 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I just want to say something as regards Item 9, Customs Guards. I see that there is a decrease instead of an increase which one normally would think of. In this case it is a decrease of \$36 from the sum voted last year. I would like the Hon. Minister to explain what is the cause of this decrease and at the same time I will be glad if he can tell us how many hours Customs guards work each week or each day - and what are the rates of pay. I would prefer if he can give me the daily rates. I will also be glad if he can tell me if they are granted any overtime and if he can also tell me something as regards the general conditions of the service which obtain down there for these people. I will probably ask some supplementary questions on that matter.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 2 o'clock the sitting of this House now stands adjourned until 2.30 o'clock.

On resumption.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, there is no quorum and I ask that you instruct the Clerk to ring the Bell.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

Mr. SPEAKER called Question Time and Private Members' Business but there was none.

HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1959-60

Mr. SPEAKER: Just before the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee on the Appropriation Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee, Mr. BRYAN in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the House was last in Committee, the hon. senior member for Christ Church was addressing the Chair.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, when the Committee rose I was asking the Hon. Minister certain questions in connection with Customs Guards.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I want to draw to the attention of the hon. senior member for Christ Church that the Item, Customs Guards, for which the sum of \$26,844 is voted is an amount which is fixed by law. The present Rule on the Appropriation Bill when the House is in Committee of Supply reads thus:-

".....the debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is to be provided and shall not deal with the details of expenditure, but may refer to the details of revenue or funds for which that service is responsible."

I am afraid I cannot allow the hon. member to touch on that point.

Mr. TALMA: There is a decrease of expenditure.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is a detail of expenditure, is it not?

Mr. TALMA: Are you saying that I cannot enquire into the working conditions of the Customs Guards?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You may, but you were talking about salaries just now.

Mr. TALMA: I am asking how many Customs Guards there are; how many hours a week they are expected to work; and what overtime is given to them. I also want to know if the rates for overtime compare adequately with rates of overtime with people in comparable jobs in private employment. It has been brought to my attention that the rates paid to these Customs Guards are lower than those paid by private employers and I would like to hear the Hon. Minister on that question. It is an old grievance, one which has been brought to the attention of this Committee from time to time.

I now refer to Item 5. There is a substantial increase in that case by the sum of \$10,762 and I would like to know what are the rates today for these Customs Clerks. It may be surprising to hon. members to know that as far as overtime rates are concerned for these Customs Clerks, although they are Government employees, in truth and in fact the rates paid for overtime to them are actually paid by the private companies concerned in whose offices they work and not by the Government, but the rates which the private companies are willing to pay are seldom the rates Government pays to these people. In other words, the Government pays at a lower rate than the private companies are willing to pay.

2.35 p.m.

That has been a grievance extending over a number of years. I would like to know if the Minister would look into

the matter and see that the Customs Clerks and the Customs Guards are given a fair break; that is all I am saying.

Hon. M. E. COX: I should like to assure the hon. member that the Customs Clerks are not asked to work more than 44 hours a week for the salaries which they draw. If they work for anything over 44 hours a week, they are paid overtime rates. The question of overtime pay was mentioned on the floor of this House and it has been engaging the attention of the Government. It is only recently that we have agreed to increase the rates of overtime pay and such increased rates will be placed before this House in the very near future. As hon. members will see from the Estimates, the number of Customs Guards is 26.

The question that the sum of \$191,506 under Head VI - Customs - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD VII - PRINTING OFFICE

Head VII - Printing Office - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$80,042 under Head VII - Printing Office - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD VIII - LEGAL

Head VIII - Legal - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$7,544 under Head VIII - Legal - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD IX - MARKETS

Head IX - Markets - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$55,920 under Head IX - Markets - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD X - FIRE BRIGADE

Head X - Fire Brigade - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$47,779 under Head X - Fire Brigade - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD XI - LIGHTHOUSES

Head XI - Lighthouses - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$4,034 under Head XI - Lighthouses - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD XII - REGISTRATION

Head XII - Registration - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$22,925 under Head XII - Registration - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I see that in connection with Item XII "Books for recording Deeds, etc.," the sum of \$1,920 is being asked for, and the Note explains that this amount is the cost of these books. I should like to say that this system of recording Deeds in the Registry is a very antiquated one. I am hoping that this whole system will be revised, because the old set-up has been in existence for probably one hundred years or longer, and this recording and copying is actually done by hand. There are more modern standards adopted and a new system should be introduced to take the place of this old system of handwriting in ledgers. I am hoping that the Government will see its way to send out, not necessarily the Librarian, but the Registrar or the Deputy Registrar or somebody from that office to look into the system adopted elsewhere and thereby bring this antiquated system of registering documents up-to-date. As I have said, this system is an antiquated one and it might have served its purpose, but it is certainly not up to date. Despite the fact that solicitors may not realise any change in so far as the Registration of titles and things of that sort is concerned, yet the time has come when an up-to-date system of copying these documents should be employed. I hope that some officer from the Department will be given a chance to go abroad and, as a result, let us have a change from this old antiquated practice.

The question that the sum of \$22,925 under Head XII - Registration - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XIII - LEGISLATURE

Head XIII - Legislature - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$40,748 under Head XIII - Legislature - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD XIV - JUDICIARY

Head XIV - Judiciary - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$72,697 under Head XIV - Judiciary - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD XV - POLICE

Head XV - Police - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$267,895 under Head XV - Police - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD XVI - PRISONS

Head XVI - Prisons - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$62,280 under Head XVI - Prisons - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD XVII - INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

Head XVII - Industrial Schools - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$42,937 under Head XVII - Industrial Schools - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD XIX - ECCLESIASTICAL

Head XIX - Ecclesiastical - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$55,368 under Head XIX - Ecclesiastical - stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to second that.
2.45 p.m.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering whether the Premier is in a position to give us a statement on how far negotiations have got in so far as the disestablishment and disendowment of the Anglican Church is concerned. I am wondering whether he has had any more meetings and how far they have got.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: As far as this is concerned, Sir, it looks to me like the old question of when the Premier is absent the Lord Bishop is here and *vice versa*. Soon after I took up the Office of Premier last year, the Bishop went to the Lambeth Conference and asked me when he was going away not to take any action until he returned, but soon after that I think hon. members will remember that I myself went to the United Kingdom. I am in a position to say that a Committee has been appointed by Government and it is preparing to meet the Bishop in a very short while, maybe in a couple of weeks.

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

Head XX - Education - was called

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,672,692 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that the Hon. Minister of Education is not in his place, but this just fits in with the theme that I was carrying out last night, and I am certainly hoping in the next Estimates that we will get a further vote for Education in all its aspects.

The question that the sum of \$1,672,692 under Head XX - Education - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXI - Science and Agriculture - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$665,773 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, under Item 87 - Upkeep of Fisheries Equipment, I want to draw to the Minister's attention the conditions that at present exist at Trent Bay in Bathsheba. It is time, Sir, that the people at the Bathsheba Fishing area should enjoy the services of a proper fishing shed, a slab and running water for the purpose of washing down the slab. At present there is a kind of slab which can be very insanitary because dogs can get on it, and often when vendors go there, there is no place to shelter if the rain falls. There is no sanitary arrangement whatsoever and I feel the time has come when we should have something erected there for the services of the fishermen.

Now, Sir, the channel there is very rocky and fishermen complain all the time that when the tide is low they have to haul up the boats with the tractor and the bottoms of the boats are damaged and have to be continually repaired, but the Insurance Companies do not compensate for minor damage, only total loss. They feel that they are not in a position to pay back the loans and repair their boats every week or every month. They feel that if Government could blow up these rocks, it would be much better for them and they would not have to draw up the boats at all; they would be able to anchor their boats, so that if a fisherman has to go out early in the morning or come in late at night he would not have to come in to be hauled up, because I am told that if a fisherman is out fishing and is successful in catching fish, he does not wait but comes in in order that he can get help when he arrives at the other end; he has to pull out with what he has, whether it be a little or none, in order to get assistance when he arrives. I am told that if they could get the rock blasted, they would be able to moor about three or four boats on that particular site; so it is a question of Government's having the channel blasted to get rid of these rocks. One has gone so far as to tell me that if these rocks were removed there would be no need for the tractor which is used to pull the boats on to the beach.

As I have said, they are not compensated for minor damages, there are not many Insurance Companies that are keen on insuring these boats, and those who will insure only insure to the value of 80%. One fisherman has told me that having to pay Government \$400 odd within a certain time and having to pay insurance on his boat - and the fishermen there only work roughly for six months in the year - he is finding it very hard to exist because the insurance on the boat is in the vicinity of \$160 to \$200 a year. They feel that with a little assistance from Government by way of a little more grace to pay for the boats, they would be able to get around it; but having to pay for the boat and insurance and everything else, there remains very little for them to maintain themselves and their families.

I hope the Minister will take it very seriously and go into it and do all that he possibly can to help the fishing industry as a whole and not at Bathsheba only; but those at Bathsheba do meet it a little harder than those at other beaches; at some of the other beaches you do not have to haul up the boats while at Bathsheba you have to pull them up every night and put them back into the sea every morning, thus putting a lot of unnecessary wear on the bottom of the boats.
2.55 p.m.

The bottoms of the boats are continually damaged and these people have to be continually putting in new material. They are not in a position to do it on account of the fishing season being only for a certain part of the year.

Now, Sir, we had what we would call a rough sea some time last year and a few of the boats got smashed up as a result. One man by the name of Mr. Louis Yearwood got the worst of it. He told me that his boat took him \$600 to repair and up to now he has not raised one cent from the Government. I saw the Fishery Officer and he promised me that he would go into it and assess the damages and recommend the cost of them to the Ministry for the purpose of helping these fishermen. Up to now no assistance has been given to these people. I feel the Government should be more considerate and assist these men with part of the cost even if Government does not see fit to help them with all the expenses. This man, Mr. Yearwood, already owes money for his boat and that is the snag about it. This man had to pay \$2,160 for an engine for which he received help from the Government and then he had to trust material from the various merchants to rig the boat. He is compelled to pay back so much per month on account of his having to pay the Government for the engine, and at the same time pay money to the merchants for the other material which he took from them; so he is very hard pressed. I am saying that we would have to be a little more considerate with these fishermen and I am asking that you give them a little more grace to pay for the engines so that they will be able to carry on and get something to eat when they cannot fish.

I know that the Government will have to be paid their money back. You cannot encourage these fishermen not to pay the Government. I remember when the 1956 elections was about to take place, a sale was about to take place of a fisherman's boat at Bathsheba and, Mr. Chairman, you can imagine how I on one side was asking the same fisherman to give me a vote and the Government on the other side was asking the auctioneers to take away the man's boat because he had owed them money. I had to work swiftly in the matter in order to get the sale postponed because I might not have got on so well with the fishermen's votes, they knowing that the Government was responsible for everything and I was one of the Government's supporters. That sale was being ordered just because the man owed the Government a few dollars.

There were five or six boats which were damaged on the last occasion when we had high seas. As a matter of fact, they were completely destroyed. I am asking the Hon. Minister to go into this matter and try and help these people who have lost all they had to gain a livelihood. We must see to it that these people are compensated in some way or the other. In other words, help them to buy another boat so that they would be able to maintain themselves and their family. It is very hard on them, but it was an Act of God when the sea got up and took away these boats by surprise. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to make a note of it and to do all he possibly can to help them.

As regards the matter of insurance of fishing boats, I do not know how the Government feels about it, but I feel the Government should take on this risk and come to the rescue of these people. I do not think we can spend too much on the fishing industry. You cannot compel insurance companies to do what you would like them to do; therefore I counsel the Government to carry the insurance of fishing boats for these people. Insurance companies only insure for 80 percent of the cost of the boat and the day these people meet with a total loss in case the boat is completely destroyed, they will only get 80 percent of the value and they will still be 20 percent in debt and yet would have lost everything they had. We must help them and we must not help them halfway because helping them halfway is not helping them at all. If I am about to drown and you only bring me halfway in, I am obliged to drown because I cannot swim. If you want to save me, you must bring me to the shore. It is the same thing with these fishermen. The policy is to help them because they cannot help themselves. The majority of these fishermen of today are men who were working for other people who had the dollar. You encouraged these fishermen to chuck up the manning of boats for other people by extending your hands out to help them. They gave up manning the boats for other people and tried to build their own boats with your help which went as far as finishing the boats for them; but then you left them there. They have to pay you back for the engines; they have to pay back the merchants for the other materials they credited from them and it is very hard on them, especially when the merchants do not give them chance to pay their bills. We must try and relieve these fishermen out of this sad plight.

3.05 p.m.

If they can work for eight or nine months regularly they will be able to help themselves much better, but I am told that it is only for six months of the year that they can call themselves workers for themselves, and that is why they will not be able to measure up to everything that is expected of them financially. As far as these people are concerned, I feel that we should do something to help them especially with the engines.

While I am on this matter, Mr. Chairman, I do not think that you would try to take me off it; I want to speak further on this Head and I will ask the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to give me a reply especially on this matter if he can do so now. Some years ago - the Hon. Minister was not then in the House, I do not think - I had an Address passed asking the Government to supply the peasants with tractors. I understand that the pilot scheme is still being tried out. I have to mention the St. Philip area, but it is not to make the public feel that because the Hon. Minister is a representative of St. Philip, he is doing his best only for that parish; but while the pilot scheme has

been carried out in St. Philip, nothing has been done in so far as the other areas are concerned. It has been drawn to my attention that one of the factory managers threatened a particular peasant who wanted the loan of a tractor for the purpose of ploughing his land. This is what that factory manager said: "We are going to help you now, but during next year we will stop it. We will not help you neither with the tractor nor with the manure as before. The boys are not satisfied with the Local Government; you put people to boss us on the whole and we will boss ourselves and the money; that is, you will have to get your tractor."

As far as the manure is concerned, that is an easy matter because the Peasants' Loan Bank is there to help with the manure, but not with the tractor. The time has come when, regardless of what it may cost, we should see to it that the peasants of this country are supplied with tractors for the purpose of ploughing their fields, because it is only at a certain time of the year that you can use a tractor. You cannot use it during the rainy season, so that everybody is trying to have his land ploughed at a particular time of the year. You cannot expect a plantation or a factory which has a tractor for its own purpose, to rent it to a peasant when that plantation or factory wants the use of it. This is a matter which is too long overdue. I think that the hon. senior member for Christ Church was instrumental in trying his best to get the scheme carried out, but, be that as it may, he had to retreat before it came into fruition.

Mr. TALMA: On a point of order. I did not have to retreat anywhere; I actually got the pilot scheme started.

Mr. SMITH: What I meant was that the hon. member was out of office; I did not mean that he had to retreat from his duties. In other words, instead of going into the office one morning, he had to pass by the gate. (Mr. TALMA: You have not had the opportunity of going into the office.) I hope that the hon. member does not think I am trying to make any joke of this matter; it is just as if the time comes for me to depart from this world; when the time comes, I will have to go. I suppose that the pilot scheme is working well in St. Philip but nothing at all is being done in St. Joseph, St. John or in any of the other places. At least, nothing has been done in St. Joseph of which I can speak with certainty. I do not know about the other areas exactly; the only thing which will keep our production up apart from the rainfall is the tractor. I understand that you receive better results from the ploughing of the fields both from the field end of it and the sugar cane end of it.

I hope that the Minister will see to this matter now. He may tell this Committee that it will be too expensive and that the cost of the transport of the tractor will be too heavy; I hope he will not say that any longer; I have been hearing that for too long. Let us get the scheme working in the interest of the peasants of this colony because they are deserving as much as anybody else and they should have had this service by now. I do not think I will say anything more on this matter; I will have to sit back and hear from the Minister why this scheme has not yet been put into operation for the benefit of the peasants in the northern end of the country.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am not being thin-skinned, but I would like to reply to a certain point which has been made by the hon. member who has just sat down, because it has reflected on my administration when I was the Minister of Agriculture. The hon. member has said that the Ministry was responsible for causing embarrassment to the members for St. Joseph in that undue pressure was brought to bear on fishermen and boat owners of Bathsheba. I want to tell the hon. member that I have the interest of the fishermen at heart probably more so than any other member of this House, and if the hon. member were to know of the numerous acts of kindness which I have meted out to fishermen, he would be the last person to make a pronouncement of that nature.

3.15 p.m.

Some of the Ministers in this Chamber now would tell you that I went out of my way and fought for them, almost arousing the indignation of the other powers-that-be in

seeing a reasonable amount was fixed for Calvert boat owners whose boats were washed away in 1952, which matter remained pending for a long time. It was only around 1955 that this business was settled to the satisfaction of the Calvert boat owners island-wide. This is one example, but there are others; and to suggest that as Minister I was responsible for embarrassing the senior member for St. Joseph and bringing a lot of undue pressure to bear on fishermen at Bathsheba was entirely untrue and unfounded, because if you are there as Minister you have to exercise the powers and functions on a fair and reasonable basis. I tried to save as many as I could from oppression and embarrassment. Nothing was done by him, but the hon. senior member is claiming credit for postponing the sale of a boat or two. If the hon. member searches the files he will see the thousands that were kept from a final sale through postponement. It is not for the present Minister to explain that; it is in my place to do so and it is not a question of embarrassing him or the present Prime Minister of the West Indies because boats were not sold only at Bathsheba but at other points; and if you are in office as Minister, you have to see after a sale at some time or other. On the other hand you can postpone as long as possible and try to assist as much as you can, but it does not mean that at no time will a sale not be effected, because you cannot postpone a sale indefinitely. I would like to see the hon. member keep up the past and see that a boat will not have to be sold once every two years because in my time boats were only sold once. Anyhow, the files can bear out that I actually helped fishermen island wide and not only at Bathsheba or Oistins.

I would like the Minister to tell me something about Item 83 - Control of Sugar Cane Pests. I would like to know what is the present state in so far as the Mealy Bug Pest is concerned, whether it is under control and how far it is under control, because I know we had succeeded in bringing it under control to a great extent. I want to know what insecticide is used at present. I had any amount of trouble and despair in introducing the Director of Agriculture and the other experts advising him to the use of ehndrin. I would like to know if after all these years we are having a proper supply of ehndrin in place of agroicide. Agroicide was the insecticide used before the Ministerial days, but tests have proved that ehndrin is more effective than agroicide, though agroicide was persisted in for years on the grounds that hard currency could not be released and other excuses which I could not appreciate, because if it is a question of a staple product, are you going to talk about whether you can release hard currency for purchasing ehndrin to save our sugar industry? Those are the silly arguments that were introduced which you will see on the file; it was a question that hard currency could not be released to save your staple industry. That is the sort of advice you got and I had to make up my mind to fight in order to get money released to import ehndrin, and that was one of the last things I succeeded in doing before I left the Ministerial Office.

I want to know if the Minister is still using ehndrin or has found something better, and what is the present state of the Mealy Bug Pest. It is the most important part of the whole Budget debate, because unless we can have a proper and large crop and unless we have our staple industry - which is sugar cane - producing, and unless we have the new varieties actually growing, there would be no debate at all. This money is to meet the cost of field trials on sugar cane root mealy bugs, root borer and moth borer control, and the purchase of insecticides; so I want to know whether you are still using ehndrin or whether you have found something more effective than ehndrin.

As to the varieties, I want to know what is the latest variety or varieties and how successful they are. I think that at a time like this when the Budget comes up, it would be a good thing if the Minister gave us a short Report on important matters such as the control of the mealy bug, the present state of affairs at the Pine Plantation and Central Breeding Station and the Pig Subsidy Scheme. It would be a good thing if he would give us a short Report on a few of the most important items here under Head XXI Science and Agriculture. I made it a practice during my tenure of office and I found it was very helpful. For instance

I should like to get a breakdown on the \$172,000 for the Pine Plantation and Central Livestock Station in order to analyse and see how the money is being spent on Item 86 - District Agricultural Stations for which an amount of \$86,000 is to be voted, as well as the Pig Subsidy Scheme. 3.25 p.m.

I am not trying to be funny nor am I trying to embarrass him but I would like to reiterate that I would like him to report on the working of these various sections of this department over the last year because I would like to hear something of the proposals in so far as these particular items of expenditure are concerned.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the Clerk has brought to your attention what I consider to be an error as regards Item 63, which is set down here as Protective Governing. I believe it means Protective Covering. I do not know if my copy of the Estimates is printed differently from yours. I bring it to your attention because if the Auditor General cannot get a true meaning of what the item is, he cannot pass the money.

The other thing I wish to point out is this. I know that this pig breeding scheme is one which was brought in here by the hon. senior member for Christ Church and is one which the now Hon. Minister of Agriculture is undertaking. I have an analytical mind. I want to know what progress has been made as regards this pig-breeding scheme. If I take an analysis of \$72,000 which you have in the Estimates for giving a subsidy to pig breeders to carry out this scheme and compare it with Item 86, District Agricultural Stations for which the Note says: "provides for the general running expenses of six (6) District Agricultural Stations and Waterford Agricultural Extension Service and includes a sum of \$500.00 to cover the cost of transport of groups on conducted tours of the Agricultural Stations for the purpose of demonstration and education," and for which the sum of \$86,000 is provided, it means that what it takes to run your six Agricultural Stations is only \$14,000 more than what you are spending on this pig-breeding scheme. Therefore, that would mean that if you put another \$14,000 with this amount that you are expending on the subsidisation of the pig-breeding scheme, you can multiply by two the number of your Agricultural Stations which you now have.

Do you think it is in the best interests of the community that you should continue with this subsidy to pig breeders? Are you getting the results from this scheme as have been anticipated? Are you doing enough work at these Agricultural Stations that you need not do any more in this respect and when compared with the pig breeding scheme you can say that the subsidy in connection with the pig breeding scheme is very important and should be carried on?

When I see that you have in the Estimates the sum of \$172,000 to be spent on the Pine Plantation and Central Livestock Station, it makes me wonder. I am not an agriculturist but I have to deal with money every day. I am wondering if it would not be better for you to have a system of producing your stock at the Agricultural Stations and then selling them to peasants at reasonable prices than the present method you have.

Referring back to this pig-breeding scheme, it is costing us nearly as much as to run the six District Agricultural Stations. Is it not of greater benefit to run them than to have this pig-breeding scheme? I know that some people get bad schemes in their heads and because they have embarked on them, they do not like to drop them. I would drop any bad scheme on the lines of practicability. In my opinion, I feel that the work done at the six Agricultural Stations is of more benefit than what is done at the Pine Plantation and Central Livestock Station or what you are spending on the pig breeding scheme. That is my view and I would like to hear the Hon. Minister of Agriculture on this question.

Mr. DOWDING: Sir, I spoke at length on this matter of agriculture in my opening speech and I do not intend to say much more at this stage. I find myself in a very difficult position to be able to appreciate this expenditure

without having not a short report but a long report. I have tried to obtain a report on the Department of Science and Agriculture but without avail. I have asked the Clerk of this House and the Clerk in the Ministry and the latest report of this department which can be produced is the one for the year 1954-55.

Now, Sir, in the preparation of a budget, I take it that the Minister responsible must know the working of the department for the past year before he can say how much is to be expended during the coming year. I would like to know whether it is gross discourtesy to this House that figures and facts are not supplied to it in time so that one can consider the workings of the department in the light of the budget. Or can the Minister himself tell us whether he has received a report? I am not talking of little bits of paper with a few extracts on them that someone may send about from time to time; I am talking of the business which has been done by the Department in one year. At this juncture, I am not in a position to say whether the present official in the post of Director of Agriculture is acting in that capacity or is appointed to that post. I do not know whether there is an Entomologist acting or not or whether there is a Chemist acting or not. I feel that this House is entitled to that information before the budget is laid in this House. I want to ask the Hon. Minister why this House cannot get it or whether his Permanent Secretary has got it or whether any of the Secretaries down the line has got it. These are facts which I would like to have in hand so that next time I would be able to deal with the details.

Hon. members quite rightly asked for a breakdown of certain important projects which could be included in the Annual Report, and as I have said, that report should be ready in time for hon. members to speak on the expenses for the current year. It is of no use having an analytical mind like the hon. senior member for St. Peter who is on my right and having nothing to analyse. What we have before us are just figures put on paper by someone and we are asked to approve of them without any breakdown of them, without any report or anything on which this House can have any guidance whatsoever.

I am asking to be enlightened on that point so that in the future we can analyse. I wonder whether it is as it is because the people in these various departments look at members of this House as being incapable of analysing any figures and, therefore, they do not worry to send us any. It strikes me that members of this House who are the guardians of the taxpayers' purse should see to it that these facts and figures are produced to us and produced at the appropriate time when they can be analysed. 3.35 p.m.

It strikes me that this Hon. House should insist on figures being produced. I would like to get that information in order to find out whether the Ministry has it, whether the Department still has it, whether it has not been made, whether it is at the Government Printery or where it is, because I fail to see anybody sitting down and making up a Budget unless they have the facts and figures of the previous year to guide him.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I wish to thank the hon. senior member for St. Joseph for having brought certain things to my memory, but I think that the hon. member should be aware of the fact that I invited him to go down with me on the occasion of the occurrence to see what damage had been done to the fishing boats at Bathsheba. What I have found out was that there was an act of God and whereas we thought that more boats had been damaged - we sent the Marine Mechanic and the Bursary boys down there - we found out that there were only one or two persons who had sustained any major damage. Why I have not acted any further in this matter is because of the fact that there is some conflict between the owners of the boats and the people who did the salvaging of the boats. The boat owners have asked the Insurance Company for such a tidy sum that I do not think the Insurance Company has budged as yet. Until that matter has been settled, I do not think that the Government should interfere with it. To my way of thinking, the amount of money for which these boat owners are asking, is more than would be required to repair the number of boats which were damaged, and, as I have said,

I do not think that the Government should intervene in the matter.

I think that the hon. member should have told the House that he and I went down there and promised the people certain things which I carried out on the next morning. We gave them the oil free, gratis and for nothing -- as a matter of fact, the report I got was that before the week-end most of the boats were back in the sea fishing. The latest information I have is that only one boat has not been put back into the sea; but if it had not been for the amount of salvage asked for, the matter would have already been settled.

The hon. member has made certain requests to me, but nobody has given latitude to fishermen as the former Minister of Agriculture has given; I say that it was a matter of forbearance plus forbearance and you cannot deal with fishermen as they deserve to be dealt with. I want to say that there are some of these people who feel that it is a matter of smartness and freeness. Some of them ask you to have the audacity to connive with them; I only wish that they would tell the hon. member how kind we have been to them. The former Minister of Agriculture has been kind to them too; sometimes people tell me that I am encouraging the fishermen in this sort of thing, and it is because of the help which the Government has promised them. There are some of these people who, if you give them an inch, how much will they take? I leave the hon. member to answer that question. But there comes a time when we must carry out the terms of the Act; we must see that the Government's money is refunded, because the fund is a revolving fund; otherwise you will bring yourself into a serious state of affairs. You are between two evils; you want to see the money revolve and you want to see that the fishermen get their share too.

This question of the insurance of fishermen is a very risky business. From the files, I see that a lot of work has been put into this matter and quite recently, I have been making some demands myself. But this is big business; you take what is offered or you leave it. This is nothing on which you can dictate terms. When it comes to the Government's loan, we must see to it that the boats are covered. I realise that there are some fishermen who experience a lot of hardship, but we also have those who, in one or two years' time will repay their loans. I am not accusing anybody here, but the fishermen believe that as long as it is a question of money borrowed from the Government, that money should not be repaid. Some of these people come in to me and tell me so; and when it comes to that sort of thing, what do you expect me to do?

Since I have been in the Ministry, I have made it a condition that if fishermen are unable to pay their insurance premium, we will pay it for them and we give them a period of 90 days in which to repay the money. We are getting a lot of trouble with that matter, and, mind you, this repayment is interest free. This is nothing in connection with which you can fight your way through; unless you are in the Ministry you really cannot talk as if you are an authority on this matter. I repeat that there comes the time when we must think not only of satisfying the fishermen, but also of keeping the fund revolving so that those fishermen who come in afterwards will also be served.

Another question was raised by the hon. senior member for Christ Church in connection with the mealy bug pest. We have not had any notice of mealy bug infestation at any time; as a matter of fact, opinion is divided as to whether "Agrocide" is all right. Some people think so, while other people think that "Ehmdrin" is what is required. It is just a matter of what people think. 3.45 p.m.

In other words, we are going to buy a new car and I want a Rolls Royce while you are satisfied with a Ford, and you feel that so long as you are getting a drive and I get there as well as you, it does not matter about what kind of car it is.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am not trying to test the scientific knowledge of the Minister. Is it not a fact

that whereas agroicide is applied to the root of the cane directly, in the case of ehndrin - and I speak under correction because I am no expert - if applied on the top of the trash, it is effective? In other words, have you got to apply agroicide to the root of the cane proper, while even on the trash ehndrin is effective? I would like to hear, not only the Minister but the expert on agriculture who is just on my right, the hon. senior member for St. George, on that point by way of information.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is dealing with the application of it; I was dealing with the word because he asked which one is being used. As to the actual application, I have never had to use it but I have passed and seen people spraying fields with it. I have never had the mealy bug on my land.

Mr. TALMA: I would like to know if ehndrin is used instead of agroicide. I have evidence of its effect and I know that ehndrin is a superior insecticide to agroicide, but Government threw away thousands of dollars in using agroicide which is inferior to ehndrin. I should therefore like to know what is the present insecticide being used.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I am saying that there is no case now of mealy bug, therefore it does not come before me now. It is under control; so why argue on which insecticide is used? Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. It has all been eradicated and we hope it will never recur.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter asked a question; he was honest and said he wanted information on what the stations cost to run.

Mr. WALCOTT: How do you mean I was honest?

Hon. D. D. GARNER: The hon. member asked a question and I took it he is honest about the question he asked. Why should he pick on that? If I had said that he was dishonest he would be on his feet.

Mr. WALCOTT: You do not have to comment on the obvious.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Chairman, these stations were established to give the peasants of this country a certain service. They are rendering a good service but the pig breeding scheme as such is entirely different. It is just like a man having a child in his family and a man giving charity to some institution or a step-child. This scheme provides balanced feed for people who are pig breeders; they are given a certain amount of feed according to the number of the litter of the pig. We have found out that because of the fact that we have been giving this feed for the past few years, the pig population in Barbados is more satisfactory, people can buy a piece of pork without having to look around if they have the money, and quite recently we have increased the price of pork because reports were made to us that it was uneconomic to rear pigs here and sell the pork at that low price. Whereas we sell our fresh pork in Barbados at 60¢ a pound, in Trinidad the price is 85¢ or \$1.25 a pound; so it is nothing to be looked at lightly because people in the pig-breeding business do it as a business, and while we are trying to keep the price as low as possible so that everybody will be able to buy a piece of pork, we have to consider the economic factor and find out how much it would cost people who rear pigs and how much they get out for that put in. Some people say that we should let demand control the price; we might get to that some day but at the moment we are trying to control the price. I think the scheme is good and should be continued.

There are some people who would not bother to keep a sow and rear piglets if they were not supplied with this amount of feed. I remember some time ago that there were sales at some of these stations and we could not satisfy the demand; today we can satisfy the demand of piglets in the island and because of the supply the price is dropping. I have known people with common piglets asking \$15 or \$20, but because of the feed they can get - and because the standard of the pig has gone up, and because the standard of the pig has gone up, competition has caused much more reasonable prices. We are not

here to encourage unfair competition, but we do want people to engage themselves in pig rearing. We have got to the point where in the Ministry we are now considering very seriously what is the point beyond this, because if you keep your pig population to a certain point where the butchers cannot get it off successfully, it means that we might have to come to you and foster some other scheme. But it is not a good thing - and I speak with a sense of responsibility - for people in Barbados to expect Government to initiate every business; people should have some initiative and start these things on their own. There is room in this country for making hams, bacon and other things, but people want Government to provide all these services and businesses. I do not believe it is a good thing for Government to compete in these commercial things, and if people would stop this noise about Government starting everything and have initiative in these things, they would succeed as poor people in this country have succeeded. It should not be expected that Government must do this and that, because it is not the proper functions of Government. Where is the incentive and initiative? Are we all spineless? If a lot of the people who control the wealth of this country had to depend on Government to set them in business, they would still be poor people; but because they took their future in their hands, worked hard and saved money, today some of these men have become very strong economic factors in Barbados.

I will say, Sir, that it is a good scheme and is worth carrying on. It is true that we have a good pig population and can get pork regularly and cheaply as compared with the other islands, and I think it would pay a Government, not for political reasons but in the interest of the wealth of the island, to continue to carry on this scheme. 3.55 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, as regards the report which the hon. senior member for St. George has enquired about, I think he is a business man and I am going to end on a very discordant note; but before I end that way I want to say that every year since I have been a Minister I have brought into this House a report on the working of the Department of Agriculture. One has been brought in not so long ago. If the hon. member gets these things and throws them aside and only expects us to bring them in at this time, that is a different matter.

As regards getting facts and figures, these things take time. You have got a scientific treatise but it takes time to put it in book form. It is a fact that we do bring down to this House every year the work which goes on in this department, and then after a number of years they are put in the form of a book or pamphlet. He has got one recently from the Irrigation Board and I know he has received several reports from time to time. As regards his wanting to see reports to get facts and figures, the hon. senior member for St. Peter is also telling him that he wants to see his books and his figures. The hon. senior member for St. Peter comes in here and blames the hon. senior member for St. Michael for joining with the hon. senior member for St. George in not allowing him to see his books. Let me say that all the books of the Department of Agriculture are open and whoever wants to see them can see them. We have no closed books. The hon. senior member for St. Peter is asking him the same question which he is asking us, that is, where are your books; give us the detailed facts.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the way the Hon. Minister has put it seems to me as if he means to say that the hon. senior member for St. George and I seem to be colleagues.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I am not saying that.

Mr. WALCOTT: When I start with the hon. senior member for St. George and his group, they will run to you to take me from off them. Whenever I have cause to deal with them, they run to you for help and in the past couple of years, it seems as if you are easing to their pressure and agreeing to their statements. We are not the same bedfellows.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify

that point. They do not run to us when a breakdown takes place between them. They come to the Government for aid.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I did hope that the Hon. Minister would have replied to me on the question of the breakdown of the amount for the Pine Plantation and Central Livestock Station. I am the one who first raised the question of the breakdown of the \$172,000.

Let me tell the Hon. Minister this. It would be a good practice in the case of these large amounts to adopt a policy which I adopted three years ago, that is, to have a breakdown of the \$172,000 in such a way as to show the amount needed for the Pine Plantation and the Central Livestock Station and what was needed for the Pig Subsidy Scheme. The Hon. Minister says that there is no need to spend anything more on the eradication of the mealy bug. What I want him to do is to give me a breakdown of the \$172,000 because the Note to the Item is very brief. I want him also to let me know how the insemination scheme at the Pine is progressing, and also to give me a short account on the co-operative movement. Those are things which he should know something about.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I expected the hon. Minister to end on a discordant note. Although in 1959 on a debate on agriculture, one is supposed to be reasonable in his criticisms and suggestions, you find that the Minister gets up and brings in an argument of personalities of my particular position as against the Barbados Workers Union. I agree with the hon. junior member for St. John that the price which we are paying for democracy is a terrific one. I particularly said that this bit of paper which we received from time to time is not a proper report on the workings of the Department of Agriculture and that they were purely bits and pieces of statements which were not sufficient for anyone to go into the detailed facts of the budget. I have received these pieces of paper but what I am going to say now may do the Hon. Minister some good. There are a lot of people who believe that they are doing a lot, but all that they are doing is to show up the prejudices which exist in their minds. If the Hon. Minister will take a note of that and put it in his pipe and smoke it and listen to members and get rid of his wickedness and have a contrite heart, we will be able to speak on a proper level.

If the Hon. Minister wants to bring in something to put the Barbados Workers Union versus the Employers Confederation, I am perfectly willing to go down to that level.

Sir, I have tried my best in this Honourable House to assist the Hon. Minister, but if he has these prejudices in his mind to blind him to facts and reason, let him continue. He said in his talk: "I do not mind the cost. These Agricultural Stations are established to give the peasants a certain service. Do not mind the cost." He said that. He may have meant something else but I would like to see a breakdown of this amount against the item Agricultural Stations. I would like to find out how much is done in the interest of the peasants. I am not casting any reflection but I see at some of them kitchen gardens which grow all the year round a large amount of vegetables. I would like him to say what are the receipts from the sale of vegetables. I have a perfect right despite the fact that the hon. member on my right wants to see my figures or to see his figures, to ask for a breakdown of this amount.

Sir, as long as I am a member of this House I shall continue to insist on my rights, and it is because of the fact that hon. members in here instead of having reason and debate get down to personalities and useless argument, many a department and many a Civil Servant meets you outside and laughs at the House of Assembly.

4.05 p.m.

I hope to see that change. I ask the Minister again if he has the full working of the Department broken down, if it has been sent to him, or perhaps they do not worry to show him anything. It might only go as far as the Permanent Secretary, or it may not go that far. I am seeking information as to the business of this island; I represent the people of this island whether they are white or black and I am

demanding my right in this House. I am nothing to do with the sugar producers; I will get up in here and make their toes turn. I have been elected to this House, not by white people, but by coloured people of this island. Dr. Charles Mayo once had a patient who behaved himself in a disgraceful manner, and someone asked why he did not dress that patient down. The doctor replied: "One fool in one place at the same time is enough."

The question that the sum of \$665,773 under Head XXI - Science and Agriculture - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXII - PUBLIC LIBRARY

Head XXII - Public Library - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$31,359 under Head XXII - Public Library - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD XXIII - MEDICAL (1) DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES

Head XXIII - Medical (1) Director of Medical Services - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$41,528 under Head XXIII - Medical (1) Director of Medical Services, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD XXIII - MEDICAL (2) GENERAL HOSPITAL

Head XXIII - Medical (2) General Hospital - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$921,724 under Head XXIII - Medical (2) General Hospital, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD XXIII - MEDICAL (3) MENTAL HOSPITAL

Head XXIII - Medical (3) Mental Hospital - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$249,609 under Head XXIII - Medical (3) Mental Hospital, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. TALMA: Before you put the question, Mr. Chairman, I see in connection with Item 35 "Provisions" that the sum of \$153,500 is to be voted, and I notice that there is an increase of \$1,500. The note to this item states this: "Provision for cigarettes, tobacco, etc., formerly made under 'Incidentals' now transferred to this item." I wonder if the Hon. Minister has the breakdown of this amount; I wonder if he can let us know how much money is spent on cigarettes or beer or tobacco and on other essential commodities, and whether the patients are given items like grape fruit and so on, which are beneficial to them. I would like to have some information given to hon. members as to how this \$153,500 is to be spent. I think that this Committee is entitled to be given a breakdown whenever large amounts are to be voted, as in this case. When the Hon. Minister is asked to give a breakdown when we are asked to vote these large amounts of money, it should not come as any surprise to him.

In connection with this item, the sum of \$153,500 is to be voted and instead of talking about provisions, they started off by telling us about cigarettes. I will give the Hon. Minister an opportunity to answer, but this is not good enough. The inmates of the Mental Hospital of all places are given tobacco and cigarettes for food!

Mr. WALCOTT: Like the hon. member who has just sat down, I would like to be given some information on this matter. The item is "Provisions" for which the sum of

\$153,500 is to be voted, and the note starts off like this: "Provision for cigarettes, tobacco, etc." The members of the Government take it for granted that everybody knows what the provisions are, but this note is really a joke. The only provision you have is the provision for cigarettes, tobacco, etc.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: I should like to reply to the humorous question asked by the hon. senior member for St. Peter and also to the question asked by the hon. senior member for Christ Church. Under "Incidentals" we used to carry cigarettes, tobacco and so on, but we decided in the last Estimates that, rather than carry these items under "Incidentals" we would carry them under "Provisions". We have a number of patients in the Institution who enjoy cigarettes and tobacco and we decided to put in an amount under "Provisions" in respect of these items. The Note states: "Provision for cigarettes, tobacco, etc., formerly made under "Incidentals" now transferred to this item." The money is voted primarily for food for the Patients and Nurses of the Institution.

The hon. senior member for Christ Church has asked for a breakdown of this amount but I would be unable to give him this breakdown offhand. If the hon. senior member would not be too worried about the matter, I could probably get the details for him in a minute.
4.15 p.m.
It is a small item if you think of it and compare it with \$153,500.

Mr. STRAUGHN: I will take the Minister's word for it because I have not been able to check myself - and I remember you were present when we both checked - if there has been any improvement in the accommodation of food offered to the people who were at the Mental Hospital.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: Yes. I hasten to answer the question by saying that we had a request for simple items like butter, cheese and margarine with morning breakfast.

The question that the sum of \$249,609 under Head - XXIII - Medical (3) Mental hospital - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIII - Medical (4) Lazaretto - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$22,241 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$22,241 under Head XXIII - Medical (4) Lazaretto - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIII - Medical (5) Board of Health - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$15,385 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$15,385 under Head XXIII - Medical (5) Board of Health - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIII - Medical (6) Bacteriologist and Pathologist - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$8,575 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$8,575 under Head XXIII - Medical (6) Bacteriologist and Pathologist - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIII - Medical (7) Health Centres - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, there is a mistake in the amount to be voted. The correct amount is \$135,586 instead of \$183,806.

I beg to move that the sum of \$135,586 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what is the position with regard to the W.H.O. Milk scheme. I have been made to understand that it is something that Barbados can make use of. I think that the Director of Medical Services of Barbados had some scheme in Queens Park, and in a talk with him he told me that it was a costly product, but they were happy to distribute it. Can the Minister tell me if the Barbados Government is pursuing any means to get some of this milk for Barbados?

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister will be able to answer these other questions as well in relation to the Health Centre at Speightstown. I have been made to understand that the Speightstown Health Centre is expecting to serve the Northern Parishes. I believe that the parish of St. Thomas is without a similar service. There is a Clinic at Belleplaine, St. Andrew, and I would like to know if the Minister can give us the assurance that the service at Speightstown will in the near future be extended to the other Northern parishes as well including the parish of St. Joseph. I can tell the Minister that in a short while there will be a body of people from St. Joseph in the form of a Committee coming to him on a matter like this, so he might as well take advance warning on it.

I should also like, Sir, further explanation on Item 37 - Public Health Education. Can the Minister give us some kind of breakdown as to how that service is being rendered?

Mr. WALCOTT: Before the Minister answers, what the hon. member just said is a matter of commonsense. A Health Centre does not belong to a District Council; it belongs to the Government of Barbados. Would you make a woman pay bus fare to go from Bathsheba to Speightstown when there is a Health Centre at Six Cross Roads which would be nearer? You could go from St. Joseph over Newcastle and get into Six Roads easier than going to Speightstown; so if it is a question of allocating places, it should not be a question of making people go from St. Joseph to Speightstown because you would need another Health Centre mid-way as the nearest road would be through Morgan Lewis, Farley Hill or Boscobelle, all the way through Indian Ground; so if the Minister has any plan he should allow the people from near to Newcastle, above Bathsheba and Martin's Bay to go to the Health Centre at Six Cross Roads.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, a little learning is a dangerous thing, and ignorance is really a vice. I can inform the hon. member, if he does not know, that there is a Clinic in Belleplaine, St. Andrew, which is run by the Officers of the Speightstown Health Centre, and I also know from consultation with the Director of Medical Services that he would be interested as soon as possible to extend this service to the other Northern parishes. I happen to know that in detail as Welfare Adviser in the Northern parishes. Really as I said, a little learning is a dangerous thing.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I think that comment applies to the hon. member because he is the one who asked the Minister for the people from St. Joseph to be served by the Clinic at Speightstown. It is not a question of rearranging the service.....

Mr. STRAUGHN: On a point of order, nobody asked the Minister for the people in St. Joseph to be served in Speightstown. Perhaps the English Language is also a difficult thing to comprehend. The service of the Centre could be extended to these particular places.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, that is the type of socialist you have. He is talking about the English language being difficult to understand; that is the type that we evolve. A Vestry scholarship given to him at the expense of people in this community has caused him to be a snob. He must have a little retrospection and ask himself how much English his brother understands. Let him bring his brother

and let him make a speech and see how he would compare with those of us in here. Is he ridiculing his family?

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of order, I would appeal to the hon. member. After all, we were going on very well, and I would ask him not to continue in that strain, but to get on with the business of the House.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I did not insult anybody when I made the point to the Minister in relation to the service at the Clinics; my comment was that the Health Centres are not parochial services. The hon. member spoke about coming under the District Councils or some remark like that and I said that for any person living in St. Joseph and requiring the service of a Health Centre, it would be easier to go to Six Cross Roads in St. Philip. That is the point I made to the Minister but the hon. member felt he could use those insulting remarks.

4.25 p.m.

If I insult the hon. member, well, he is quite in order to say insulting things of me; but these are the things which people resent.

We were going on very well. I agree with the Hon. Minister. I made my comment on the situation more or less in good faith. I would say that I was in an excellent mood when I said that.

The question that the sum of \$183,866 under Head XXIII, Medical (7) Health Centres, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXIII — MEDICAL (8) MATERNITY HOSPITAL

Head XXIII- Medical (8) Maternity Hospital - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$21,926 be voted under this Head.

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

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

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS

The Summary of Medical Departments was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$1,416,574 be voted under Head XXIII.

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

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

HEAD XXIV — BARBADOS REGIMENT

Head XXIV - Barbados Regiment - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$66,081 be voted under this Head.

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

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

HEAD XXV — PUBLIC WORKS

Head XXV - Public Works - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, as regards this Head, the figure for Item 80, Glendairy Prison, is now \$12,700. The increased provision is required for renewing electrical installations there. I am asking that I be allowed to change the figures in the Estimates against this item to \$12,700 and with that I beg to move that the sum of \$401,512 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: There are two things which I want to speak on under this Head and one is a general point. The first is as regards the question of the foremen of this department. I would like when there is a revision of salaries for employees in the Government Service that special attention be paid to the question of the salary for foremen. I say it for this reason. The amount of work to

be done and the amount of Government contracts which I see going on in Barbados shows that we carry out a lot of this work. We propose to build a new General Hospital shortly and from these Estimates you can see the amount of work to be done during the coming financial year. I think the time has come when the Government should place some proper emphasis on the foremen so that you will have men of quality in that position and men would have something to look forward to by becoming foremen in the Public Service and by that would get what I would regard as a reasonable wage for that type of responsibility.

The next thing which I want to speak on is Item 22, Winding and Repairs to Clock. I would say as regards this item of expenditure, do not let us worry with any clock; or if we are to have a clock, let us have it in such a way that you can see the time at any hour of the day or night. There is something wrong with the numerals on the clock. If you are over by Messrs Manning & Company it is very difficult on some nights to see the numerals.

The time has come—and I believe the world is so advanced—that we can get a better system of illumination of the dial of this clock. May be, the numerals can be put in such a way that you can see them clearly at any time of the day or night. I understand that there is some special way of doing that so that as soon as light shines on them, they are reflected. Our Public Buildings clock should be like Big Ben. People go from all over the world to see Big Ben. It is one of the historical sites in England and I would like to see that we have the facilities of having our clock working from all points. You cannot see the dial from the eastern side at all. I do not think it is asking too much to put the dials of this clock in a way to serve the purpose for which this clock is intended.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, as regards Item 28, Life Saving Apparatus at Beaches, I see that the sum of \$150 is to be voted. The Note reads as follows:—

“For the provision and maintenance of Life Saving Apparatus at Beaches.”

I would like to ask the Government what sort of Life Saving Apparatus it has at beaches. Many years ago, I took an interest in this matter and I moved an Address to this effect and something was done in the matter. A little gesture was done at one of the beaches, but to say that we have Life Saving Apparatus at any beach is incorrect. What was done a few years ago was to get a little bit of ordinary rope and put it in a little box, but that is nothing at all for life saving.

Now that we are attempting to improve our tourist industry and to encourage tourism generally, we have to look into this question of life saving apparatus for the various beaches and it will be money well spent. If you spend hundreds of dollars on hotel development and then adopt a cheese-paring policy in so far as providing some sort of proper life saving apparatus on the popular beaches, the time may come when certain beaches may be regarded as being dangerous for bathing facilities. Whoever is the Minister that this question falls under, I would like him to investigate the matter and see to it that we have proper facilities at all the beaches — at Cattlewash, at the St. James Coast, at the Crane Beach and the beaches of Rockley, Worthing and Silver Sands. You should investigate this matter carefully because in other countries where tourism is encouraged and attracted, like Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Jamaica, you have regular Life Guards and a regular organisation set up for this purpose. You have young men who are proficient swimmers and who are taught life saving — and there is no dearth of these people — and they are employed by Government and serve as Life Guards on the various bathing beaches. They have done many a useful service and have saved many a life in Trinidad and other places.

4.35 p.m.

If we are to encourage tourism on a big scale, and we pride ourselves as having some of the best bathing facilities in the British Caribbean, I think that the time has come when we should consider the question of appointing life guards and using proper, modern life-saving devices.

We should not continue to have the old-time system which has been in existence about 50 years ago and which is not appropriate today; we should have these devices commandeered life guards who would be appointed only for the first six months of the year when this island has its bumper number of tourists. I think that it would be a good idea, whoever is the appropriate Minister, to look into this matter and let us have some better arrangement, not merely a piece of rope which may not even be there now.

The question that the sum of \$401,512 under Head XXV - Public Works - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XXVI - PENSIONS

Head XXVI - Pensions - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$205,420 under Head XXVI - Pensions - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, in respect of item 21 "Disability Pensions for Ex-servicemen and their Dependents," I would like to know, if the information is available now or at some other time, how many persons are in receipt of these pensions and what the particular pension is. I have given this matter some thought for a number of years; a great deal more would be done for people who were commandeered rather than for those who volunteered to go on service. In the light of this new situation in Dominica, I am throwing out the suggestion as to whether the Government should not correct the past by the possible grant of lands in Dominica to a certain number of members of the Caribbean Force. If that were done, not only would it put the position right, but I think it might start a movement which might help to get people in Dominica. I know that the problem is a difficult one and I, myself, have wondered what can be done. These men have only received a certain amount in their hands, but I know that this is something which should be encouraged and which should be put right. I would be glad if I could be given the information, if not now, at some other time; I should like to remind the Hon. Minister of Communications that he was to have circulated something in connection with the buses and I hope that he will have it circulated.

Mr. TALMA: I should like to support the proposal of the hon. member who has just sat down in so far as giving some relief to Ex-servicemen is concerned. I see that an amount of \$205,420 is to be voted under this Head and that there is an amount of \$1,656 to be voted in respect of item 5, "Allowances, Gratuities and Pensions to B.W.I. Soldiers and their Dependents." I suppose that the amount granted to these Ex-servicemen will be very little; it is just a gesture. I support the hon. member's suggestion as to those who are agriculturally minded to become peasants in Dominica in the light of the further development of Pangola Grass on a big scale, as there is little or no land available in Barbados for the actual industry as such. I am hoping that when the Hon. Minister and the Cabinet jointly go into this question, they will consider the plight of the displaced coopers because there are about 47 of them who are anxious and willing and ready to go in for agricultural pursuits. The chances are that if there is an opportunity of starting an agricultural scheme in Dominica, these people who are unemployed and who are suffering might also consider going to Dominica.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to withdraw my motion and to substitute the sum of \$1,270,949 instead of the sum of \$205,420.

Mr. DOWDING: Will the Hon. Premier please explain the reason for that?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The reason for that is that there are two amounts which should have been added -- one authorised by law and one to be voted. I omitted the first set of figures. As to the question asked by the hon. senior member for St. George with regard

to the pension for the Caribbean Force, I promise him that I will supply the information probably next Tuesday.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$1,270,949 under Head XXVI - Pensions stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

4.45 p.m.

Head XXVIII - Subsidies and Grants - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to insert a new item to be numbered 23 (a) \$5,000 and the note says "Grant to assist the work of the Barbados Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis." The amended amount is therefore \$460,940.

I beg to move that the sum of \$460,940 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: I will have to point out, Mr. Chairman, as I did just now, that the Clerk will have to correct these things. If you look at page 92 you will see that the Head is numbered "XXVII" instead of "XXVIII". If you look also at item 23 and then at item 43, you will find that both items deal with the same thing, but there are different notes. It seems to me that the Barbados Association in Aid of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb wants a revote while the other amount is to carry on, and to me it is a waste of printing because you have printed the same thing twice while the amounts could have gone under one Head and be explained in the note that a certain amount was to be revoted.

I would like to say that it is a very laudible Organisation.

In connection with the University College of the West Indies, it is true that the Government makes a grant in a general way, but I see that nothing has been put in for industrial training. I remember that some years ago when the hon. senior member for St. Thomas was Minister of Trade, something like that came up before the Union, but the idea never seemed to have developed. It is true that we undertake in a limited way whatever we can do ourselves, but it is done in Trinidad, and I see that nothing has been put in the Estimates which the Extra-Mural Department in Barbados can use for the same purpose.

The question that the sum of \$460,940 under Head XXVIII - Subsidies and Grants - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXVII - Charges of Debt - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I looked under the column "To be voted" and saw it blank, but the amount authorised by Law is to be voted just the same.

I beg to move that the sum of \$855,083 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$855,083 under Head XXVII - Charges of Debt - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXIX - Miscellaneous Services - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$759,054 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Item 37-Public Utilities Board, I should like to draw to the attention of the Minister in charge that the Barbados Light and Power Co. is exploiting the residents in the area of Branchbury. They are now making new installations and within an area of a few yards they are charging these people as high as \$100 for the installation of light in their homes. The poles were already there and it was only a question of extending the power, but now they are charging some exorbitant prices. I can remember when they were passing my home I got it free because they were passing that way, but because these people can do as they like and because people want the service, they are charging all kinds of money. I feel that the Government is allowing them to bring in their things duty free in order to help them, but they are fleecing the people by giving them the service at a high price.

4.55 p.m.

These people are taking it upon themselves to be charging any price - sometimes \$80, up to \$175 to put down a pole - and they are saying: "the service is costing us so much; therefore, we are dividing the cost among the people and they would have to pay for it because they want the light."

Let me say, Sir, that this is a public service. I do not know if the Public Utilities Board knows anything about this but I think it should be strongly recommended to the Utility Board by the Hon. Minister and he should ask them to see to it that the cost of installations is greatly reduced in order to help these people and to prevent them from having to go and sell a pig, and soon, in trying to realise money to put the service in their homes. I hope the Hon. Minister would go into it more seriously. I can supply him with the names of these people. These people are not really able to pay such an exorbitant rate for the installation of the service and they feel that the Government is not doing anything for them in the matter. Why should we sit here and allow the Directors of the Barbados Light and Power Company to do as they like by fleecing the poor people of this colony? There are some people who are able to pay such high charges while others are not able. If A is able to pay and B is unable, B should be given a chance especially now that this Company is getting assistance from the Government, because if this company does not have to pay duty on items of equipment and machinery which are brought into the island so as to install electricity in these peoples' homes, I feel that since the Government is helping them, they ought to help the people and should not be too hard on them.

Mr. Chairman, for the last time I am asking the Hon. Minister to see to it and see to it right away. The people are not able to pay for it and they are not getting the service. It is only for the company to run a few yards of wire and let the people get away from using a kerosene oil lamp which you know is liable to affect your eyes. We should do all that lies in our power at least to help these people, especially those who have children studying.

Mr. SEARLES: Mr. Chairman, I too am going to join in criticisms of the Barbados Light and Power Company. It is now some years that a petition was signed by many residents in the Orange Hill area and sent to the Director of the Electric Company to put power in that district and nothing was done about it. What happened after that was that an individual bought the B.U.O.C. house at Gregg Farm and applied to the company for power and the Electric Company, in defiance of the wishes of the people of the Orange Hill took their power lines through the gully and left out the people in Orange Hill who had applied for it and who had guaranteed the Company that one hundred persons would have installed the service.

I am asking the Government now that they have completed one school building in that area and are about to build another school for boys and girls combined that they take the opportunity now to get behind the Electric Company and instruct that company to put a main at Orange Hill and if the Company refuses, the Government should bring forces to bear on them. If the Company does not intend to put electricity throughout the length and breadth of Barbados, the Government should call upon them to do

it by a certain time and failing to do so cancel the contract with them. Pressure must be brought to bear upon them to get them working.

I remember some time ago that a resident in the Garden, St. James, applied to the Company for light and although they had a pole at her door, they refused to turn in the light. She appealed to me and I told her that I knew how she could get it in 24 hours. I told her to go and instruct the Company to remove the pole from her door and failing to do that she would saw it down. The result was that the Electric Company installed the power in her house the next night. The Barbados Light and Power Company can get the money now and we are giving them every facility for raising all the money they want in the world and bringing in their equipment duty free. If the Electric Company had floated a loan in Barbados, I am sure there would be no need for an amendment to the Usury Act. It is our duty as representatives of the people to see that every nook is electrified. The island is too small. The Electric Company had the monopoly for the last 50 years and up to now has failed to electrify the whole of the island. I am leaving this matter in the hands of the appropriate Minister and I am asking him to let us have electricity in Orange Hill as soon as possible.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, it is nice to see the hon. junior member for St. James holding forth on this matter. I agree that we should have electricity all over this island, but I do not believe the hon. member lives in Orange Hill. (Mr. SEARLES: I do). I am saying that despite what the hon. member has said, I am sure that hon. members of the Government should be very hesitant after their experience with the buses to go and take over the Electric Company because it will cost a man about \$1/2 million to put in electricity at Orange Hill. I think you should allow a little period to pass by before you get around to the nationalisation of the Electric Company. Of course, I am not saying that I do not subscribe to the general views expressed by the hon. member. An island 21 miles by 14 miles is small enough to be electrified and I would say that the Light and Power Company has been having its ways much too long and it is time now that they catch up to modern trends. I am not an expert but I hear from the experts that it is a more expensive thing to lay down pipes than to run wires in the air.

I hope the Hon. Premier is in some position to tell us now if it is the intention of the Government to have the Laws printed in or out of Barbados. I do not think that at this stage of our employment situation we should lose any opportunity in utilising every avenue for securing employment in England and in the United States of America. I make this as another plea. Even if the Laws can be printed in England a little better than they can be printed here, let us lower down the standard. The present law books which we have would last another 50 years and they were printed in Barbados. At this stage, I would say let us have the printing done in Barbados.

As regards Item 67, Advice on Local Government, I believe there is a slip up somewhere. I think we should delete "Advice on Local Government" and substitute something more appropriate. This is not advice on Local Government, because you have appointed a Local Government Commissioner. You are not having any more advice on this matter.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: We have not appointed a Local Government Commissioner; somebody is acting in that position.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, you have created the post of Local Government Commissioner and is not the person who is acting in this position advising the Government as such? The person is carrying out what the Government wants done in so far as Local Government is concerned. You can call the Financial Secretary the Adviser to the Hon. Premier but he is appointed as Financial Secretary. The person who is acting as Local Government Commissioner is there to carry out the duties of that office in that you say that these are the things which we want for Local Government.

5.05 p.m.

As to the registration of voters at Local Government Elections, I have made the appeal that this registration should be put on a proper basis. I am speaking now on item 68. I feel that you should give the people of Barbados the opportunity of becoming electors on an easier basis than what obtains at present; I think that the Act should be amended in that regard. There is one period for registration per annum which is in the month of January, and unless the Registering Officer makes it his business in the matter to ask people to come and be registered, they do not do that. If you register in January, you are not eligible to vote until July which is too long a period. If a bye-election takes place in May or June, it is time enough for a man to be able to exercise his vote. I feel that the opportunity should be given whereby persons should be able to register more than once a year. A Registering Officer has told me that it would not be any particular hardship on him if the registration is done every quarter. People are not going to leave their work so as to be registered.

In the Governor's speech at the opening of the Legislature, he said that the Government had under consideration the question of single member constituencies and the like and I would like to know if it is the intention of the Government to carry out that proposal. What appears to me to be necessary is that we do what is done in England; there they set up a Committee of different members because you are dealing with constituencies which the present members are representing. If that is going to be done, and our life is five years - we have two more years to go and with the amount of work which is required to be done - I do not see that you will get through with it. A Committee of the House should be set up, agreement should be reached among members and a Boundaries Commissioner should be appointed to deal with the boundaries.

The other matter which I would like to point out is that I do not believe that people are exercising their right of voting, and one of the difficulties is the manner in which the polling stations are situated; they do not bear any relation to the areas in which the people live. As these polling stations are situated now, you have to pass your home and go half a mile in order to vote, and that creates unnecessary expense if nothing else. If a member represents a rural area, no member would be lucky enough to get the required number of people to turn out at the Poll unless he is prepared to send a motor car for them. You cannot expect to get people to walk from St. Andrew down to St. Peter in order to vote. You have a polling station at the Coleridge-Parry School to serve the man who is living in Half Moon Fort; a man who lives in Road View has to wend his way to the Coleridge-Parry School instead of being allowed to vote at the Alexandra School. In many instances, where you have one day for voting, the time which is at the disposal of people makes it very difficult for you to get the maximum number of people to vote; you have to be hustling all day long. I am afraid that on some Election Day you are likely to get a very serious accident taking place with the state of affairs which now exists. I feel that the boundaries should be changed and the polling stations should be brought closer to reality. Many of them are at a distance, they are much too far apart - and I think that the time has come when we should do something better. On the question of the printing of the Laws and that of the elections in a general way, I would like the Hon. Premier to tell us what are the views of the Government on those questions.

As regards Local Government, I hope that it will not be amiss for me to say this here; when I was debating the Commonwealth Parliamentary matter, the Premier said that he would not sink that low. I am sure that when we were talking about the Local Government Act - I am not concerned with whoever wins an Election or not; I am of the opinion that whoever wins an Election should rule, and that is my opinion even if the person is my bitterest enemy. If I cannot beat you at the polls, then I will not be able to beat you anywhere else. There are some people who went with the Labour Party because they felt that that Party would win; but when the fire comes on they will run. Some of them are bonfire politicians and we know that. To be quite frank in speaking, I would say that I do not associate

the Premier with the view that he would spurn the voice of the electorate because I feel that he is a man who has been in politics for many years and the principles for which he fought were principles of respect for an Election. I look upon Socialists a degree higher than Democrats, but there are those who are not Socialists.

5.15 p.m.

I look upon socialism as a higher degree than democracy, because there are democrats in the United States and not socialists, and I believe that socialism is the emancipation of the down trodden man, and we should spurn any idea of having something done against the wishes of the people. I would like to see Local Government run in this island, but I heard someone say today in speaking about it that the people did not turn out to the polls. If you know the number of people who vote in the various districts, you can see that the majority of people in Barbados voted for people with socialist sympathies; that is a fact in a down trodden place. Just as in the Local Government Act, it is going to change in the next ten years because the pressure people will bring on you must of necessity bring that. We know that because we realise the pressure they are going to bring for their advancement. In the majority of cases where there have been elections in the rural areas, people have voted for people of one labour complexion or another. There is no constituency in the rural areas where three people as conservatives were elected; so it is therefore not a question of saying that people did not turn out; but in the metropolitan area a different issue was involved and it is symbolic of people's thinking that politics is associated with personality as happened in the days of Christ and Barabbas, so you either accept these things or you don't. When the people say "Give us Barabbas," are you going to give them someone else? Therefore if you have a situation in which you have to accept something you do not like, it is by the democratic process that you have to accept it. If any of you would read what Nehru has just said of the British Government as an analogy, if the people ask for their democratic rights to govern themselves, whether it be wrong or otherwise, let them have them.

My advice to the Premier in this Local Government is, whether you like it or not to let the will of the people prevail. If that did not happen, we would not be in here; we did not come here at the will of those who do not like us, and you will know that if the powers that be had enough power to turn us back, they would do that and put other people whom they feel should be in here, because even a newspaper says we have no right in here.

Mr. Chairman, somebody is appealing to you, but I should like you to tell the hon. member that I am dealing with the question of Local Government Elections vote and the matter is very germane to the subject I am dealing with. I raise these things because you should not be afraid to hear a point of view on something you do not like. I find that there is too much impatience by members of the Government to hear views that they do not like. That is one of the worst aspects of democracy.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I can assure the hon. member that I listen very attentively even to things I may abhor, but when the hon. member went off, I was sure he was travelling on a constitutional question and not really on the registration of voters, and he knows that. He was bringing something which was not relevant at the particular time, but I do not want to stifle the debate.

Mr. WALCOTT: Maybe the hon. member did not hear me. Item 68 is for Registration of Voters and Item 69 is for Local Government Elections, so when I raised the question on Local Government, I did not intend to dilate more than to point out something and then carry on, and in so doing I made the suggestion in good faith that it was dangerous to change up the areas. When it comes to constitutional methods, I am a dear believer in them, not from the point of view of practising or controlling them, but from what they mean to the country I live in. I fought for these things and I will fight for them tomorrow. When you have an election taking place, no matter whether it be your friend or foe and the electorate exercises its right, you must accept that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I just want to make this point to the Leader of the House. I particularly looked up Item 69 - Local Government Elections and saw that you were voting \$10,000 to meet the cost of elections, and in my opinion the hon. senior member for St. Peter was perfectly in order to speak on the Local Government Elections. (*Cheers from Opposition*).

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I shall refrain from dealing with the Local Government elections, but I would like to know under Item 53 - Training Fund, about the amount to be voted which is \$130,000, an increase of \$65,000. The note reads as follows: "To be paid into the Training Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Training Scheme."

I know that this money will be well spent, but at the same time I think that we in this Chamber are entitled to some knowledge of this Training Scheme, how many students are being trained, what courses they are undertaking, how the scholarships are awarded and things of that nature.

Hon. M. E. COX: It has not changed since you have been a member of the Labour Party.

Mr. TALMA: I am saying that not one of you can get up and explain the Training Scheme, from the Premier back down; only the Chief Secretary, Sir John Saint and the Public Service Commission would know about it, and I challenge the Premier to say he knows something about it. I am aware that there is a Training Scheme and a Director of Training, but it is not true to say that I know how the scheme operates, how the various scholarships are awarded, who awards them and whether strict impartiality is meted out, whether the best possible men are sent for training or whether a lot of good men are left behind because they are not in the Ministerial Buildings, because in the Public Service of this island unless you happen to be one of the fortunate ones in the Ministerial Buildings, you are not considered, no matter what your qualifications may be. The time has come when the Ministers and the Premier should wake up and see after the administration of the Public Service generally and not leave it to the Public Service Commission, a body which is not known particularly, and one which no one can approach. Unless you happen to be employed in the Ministerial Buildings in Bay Street, your services are not considered.

5.25 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. That is not correct. I think the hon. member ought to know that people go from the Income Tax Department for training, from the Customs and all the other Departments. I would not like the hon. member to develop that because it is not right. It gives a wrong impression and it takes a lot to wipe out a wrong impression.

Mr. TALMA: I still maintain that foremost priority is granted to the Civil Servants in the Ministerial Buildings and little or no regard to the ones in the other Departments generally. It must be an exceptional case for one in the Audit Department, the Treasury or the Accountant-General's Office to be asked; and when it comes to the Department of Inland Revenue, well that is a specialised department, like the Department of Science and Agriculture, and it speaks for itself when you consider that half of the revenue is collected from that office. I think the Officers in that Department are shabbily treated in respect of commodious quarters. That Office is of sufficient importance to get similar treatment in this respect as the Civil Servants in the Ministerial Buildings.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. At one minute the hon. member is talking about training and then at another minute he is talking about the Income Tax Office. He does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. TALMA: I am really saying that the Civil Servants in the Income Tax Department are deserving of more commodious quarters. Do you think I do not know what I am talking about? I was making the point that unless you happen

to be a Clerk in the Ministerial Buildings or some friend of somebody, it does not seem as if your services are appreciated and many Civil Servants in the other departments like the Registration Office, the Public Library, the Courts and the other departments of Government, you will find that training schemes for them are not granted, nor courses for special training.

I am simply asking the appropriate Minister who, I think, is the Hon. Premier - I do not believe any other Minister has anything to do with that - not to leave it to the Public Service Commission to say who should be granted such a privilege. There is a lot of money being spent in this direction and a lot of people being granted scholarships and they only come back and write a lot of lengthy Minutes. A lot of time is wasted in the Ministerial Buildings and a lot of paper is wasted. I do not know if Barbados is getting full results as a result of the spending of this large sum of money.

Mrs. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, just one word as regards the polling stations. What I would like to draw to the attention of the Government is that I have discussed this matter with Mr. Chase, the Supervisor of Elections, because the polling stations in my constituency are not at convenient points. I have been made to understand that they are to be reorganised. I feel that polling stations should be sited in the heart of the district, and if those in my constituency are not reorganised they will create a hardship. My feeling is that polling stations should be so laid out that the electors should be able to walk to them. There are two polling booths at the Chalky Mount School which serve the purposes of the electors from the Chalky Mount area and from Cambridge. The same thing happens at St. Simon's School where there are two groups being catered for and I may say that that is one of the largest polling areas in St. Andrew. I am sure the Hon. Minister has experienced that in the last bye-election in that parish. Now, the roads leading to St. Simon have been broken down for some time now and it is practically impossible for pedestrians to pass along there; therefore I hope when these stations are reorganised that a polling station will be erected in the several districts to serve the needs of the electors in their own districts.

The Supervisor of Elections told me that it is a question of the boundaries of the various districts. However, I think I should draw it to the attention of the Government to have polling stations in these areas.

Mr. STRAUGHN: I believe the Hon. Premier would have got the answer to these remarks. Speaking under this same item of Polling Booths, I do remember when we were giving consideration to the amendments to the Local Government Act that the Premier dropped the hint that they possibly may have a permanent officer appointed for this sort of business. I want to know if that will be soon in coming.

Under Item 37, Public Utilities Board, I do not want to repeat in detail the remarks of the hon. members who spoke on the matter but as a matter of policy, I do not think that the Rediffusion Service should have got in the homes of everybody before electricity.

I would like a little explanation as regards Item 12, Expenses of Motion Picture Production. I notice that there is a decrease by \$111 from last year's estimates. I just want to make the point that I think this means that the Motion Picture side of the Visual Aids Section is going to be making fewer pictures this year. Is that so?

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I want to answer just one or two of the questions. The first is on the question of training. I have nothing to do with it and I do not want to have anything to do with it. It is purely a matter for the Director of Training. I, myself, do not know when one of the staff of my Ministry is selected to go on training. We are notified out of sheer courtesy that such and such an officer is granted leave to go on training.

5.35 p.m.

I am sorry to see that a politician of the calibre of the hon. senior member for Christ Church should want to

take a thing of this sort and infuriate the minds of certain Civil Servants as to this question of training. You cannot train everybody at one time, no matter how much money you may have. In every year ----

Mr TALMA: On a point of order. I did not make any attempt to infuriate the minds of anybody; I was only trying to explain that certain Civil Servants in certain Departments are ignored and those at the Ministerial Buildings are given priority.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Whether that is so or not, I do not know and I do not want to know either. This is a matter for the Public Service Commission, the Civil Servants and the Director of Training. When the hon. member says that except you are in the Ministerial Buildings you are ignored, what does he mean to do other than to infuriate the minds of people? Again, I say that I do not see that the hon. member should want to infuriate the minds of people.

On the question of the printing of the laws, there will be sometime before that is done, because it will take the Commissioner at least two years before this job is done. We are getting all the information we can locally as to the likely cost of printing and as to the method of printing, and when the time comes we will decide what should be done. I want to say that the claims of local printers will not be ignored.

As regards the question of registration, with the establishment of Local Councils, the system of registration will be altered; the Councils will be responsible for the registration of voters in their particular areas. The whole matter has to be gone into but we may have to set up a central authority and the Clerks will send in information to this Central Authority. All of that is just speculation at the moment, but we are assured that the Clerks in the different districts will be responsible for the registration of voters. Whether this registration is to be done quarterly or annually, that is a matter which will have to be arranged and directions will be given accordingly. Those are the points which I wanted to answer.

Mr. WALCOTT: I thank the Premier very much for his reply; but in so far as the Clerks are concerned, what I would like to draw to the Premier's attention or rather what I should like to ask him is whether he agrees that the present Act is restrictive; it does not permit you to register more than once a year, which is restrictive. It has been drawn to my attention that people even had difficulty in registering only in January. When a man is free and would like to go and be registered, the Registering Officer may register him, but if the Registering Officer refuses to do so, there is no going back. Today you have thousands of people - you take Carrington's Village; in that District itself there should be a Polling Station. This matter will require a lot more investigation, but we should not have the polling stations set up at such inconvenient points as those at which they are now. What we are suffering from is having a low poll, but those of us who are poor people cannot get voters to the polls in order that they may cast their votes. I say that the voting should be made so easy for people that you do not regard it as any penalty.

I live in Bank Hall Road but I have to go up to Hinds-bury Road so as to cast my vote; that is too large an area for you to say that people should go there and vote. There are enough of us who live in Bank Hall Road who could vote at the Empire Club. Mr. Chairman, this matter has some effect on you and the effect is that you live in an area where there is a low poll. You do not get more than one-third of the people to vote because the voting is difficult in the manner in which the polling stations are set out.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman. I should like to reply to a few points which were raised, but before I deal with the one which properly belongs to me, I want to correct the hon. senior member for Christ Church. He said that only people who work at the Ministerial Buildings are selected to go on these courses. I attempted to correct the hon. member but he still made the statement. I have here a list of several people who have been selected for these courses and they are from various

Departments. Included in this List are Messrs P.D. Lopez, Parris, Deane, Bradshaw, Clarke, Cadogan, Bellamy, Jackman, Murray, Miss Alleyne, Messrs R. C. Springer, Kirk, Edwards, Lt. O.F. C. Walcott, Johnson, Osborne, Hood, Austin, Maloney, H. Walcott, Knight, Kellman, Quintyne, St. Hill, Cox, Collymore, Husbands, Chase, Isaacs, Taylor, T.E. Clarke, Dr. Raeburn, Misses Springer, Payne, Mrs. Gay, Messrs Phillips, Henderson, Sealy, Ward, Straughn. - All of these, as I have already said, have been selected to go on courses and they have been selected from various Departments.
5.45 p.m.

In the Police Department those trained were Sub-ordinate Officers, Broomes, Clarke, Foster, Graham, Griffith, Harewood, King, Lynch, Murrell, Skeete, Straughn, Symmonds, Williams, Piggott, Armstrong, Hutson, Tulle and Walcott. I called those names so that members can see the inaccuracies which are given to this House from time to time unfortunately by members on the other side. All those are persons who have had training in these courses from that item, and no one whom I have called concerns the Ministerial Buildings: so you will see that the various Government Departments have had men trained as I told this House not long ago.

With regard to the point raised by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph in respect of the installation of electricity in St. Joseph, I should like to inform him that it is only about a month and a half or two months since this particular item was passed on to my portfolio, and I had the Manager in and discussed this very question, and points were raised about electrifying the whole island and especially those areas from which application had been made by people living in the area for electricity. I made it abundantly clear to the Manager that that utility was established in this island many years ago and long enough that electricity should have and could have touched every point in this island, and I made it clear to him that the Government viewed with abhorrence the question of the Electric Company making people pay these exorbitant prices for the installation of electricity. I made it clear that it was unfair and unreasonable to ask these people to capitalise the Electric Company and that in essence when you apply for electricity and you are told that you have to pay \$X for so many poles and so on, after you have paid for these poles the Electric Company can attach wires on them in the same area without offering any reduction or refund of the money you pay, and therefore you are capitalising the Electric Company, which is wrong in principle. Of course they look on this thing in a short-term manner rather than over a long period of years, and so they force poor people to pay these extravagant prices for the installation of electricity. I told the Manager in no uncertain manner that we were strongly opposed to it and that that policy must be changed.

I should also like to mention that I was assured by the Manager that as soon as they were able to raise a loan they would be pushing electricity in the various areas including St. Andrew, and that practice would not be continued on the same scale as it had been in the past and is today. In so far as the Public Utilities Act is concerned, I think members ought to know that if persons feel aggrieved because of the high demand for installations, or in the absence of electricity being installed in the area, they can appeal to the Public Utilities Board and the Board has power to demand the Electric Company to install at their expense electricity in the areas requested. That is something which is provided for in the Act although perhaps it might not have been too often used; but I do assure members that I am in deep sympathy with those persons who find it difficult to obtain electricity, and I do feel that it is the duty of the Company having the monopoly in this country through the right to import duty-free into this island all the machinery, equipment, vehicles and everything used in the production of electricity to install electricity in every nook and cranny in this island. I therefore want to assure hon. members that as long as I have anything to do with this particular item, I am going to press as severely as I possibly can to see that electricity is installed at as early a date as possible into these various areas, and also to discourage the Company from inflicting upon the unfortunate people what I consider to be an unfair and unreasonable

demand for the payment of supplying poles and things of that nature.

I should like to assure the hon. junior member for St. James that I was given that assurance by the Company because I raised the point which he raised, and a few people from St. James have approached me on this matter. I raised the point and the Manager gave me the assurance that in the very near future the lines will be passing through Orange Hill. Again, Sir, I want to re-assure the Committee that this is a matter with which I am directly concerned, and which I am actively pursuing in the interest of those persons who find it impossible at the moment to have electricity.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Hon. Minister for the explanation relative to the area of Branchbury. I am very glad to know that he has taken it up with the Manager, but I am asking him to send a Minute to the Manager as soon as possible asking him not to hold it up, because when I was a little boy I had to go to the Manager and he promised me to do it soon, but I am a big man now, and he has not done it. The Manager may tell you "soon", but the people in Branchbury would still not be enjoying the privilege of a little electricity. You know, Sir, as well as I do, that there are certain homes which have been wired for the last five or six years, the lines pass practically at the front of these homes and yet the Company cannot see fit to turn in the service. I feel that it is not fair to the people of this country; they can do it but they just would not.

I do not know whether Rediffusion comes under your portfolio, but some people in this country are going to die and go to heaven and not be able to enjoy one of these boxes in their homes owing to the place where they live, because Rediffusion is only installing the service in those homes where they can run the wires from house to house and are not prepared to put down a few poles.
5.55 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking to the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. This is a question of Public Utilities.

Mr. SMITH: Is Rediffusion not one?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Oh no.

Mr. SMITH: I am very sorry; I thought so. Well, I think the Government should take it from them soon because I am sure Government will be able to make some money as the people would have to bring the money to the Government themselves. I am glad in one way that it is a private company, and I am sorry in the other. I am asking my Government to consider turning over the buses to private enterprise and bringing in Rediffusion!

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear of the extension of the electricity throughout the island of Barbados and I am thankful for the patience of the Government in this matter because the Government has been waiting for a very long time on this company to extend its services. I am sure that wherever there are poles carrying electricity along the roads the people in the country districts like those in Bridgetown will have their homes wired. I am therefore hoping that the Government will force the Barbados Light and Power Company to extend its services of electricity in my parish and, as my hon. colleague has said today, if we get electricity in St. Andrew, it will be like a light shining in dark places. I can assure this Hon. Committee that there are a lot of people in my parish who have refrigerators only waiting to get electricity to put them in use.

I have listened to the Hon. Minister who spoke on this subject. Let me tell him that we have tried our best efforts to implore the authorities of the Barbados Light and Power Company to extend its services in my parish. This is a small country and there is no reason why electricity should not be extended everywhere in it. As the hon. senior member for St. Joseph has said about Rediffusion, I am sure that that service is extended in my

parish and when the kerosene lamps go out, the people cannot see to turn on or turn off Rediffusion. I would be very thankful to Government if it tried its best to force the hands of the Barbados Light and Power Company to extend its services throughout the whole island of Barbados.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, I am going to refer to a few items under this Head. The first is item 30 Telephone rentals, transfers and installations. I remember only a few months ago drawing to the attention of the Government the necessity for removal of the telephone at the Police Station at District "E" as its position is the cause of grave inconvenience to the litigants, officials of that Court and the practitioners who of necessity have to be there from time to time. After all, one should not have to be continually referring to it year after year and meeting after meeting. Let the Minister whose responsibility it is, if he is in doubt of the information, take a run down there and see how far the telephone is from that particular Court.

Further, I think they should get together and have a confab with the Telephone Company as to the placing of public telephones in the different rural areas. Unless you go out of St. Michael, you will not realise the inconvenience to which people are subjected in the country districts when they want a phone message for a doctor, priest or such person. They have to depend on the good mercies and good moods of the factory manager so as to enable them to have the use of the telephone at the factory. Private houses are few in which they have telephones installed, and there is the necessity for public telephones in the country districts. If the Telephone Company is not progressive enough to instal instruments of a penny-in-the-slot for a phone message, well then, the Government should step in and instal it for them. Of course, the penny in the slot instruments would be preferable and would be accepted by the poor people of the district. They would prefer to pay a penny instead of begging a manager, with whom they may have just had a quarrel about the low prices for their canes, to let them use the phone because, say, one of their children has just got a toe cut and they would like to get the doctor. This is something which should be taken up by the Hon. Minister with the Telephone Company. They really would prefer to have slot machines which may be used at, say, a penny per phone call. However, it may be necessary for the Government to instal these telephones throughout the country districts so that the people should not be subjected to the embarrassments to which they are now put today by asking sometimes an unfriendly and miserable type of person for the use of their private phone. As a matter of fact, as I understand the contract which is more honoured in the breach, it is only the person who rents the phone and the residents of that house who are eligible to use that phone.

As regards the question of the public utility of electricity of which so much has just been said, I want to add my quota and to remind hon. members that long ago, in 1946, the present Federal Prime Minister said at a public meeting in Pie Corner, St. Lucy, that the residents of that district would soon have electricity because the Government would be nationalising the Electric Company within six months and will extend the services to that district. What has transpired since that time is that the then Premier has gone off and he is succeeded by another who has not repeated his promise and we have not yet had electricity there yet, and there is so much talk about electricity and what has to be done that apparently we may not see it being extended to that district in the lifetime of the present Government. Of course, the present Government has only two more years to run.

As regards Item 34, Leave Passages, I am not going to make any particular comment on that now but I am just reminding the Government, as I mentioned in my second reading speech, that just as they are reconsidering this question of the public utility, they should at the same time give reconsideration to this question of leave passages.

Mr. Chairman, you will see that only a short while ago the amount for this purpose was \$69,565 and in 1956-

viate the sufferings of the residents in St. Simon's district. In the case of damage to the Haggatts Bridge these people are marooned, there being no alternative road. I have been informed that the Soil Conservationist has to remain at Sedgepond. I would like to see some work done to the Turner Hall road so as to assist the residents in the St. Simon's district. There is also the King Street road to be extended to lead into Bawdens and River Road so as to provide an alternative road for the residents to get out. There is also the road leading into Boscobelle village; that road was dug up when the work of soil conservation was being done, and now it needs to be repaired. I know that many of the tourists use that road when going to Pico Teneriffe, or St. Lucy's Lighthouse and the Animal Flower Cave. I would like to see some thing done there.

It is only recently that we were discussing the matter of paved drains; now that these drains have been paved, the sanitary condition is something regrettable. The Sanitary Authorities have informed me that looking after these drains is the responsibility of the Highways and Transport workers and the cantoniers, and that they are supposed to take care of the cleaning of these drains. If that is so, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister to give directions to have these drains cleaned immediately because there are huge masses of cans, bottles and all sorts of things lying there. I see that the cantoniers are sweeping the stuff into the drains and blocking the water which is flowing into private residences. I would like to see these drains being kept in a tidy condition.

I would also like to see a continuation of the work on the tenantry roads which are being constructed. When these roads are being constructed there is also the need for water and so on.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, I should just like to say that whereas hon. members have spoken about new road signs, I think it would be a good idea to have international road signs and we should have international licences as well. That is one of those things which go unnoticed. In providing for these signs, I hope that some consideration will be given to the question of having international signs. I think that if we have international signs they would be understood easily by all concerned.

The Item on which I really want to speak is Item 27 "Unestablished Staff". Seeing that there is an increase of a little more than \$100,000 in the amount of this item, I want to know if the 26 people involved in St. Andrew and St. Thomas with whom there has been some difficulty a few months ago, have been included in this vote. I hope that they have been included.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking on Item 66 "Highway Improvements". In respect of that item, the sum of \$95,880 is being voted and the note says: "For details see Appendix 7". In Appendix 7 you will see the various purposes for which this money will be needed; in that Appendix there is the last item: "Repair and maintenance of various drains in Christ Church". I would like to draw the Minister's attention to the fact that there is a very dangerous corner just above Charnocks; it is an "S" bend really and it is dangerous to motorists. This is the main highway leading to the Crane, and Sam Lord's Castle; it is a road over which the buses have to travel from day to day. I am wondering whether the Minister of Communications would make a special note of this particular "S" bend and see if it is possible to do something about it. The Minister would probably recall that certain improvements were made to the "S" bend at Spencers; I hope he will make a special note of this and see if he could not go straight across the field and avoid probably two "S" bends. This is the area which abuts and abounds Mr. Johnnie Webster's house.

6.45 p.m.

If that were done the distance would effect a saving as far as repairs in future are concerned.

While we are on that, I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister that there are numerous other corners which need straightening. I am hoping now that we are going in for tourism on a big scale and now that

our Airport is being reconstructed and modernised, that the main approach which leads to the Airport - and I refer to Maxwell Road - will be considered and that sometime later in this year the Minister will bring down some Supplementary Resolution to have the Maxwell Main Road widened and have side-walks constructed on either side of that road, because that road is a sort of race track, and in many cases you find motorists generally accelerating their speed along that road. That road is constantly traversed by motorists and buses, and now that we have the opportunity of widening that road, we should move on time and not wait until it is very difficult or impossible to have that road widened and side-walks constructed along it; it would make a very good road for motorists and would at the same time be very useful to the people in that area. I am hoping that the Minister will look into that because we have to modernise and improve our road services.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I want to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister the state of affairs relative to the action of the authorities of Highways and Transport. I am speaking on Item 44 - Parish Roads.

I know that the Police Department generally transfers policemen from Station to Station so that every policeman would know the island and I am in agreement with that; but I do not know the reason why the Highways and Transport Department should transfer an ordinary casual labourer from St. Joseph to St. Andrew. The only reason I can see for that could be to hurry and haste away the lives of these poor workers, because if a man has to go from Bathsheba or Foster Hall or from St. Elisabeth's Village to the other end of St. Andrew, Gregg Farm, and Boscobelle, he is only suited afterwards to be in a box. What work can he do after such a long and arduous walk? It is the height of foolishness because he cannot give you a day's work and you are bound to lose. I am asking the Minister to go into it and see that it is stopped immediately, because it does not serve the Government any useful purpose. I cannot believe the reason that has been given for this action; I was told that the money at St. Joseph had been exhausted while the money at St. Andrew was just flowing, and rather than lay off the workers they were sent to St. Andrew. If that is so, then why send the St. Andrew workers to St. Joseph? I feel that if the money was exhausted at St. Joseph, the Minister would have brought a Resolution to this House in order to provide the necessary money for the people working in St. Joseph; so I do not know how to believe that, and I hope that the Minister will put his foot down on it immediately.

Now, Sir, there are a few residents of the Coconut Grove District who told me that they had sent a petition to the Ministry asking the Minister to give them a road leading from Coconut Grove to St. Sylvans Village but up to now nothing has been done. I told them to give me a chance as the Estimates would soon have been coming up as I did not like to be worrying these Ministers; but yesterday one of the residents came to me and said I would not help them with the road. He said "Homie just got in the House of Assembly and they are giving roads up White Hill, down St. Andrew and all about". Here it is; the hon. member on my left, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew has not yet entered the House properly and he is getting roads, and I am an old man looking to go back whence I came and cannot get the consideration of the Coconut Grove Road. Government would have no difficulty in getting it. I am told that there is an old road which had been abandoned, but there is still a path from Coconut Grove through Parks Yard down to the Highway. The other night I was going to a meeting in St. Andrew and I wanted to pass through there for quickness, but when I got there a bar was up. If I were driving a lorry I would have passed, but the car's radiator and front grill would have been too soft. I am asking the Minister to take this seriously and take over that road from Parks Plantation; this is no time to be putting up bars across roads; we have passed that stage. I remember an occasion when the Magistrate at District F could not pass. One day he did not give a decision in favour of the big boss at Bissex Hill and when he left the Station to go home he found the road blocked. Government took over that road and I am asking them to take this road

now from Parks Plantation and allow the people from Coconut Grove to pass freely, because it is not fair to them for a man to have such a good road for his uses only. You can take it away from him and pay him for it. The Minister knows of this because I took him or he took me through one day a piece of road leading from Foster Hall Plantation to the Tent Bay area. I do not know if you know, Sir, but up to now the road has not been done. You and I and one of the engineers visited that site, and I am asking you, Sir, to see to it that this particular road leading from Foster Hall to the Tent Bay area is repaired.
6.55 p.m.

There is also a path down the railway track from the Tent Bay area leading you to the Social Centre. There is a particular spot there where the people cannot walk because it is in a bad state of disrepair and a man complained to me some time ago telling me that one of his children fell down there some nights ago. It is a pathway for these people; therefore, it should be either stopped or repaired. It is the only existing pathway from Bathsheba to the Social Centre and I hope that very soon the engineers would go down there and see what can be done so as to help the people in that area because I would not like to hear of any more mishaps down there. I feel that the people of Tent Bay should not have any more grouses relative to that same pathway because they were asking that it be repaired long years ago. Let us take the matter into our hands and do all we can to remedy all these grievances. Let us correct them in the early. Let us show the people of this country that we are here to help them and that we are quite willing to help them and that we are going to help them as soon as possible. Let me warn the hon. members of this House that long promises are not taking any more effect on the people. They have got to know that long promises do not mean anything; therefore, let us get to work and do the work for the people.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I, too, know of these roads in St. Andrew and in various places which are in a bad state of repair. I can say that there are plenty of roads to be repaired in St. Andrew. I have heard the hon. member on my right, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, say that since "Homie" has got into the House of Assembly plenty of roads in the Hillaby area have been done. I must say that some of these roads for which they have given me praise were repaired before I got into the House.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 7 o'clock, this sitting now stands suspended until 7.45 o'clock.

On re-assembling.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, I observe that there is no quorum and I am asking you to instruct the Clerk to ring the Bell.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1959-60

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee on the Appropriation Bill, Mr. BRYAN in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just before the suspension of the sitting, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew was addressing the Chair.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I must co-operate with the hon. senior member for St. Andrew as regards what she said consisting of the roads that have been repaired and those which have been constructed in St. Andrew. There are many roads which because of their bad state of disrepair the poor people are suffering from, especially those in the Whitehall area. The people in this area have to head canes twice in order that they may be able to get them to the nearest place where a lorry can take them to the factory. Corbins Village has one outlet. The bridge is broken down and the people are isolated. That village is in the same condition as St. Simon's is today. If the

road there which is broken is connected from Lakes to the old railway bridge, people would be able to get in and out. It is only about 50 rods which need to be done to connect the two roads and so as to connect Corbins Village with Belleplaine; and if that is done when tourists are on a visit in the area, they would be able to circle around to the sea from there. If we do not get these roads repaired, our island would be like a horseshoe, that is to say, the people from both sides of the island can come and look at Belleplaine but they cannot reach it. They can take a stone and throw it in Belleplaine but they cannot get over to it.

I am asking the Hon. Minister of Communications to call upon the Director of Highways and Transport and ask him to allow a bulldozer to excavate those spots and put them in a condition that poor people would be able to cross them. In the Whitehall area there is a peasant by the name of Mr. Bayley who reaped sixteen tons of canes and on account of the condition of the roads there, he paid \$90 for cutting and heading and then \$37.60 for transportation. When he finished paying the cost of reaping the sixteen tons, he only had \$12 to pay for manure and cultivation and the caring of the crop.
7.50 p.m.

If we were to get that road done, there are thousands of tons of canes which would be coming through that area and the people of the area would profit as a result. It is only a question of the Minister going down there and seeing things for himself. I am waiting to see if the Minister is going down there when we have concluded the consideration of the Estimates. If this work is done, this Labour Government would be praised throughout the history of Barbados in that it was this Government which got these roads repaired in order that the people could get out their produce. It would be a consolation to the people and an elevation of this Labour Government.

We must extend that Road to King Street and that would also be a consolation to the people. We cannot expect that this Government would be able to do everything in a year or two. I am not against what is being done, but I am asking the Government to do some of the most important work first. I am quite sure that if we got this work done we would be praised for it; so I am asking the Hon. Minister at a convenient season to go and look up these places and see the hundreds of tons of canes which people have to head out. We did have a road in the area but it was not properly excavated. I want to say that even when the Parochial Authorities used to repair the roads they used to sweep and clean the gutters. That does not take place nowadays. I hope that the Director will send out and excavate these roads.

Mr. SEARLES: Mr. Chairman, I have been listening to quite a lot of talk from the various hon. members. We have a Northern unit and that unit must operate as a whole. No individual parish can claim any special right; and if the Government has to undertake repairs they will have to go behind the Conservative Officer and deal with those roads in St. Andrew or St. Joseph in the first place. Although we may be in favour of what has been said, the Government cannot undertake the work in that way. It is of no use working on a scheme and then find that the road is all washed away. We want to have an over-all scheme; we cannot deal with any particular parish without the co-operation of the others. I am quite in sympathy with these people, but the matter must come from the right direction. I would leave the matter in the hands of the Government, feeling quite sure that the Government will do everything for the benefit of the community.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Peter referred to the section in Bank Hall Cross Road, St. Michael, right near where he lives and also to the Eagle Hall section. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has also referred to these dangerous intersections. I can inform the Committee that we intend this year to improve these intersections and crossings especially with regard to those same roads to which the hon. member has referred. We know that there is a very dangerous blind corner there; if you are coming from Eagle Hall you

have to come right out to the main road before you can see up and down the road. There is also the question of the Eagle Hall intersection which we have to improve as well as the Bank Hall, Hindsbury and Bridge Road intersections. It is also very important that these intersections should be improved because they are roads along which the lorries carrying sugar are travelling, and these lorries will be a little bigger than the average lorries which are being used today. We have plans to carry out these improvements in the very near future.

The hon. junior member for St. Lucy also enquired as to why it is that less mileage of roads are being repaired and surfaced and drained in his parish as compared with the parishes of St. Joseph and St. Andrew. I wonder if he finds any consolation in the fact that he has as much good mileage down there as he will find in St. Michael. I suppose that the parish of St. Lucy has had such good representation and has had the ears of the past Director of Highways and Transport to such an extent that that parish only needs two miles of road repaired as compared with the parish of St. Andrew. I should like to say that even the hon. junior member for St. Andrew will admit that the parish of St. Andrew is a proposition by itself. That parish poses a unique problem; those of us who know the roads down there will admit that St. Simons Road would take quite a lot of money to put it into good shape.
8.00 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I am only too aware of the needs of the people from that area and know how difficult it is for them to get out. They complain that they are cut off and cannot easily get in or out. I am very well aware of the difficulty, but we are tying this scheme with the Soil Conservation Scheme because it is very necessary that both Departments should work hand in hand as it is no use repairing a road today and having part of it slip the next day. We are carrying out new forms of drainage so that the water can be carried off more easily than in the past and not affect the roads, and I think both representatives of the parish know that it is a fact that the roads are standing up better now than in the past. The road at Murphy's Bottom has been subjected to a lot of pressure and yet it is holding as distinct from past years, and I think that is a very good achievement.

I think, Sir, that it is very necessary that we should carry out the Soil Conservation Scheme first and not go ahead and repair roads to find that we are wasting money, throwing money into the drain or into the sea or over the bridge. The hon. junior member for St. Andrew himself corrected the hon. senior member for St. Joseph who himself felt that by some magic he had got a road repaired since he has been in this House.

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, I did not say that the junior member for St. Andrew worked magic. I said that a man from Coconut Grove came to me and told me what he did and I repeated it here, and if you want me to call his name, it is Simeon Hinkson. I know the hon. junior member for St. Andrew cannot work any more miracles than he worked on Election Day. (Cheers).

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, that is a miracle which all of us would like to work and I wish the hon. member who has just sat down good luck. I am sorry that he did not give me a hint about the petition he referred to for consideration of the road from Coconut Grove to St. Sylvans Village, because there are so many petitions from all over the island that I would have to bring out a special file. As a rule hon. members do not raise these special petitions because we go into them very thoroughly and very speedily. I do not know the particular area to which he is referring, but he said he took me somewhere near there.

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, I said that he took me or I took him to Foster Hall area and not to the Coconut Grove area.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: However, Mr. Chairman, those are things that we go into very speedily; we do not allow the grass to grow all over our feet and the roads before

we inquire into them. This seems to be a big problem like many others we meet. The hon. member said it was a case of somebody blocking the roads; we know that estates block roads, but how can they block public roads?

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the particular road to which I referred is a private road, but it is the only road which is easy for the people of the Coconut Grove area, and sometimes they are allowed to use it while at other times it is blocked off. I am asking him to take that road from Parks Plantation and make it a public Highway. I referred to the private road at the other end of Bissex Hill which was blocked off because the Magistrate did not give a decision in favour of the owner and Government had to take over that road. I feel that they can do the same thing now with the Parks Road.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, all these things will be gone into and people will be facilitated. That is the policy of Government. We have administered quite amply during those years and it will be completed.

As regards the other point, the difficulties of cantoniers were raised by both members for St. Joseph. If hon. members would refer to the item which deals with cantoniers, they will see that an increase has been provided for them because we are bringing in these workers which the hon. member referred to and paying them as cantoniers. We could not do it last time because we took over these roads after the Estimates were passed, but we have provided now in the Estimates for them so that the difficulties to which they have referred will no longer occur. I will bear the other suggestions of which I have made notes, in mind and see that they are attended to.

The question that the sum of \$1,401,328 under Head XXXII - Highways and Transport - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXXIII - Civil Aviation - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$119,404 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$119,404 under Head XXXIII - Civil Aviation - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXXIV - Electrical Inspection - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$10,586 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$10,586 under Head XXXIV - Electrical Inspection - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXXV - Housing - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$92,605 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be long on this, but as regards Housing, I have been getting some complaints regularly from people who informed me that they have been threatened and in some cases their house was put up for sale. I know that happens when they do not pay their instalments, and it is disgraceful to know that there are some people who have had houses from the Housing Authority who do not make any instalments, and it is disgraceful to know that there are some people who have had houses from the Housing Authority who do not make any instalments at all. In some cases some make two instalments in five years. I know that the Authority cannot get along too well or fast if everybody did the same thing, but it is a very hard thing to put these people out of their homes or sell them out. I feel that in the same

way that you have compelled employers to stop out Income Tax, you should pass legislation to compel the employers to stop out a certain amount of the workers' wages to pay for their homes, because there are some people with a belief that if they pay their bills they would die, and nobody wants to die. In order to help them and in order not to put them out to the wolves or the cold, you should make arrangements whereby money could be taken from the workers' wages.

One man came to my garage and told me that his house was put up for sale and one of the Inspectors or whatever you call them told him that he was going to bring a man from town to buy it. I asked him why, but he did not know, though he said that the man would give him more for the house. I know what the man is speaking of is true, and I am asking the Minister to think of my suggestion so that we can pass legislation whereby employers can stop out a certain amount of their workers' wages to pay the Authority, and then you will not have to sell these houses out. I know it is the people's fault and you must get back the money, although some people have been telling these workers not to pay it back because it was their money. Responsible people in the community were telling them that and the people believed them; yet you still should not sell these houses out. You helped these people because they were knocking about, but it is only through ignorance that they have not been paying their instalments; so you have to find ways and means to collect your money.

With regard to the general workers' loan, I understand that the policy is to have a permanent structure or to repair. You might as well tell people that you are not going to help them because if a man has a house already he would not want one. How many people would be able to put up a permanent structure? They would have to own the land before a permanent structure could be erected, and that is tantamount to saying that you are not helping them at all because it is impossible for a man who really wants help. I hope the Minister will correct me if I am wrong and be able to tell me as soon as I sit down whether it is true, and the reason for it, that a permanent structure must be erected or the money must be used for repairs and not for building.

Mr. WALCOTT: On this question of Housing, I am going to be very straightforward and say this: the time has come when this low thinking and low standards in Barbados must cease. Too many people in Barbados in every walk of life accept these low standards as a divine dispensation. This feeling permeates the minds of people in this community because the leaders accept this idea that because we live in a community and it is a poor one, we have of necessity to accept low standards. Now this whole question of Housing arises out of low standards and you perpetuate them. The time has come that we must stop thinking of building an 18'x9' or an 18'x10' house for a man and scotching it on four stones and nearly every ten years he has to repair the house. You must make a bold attempt.

There are no Crown lands in this island and nobody has land as such; land does not really belong to people; you come to earth and find it and you have to realise it at some time or other when you pass legislation in the interest of the people where land is concerned in taking away their property.

8.10 p.m.

You will find that as regards housing, you have reached the stage where there should be a complete reorientation of your views on this question. There are grasslands in this island and a lot of unused land. You still find today a property standing on 10 acres of land and the greater part of that land is unused with nothing growing on it. As an example you can drive from the corner of Culloden Road to Chelston and you find all that area without any habitation. You must say in cases like that that you must commandeer that land in order to raise the standard of housing in Barbados.

In Antigua, the Government there undertook from the Antigua Syndicate to lease land on the basis of providing proper housing.

You have this experiment of building 18x9 houses.

The time has come when you should build proper flats and when you go to the country districts to extend your housing scheme, you should concentrate on building flats. Do not tell me that the man is going to live in an 18 X 9 house because he can get two rooms in it but he is not going to live in something which is better because it is a flat. You will never raise the standard of living if you continue to think in those terms. You cannot raise the standard when some of our people are living in the same way as they were 300 years ago, because you have not got out of them that way of living in an 18 X 9 with nothing else attached to it.

I would like the Hon. Minister of Trade and the whole Committee to understand this. The Minister said that I made a statement without foundation against a Civil Servant and he made the remark that the person was of unimpeachable character. He also said that a man came to me and tried to make believe that I was making a statement against some person. I am going to ask the Hon. Minister what progress has been made in the investigation that was supposed to be going on in respect of the man whose name I mentioned to him and against whom I have an affidavit signed by a Justice of the Peace with evidence forwarded to the proper authorities. When I made that statement in here, I told you that I made it on the basis of evidence which I had in a signed affidavit. The man himself who gave the evidence said that he saw the Minister. I want to say from the floor of this House that I do not come in here and make charges against people on the basis of making charges against somebody. I did not call anybody's name other than the person who gave me the evidence. The reason why I say this is because any man in public life who is afraid of someone because it happens to be someone he does not want to hurt, if something is drawn to his attention about that person and he thinks it is wrong and he fears to say that, then he is not fit to be in public life.

8.20 p.m.

I want to say this: I do not want to hold a seat in this House on the basis of being afraid of any single person or group of persons in expressing my view. If the members of the Government are afraid of saying so, I am not. No man can come to me tonight and say: "If you say this, this is the penalty which you have to pay." There is too much which I have been hearing not only from one section but from many sections, even with the Housing Board I have been hearing that there is too much whispering and that you get things going on which should not be going on. I do not like to make charges against people; I sent a man to the Housing Authority and when the man came back to me he said that some person made some rude remark about what members in this House say. He said it was remarked that we talk a lot of foolishness in here. When a person goes into a Government Department or a quasi-Government Department, some of these employees there seem to believe that they own the State and they want to humiliate persons who have come to them, making them believe that they have been sent to the wrong people. I am not prepared with this single instance to say anything about this particular officer today; I make the broad statement that if employees of any Department feel that they are rendering people favours when they go to procure services for which the Department has been set up, they are making a very serious mistake. Some Civil Servants believe that as long as you please a Minister or a member of the Government Party, then you can make rude remarks about hon. members. I am possessing my soul in patience; I will deal with such persons in process of time. When you send people to this Department for the service which they should get from the Department you will get these rude remarks made. I made this statement on the floor of the House and I understand that an investigation was carried out. If the statement I made was a true one as to the report which was made to me by one of my constituents, I say that the person concerned was not afraid. Moreover, I say that a man should not be victimised if he has the courage to speak the truth even if it hurts somebody.

I understand that the Housing Authority will put a housing project in St. Peter; I understand also that it will take place not in an area which was formerly suggested, in a low-lying area, but in the vicinity of Maynards, which is a very laudible thing. On the whole basis of housing, there are people who have to construct houses of wood and

as against that there is the question of purchasing land. I do not think that you should not give a man a house because he has not got the means of erecting it of stone. I would ask the Minister to encourage the Government that if they are putting as a condition of making a loan, that the house must be erected of stone, then they must help people to acquire the land. It is only a fool who would put up a permanent structure on land which has been rented. There are sufficient estate lands in Barbados and the Government should think about the proposal I have made.

It is an excellent idea of deducting wages in respect of houses and somebody has said that you have to save certain people from themselves. You should make every man who sends in an application to an organisation carry out that obligation. I am asking the Hon. Minister to devise a means of making repayments compulsory so that 25% of a man's earnings is deducted and saved for him. Voluntary methods are all right when it comes to eating food or going in for nice things that you cannot avoid; but voluntary methods, when it comes to paying out money, is something else. People are as honest as they are forced to be; all human beings have aspects of getting away with things, but there is the idea of being clever and that is only a matter of degree.

In business a man is clever not based on how much the outlay is, but based on the question of parity. A man who is selling you something does not come on the basis that it costs you something, but on the basis that he can make something out of it. To a man who is hoping to find money it does not matter who has lost the money. How often was it that we, as boys, prayed that we could find money? You will remember how many times you put your hand in saliva because it was shining and you thought that it was a six-cent piece. It is not so much the gambling spirit, but it is the idea that you think you should get more out of a thing than what you have put in it. It is the same thing in respect of housing; people forget to pay, but they do not forget to draw what is due to them. Apart from the very rich members of this House, members do not forget where the Treasury is. I know that there are people who keep bills in their pockets in order to show other people that they always have bills to pay. You have to devise ways and means of collecting money; if collecting money will require legislation being enacted which would necessitate a man making a pledge to repay the money, then legislation should be enacted. The only difficulty is that some of these people are not engaged by the week, but we must have some means of repayment; if they are not repaying on the voluntary basis, then we must have some other basis on which they will have to repay.

8.30 p.m.

I feel, Mr. Chairman, that in any democracy the leaders must not only talk about honesty, they must be prepared to make people practise honesty as a way of life; and if you find that the people are not repaying this money and do not give reasonable excuses for not paying the money, you have to legislate in a way to get it paid; if not the whole scheme is lost and you are not achieving what you set out to do. The hon. senior member for St. Joseph said that some people are responsible for the workers not paying this money but he was afraid to call the names. It was drawn to my attention that a rich planter told some of his workers not to repay the money, but that rich planter was associated with a group in an election campaign. He had done the damage already; so it now suits him to come with a group in an election campaign for other purposes. As one member said, when damage is done it takes a lot of years to rectify it.

Before the Labour Welfare Fund was started, it was stated that the money should be given to the people but this was suggested for political purposes. I have heard people today singing a different tune from what they sang formerly. Too many people, not only in here, but outside, have said that this money need not be repaid; but sometimes you do not know that you will be in a responsible position when these things are said. Maybe the hon. senior member for St. Joseph knows that statement, but some people believe that so long as the devil brings something the Lord has sent it. I know instances where people have been encouraged

not to repay this money; that is politics; no matter who is supporting you now, the damage has already been done.

I would support any measure which makes people understand their responsibility in anything. If a man goes to a store or business place and takes articles on credit, it is his responsibility and he should pay for them. This Housing Scheme is a good social scheme and a different outlook needs to be adopted, and that is why I say there is no point in quarrelling with those who borrow. In this Government service there are people who have stolen Government money and lots of people are making excuses for them because they do not want to offend some person because he is So-and-So's son or somebody's daughter. I would like to ask the Minister to give me a list of the losses that have taken place in the various Government Department over the last year so that we can know what is taking place in the various Government Departments and what steps are being taken to make them known. You have this hide-and-seek method.

8.40 p.m.

Some people because they come of a family of some respectability are allowed to go scotch free for taking away Government's money and others you put in gaol. If I have a son who is dishonest, he will pay the price of going to gaol. The price which the people are paying is the loss of their money and you find some people going as far as saying plenty words for them as a means of saving them. I say when you get these misfits in office, let them look for the hon. junior member for St. Lucy to save them from the penalties which the community puts on such offences. Let them fight it out in the Law Courts. Unfortunately, you get people in the community who do not like you to carry these things to Court. Even with a case of murder, you get some people saying: "Why should you find the prisoner guilty? You are killing a man for one who is dead already." In cases of people charged for carrying away money from the Government, you hear people saying: "Look how many have carried away money from Government before! He has not killed anybody." All these things are perpetuated because people are afraid to bring offenders to justice.

I would like the Hon. Minister to understand that he has a grave responsibility where public works are carried out and I mean wherever work is carried out from the top to the bottom. You will be shocked to know in what quarters a conspiracy to defraud is made. When the Hon. Minister talks of the unimpeachability, I do not want to be too drastic; but I can tell him that I have seen some shocks in my life when it comes to seeing what certain people in high places have done. If anybody had suggested to me that the situation had taken place in those quarters, I would say "no". That is why I say in the Housing Department you must at all times keep a direct look on these things. Sometimes it is not done with the intention of defrauding anybody. Sometimes it is a case of a man's wife going to have a baby and he says to himself "I am going to beg the Lord for five minutes and take this piece of change to do something I want to do urgently and at the end of the month I will put it back." What do you find? At the end of the month he cannot put it back.

Let the Heads of Departments and all the people in them know that you are expecting the maximum honesty. This sort of dishonest behaviour is becoming symptomatic of this community. You hear people portraying life in its lowest concepts. And that is becoming part and parcel of the community. You hear people who go and build a house for somebody and say that they got another house for themselves out of it, and you hear other people saying that that is nothing wrong so long as you get by. That is only part and parcel of the trade. Those are things which when we hear of them we should not be afraid to speak of those things and to let the public know who has done those things. The more you speak of them, the more people are conscious that you are trying to set things right. Sir, I support any measure which will make the people who borrow money from this Housing Board repay their loans and if they are dishonest, let them pay the penalty for their dishonesty.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, of course, I have spoken at some time before along the general lines which

the last hon. member who spoke has spoken and I do not intend to repeat that now, but there are two points I would like to clear up in this Housing situation and one is that investigations have shown me, just like the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, that there is the general feeling of the public and even members of the House that there should be a liberalisation of the conditions under which general workers are loaned money for building or repairing their houses. In other words, therefore, if you can lend workers money to build or repair their houses under the same conditions as those under which you loan sugar workers, there would be general agreement with that policy.

The next thing with which I am concerned is this: I would like to know whether the Housing Officers Public Loan Act which we passed last year has been put into operation yet. I have not been able to check within the last few weeks but the last time I checked I found out that Public Officers still were waiting to receive their loans and that there were still a few on the waiting list who had not received any consideration yet. If there is a technical hitch I feel hon. members of this House would be willing, if necessary, to pass an amendment or what not to the Act. If there is no technicality, I wonder when the money will become available for those public Officers.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, there are one or two questions which have been asked to which I should reply. The hon. senior member for St. Joseph said in his speech that he feels the Housing Authority is acting too severely on those people who are very much in arrears. The position is this. The Housing Authority does not take any drastic action in this respect until these people are very much in arrears and I can tell hon. members that the position is becoming very serious; and as the hon. senior member for St. Peter has said something should be done in the matter. As a matter of fact, we may have to take more drastic steps in order to correct the situation because the fund from which this money is loaned is a revolving fund; and if people are not made to pay what they owe, why then, they injure another lot of people who are depending on this fund to repair their houses. I hope the hon. senior member for St. Joseph would erase from his mind that the people are harmed by the Housing Authority.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I did not say that the Housing Authority was acting too harshly on these people. I said that some people over a period of five or six years may have only paid one or two instalments and it was not good enough. They must pay up their bills as promptly as they can, but the Government should devise ways and means to help them to pay promptly by enacting legislation compelling their employers to stop the money out of their wages for the Housing Authority. I am in agreement with what the Housing Authority is doing because were it not for that, the fund could not revolve.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I do not know if the hon. member has revised his statement but he did say at one time in his speech that you are acting too hard on these people because of their ignorance. Of course, it is hard on them, but it is also hard on their neighbours when the other sugar workers who want money to repair their houses come to the Housing Authority and cannot get it because those who were loaned money would not pay their debts.

It is over \$1 million loaned out to these people who are badly in arrears. The Housing Authority has had to take action, not because they want to, but because it is extremely necessary that they do so. I hope when these people come to the hon. senior member for St. Joseph with their complaints that he will do his duty as a representative of the people and impress upon them that they should pay when they can do so and they should not listen to misleading statements by people who through self-interest give them bad advice. I will not say anything more on that because I think the hon. member was very straight to the point.

I told the House at the time when the hon. senior member for St. Peter raised the question about allegations

against an officer that I would have the matter investigated and it was investigated; but, Sir, the Officer concerned denied that there was any truth in the charge whatsoever in the presence of the employee who made the statement to the hon. member. The employee had his part of the story and the Officer has his part and there was no witness; so it was one man's word against the other's word. In that case, what can you do? There was nothing we could do in a case of that sort. If I have any specific cases put before me, of course, as a member of the Government and a responsible Minister I must take a good note of it and some action in the matter - I would say all of us - but you cannot believe everything you read in some newspapers. The hon. senior member for St. Peter vaguely referred to allegations about some Departments. I have seen myself some astounding things in a newspaper. In one case I have seen an article about cement missing and some racket going on in a certain Department and the article was written in the newspaper which name is opposite to untruth. It turned out that the case was reported to the Police for investigation about two years ago and if you read that newspaper you would have believed that it had happened only last week.

We do take note of these things and as a matter of fact, we are bound to take note of them. There are some scandalous newspapers in this country which would do anything and it seems to me as if there is a deliberate attempt aimed at some of these Departments to scandalise them. The hon. member has said that you are trying to protect somebody for some reason. I would like him to let me know whom we are trying to protect because I do not know of our trying to protect anybody. When we know of these things or they have been drawn to our attention, we draw them to the notice of the Administration for them to investigate the matter and see what is in the story. We tell them to investigate the matter to the hilt and take whatever action is necessary. I know of no attempt of our trying to protect any Department or officer for that matter.

Mr. WALCOTT: The Hon. Minister must bear in mind that nothing I said was an allegation against a Minister protecting anybody. I said that there is a tendency in many Departments within the Public Service that if something happens to somebody in that Department you are not willing so much to protect the officer as to protect the officer's family. I said that as long as some person in your service has come from a respectable family there is the feeling that you must not bring disgrace to that family, no matter if the person in your employ is a disgrace.

8.50 p.m.
I thank the hon. member for the information which he has given, but when I raised the point, I was most careful about it and I refused to call any officer's name. I felt that the matter was brought to my attention, not as any secret, but in an open manner and I asked the man concerned whether he was prepared to repeat what he had said in the presence of other persons. I wanted to fortify myself so that it would not be a question of the Minister's word against mine; it was the man's word corroborated by three other persons. The man could not say otherwise, but when I raised the matter here, the Minister was quick to jump up and say that I had no right to make any allegations against people of an unimpeachable character. As a member of this House, I have a right to draw anything to the attention of any Minister which is against the public weal; if it is drawn to my attention that last night at Seawell somebody took away 100 bags of cement and somebody asked about that, and the person is willing to repeat it and I bring the matter up in this House, you do not ask me to undertake the rôle of a police detective. Before I raise the matter here, must I carry out an investigation? That is not my function. Before the Minister of Social Services was a member of the Government, I remember that on one occasion the hon. member asked: "What do you want me to do?" You do not want to hurt anybody, but you have your duty to perform.

There is this idea that a member of this House has no right to say anything that he cannot prove, but I do not have to prove anything because I am not in a position to carry out any investigation. If somebody tells me that there is some irregularity going on, I can bring it to the notice of the Minister. In so far as reading the newspaper

is concerned, I used to read the *Beacon*; but after the *Beacon* started to tackle me I did not read it although it is owned by the Barbados Workers' Union. I do not read the weekly newspapers; I read the *Advocate*. In fact, I seem to have lost the taste of reading local newspapers, but I have to keep in touch with things. I do not go in for this type of thing - hiding behind newsprint and writing something - because it does not mean anything; if I say something in here I want it to be known that it is Frank Walcott who has said it. I do not go in for any news mongering or slandering of people. I would not say that a public officer stole money or that he did this or that unless I have enough evidence or enough proof to say so. I do not think I am lying in saying that there has been a general comment at one stage of the Housing Board:- the Minister of Trade made a remark about a former manager in relation to something. If I feel that there is anything which is not to the good of the public weal, I will mention it and it is for the Minister to go into it; but do not let him tell me that I have no right to say something which might lead to an investigation taking place. If I cannot do that, then my being in here does not serve any useful purpose. What I mentioned was investigated and the person who said it was prepared to say that he did say it to me.

The question that the sum of \$92,605 under Head XXXV - Housing - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXXVI - Transport Services - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$50,000 under Head XXXVI - Transport Services - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, the Note to this Item "Deficiency on operation of Transport Services" makes interesting reading. It says this:- "It is estimated that the operation deficiency of the Transport Board will be \$50,000. I crave some information as to how that estimate was arrived at. I presume that this estimate was made by the Ministry but how it has been arrived at I cannot presume. An estimate is an estimate, but unless there has been a "guessimate" there must be some means by which this estimate was arrived at. They are not sure that there is no deficiency; otherwise this estimate would not have been made. I am wondering if the Hon. Minister would take the members of this Committee into his confidence and let us know how this estimate was arrived at. I see that the Deputy Clerk is thinking aloud and briefing someone to say that this is a token vote. We have gone a big way with this Transport Board; in short, having just passed half million dollars for this Board we proceed to make provision for an operational deficiency of \$50,000.

9.00 p.m.

I suppose that is the maximum amount which it is felt we could swallow, but in arriving at this figure it would be good for the representatives of the taxpayers to know the basis on which it is computed. Perhaps I should have given earlier notice of the information I am seeking, but I would like to know the number of employees at this Board in the office. I might as well tell the Minister that it is said openly - how true I do not know - that if one happens to be a friend of his or a cousin of his or a political supporter of his, there is no difficulty at all in dropping in at his office, a telephone call goes through and in a quick time one is appointed at the Board. I am telling the Minister that and he is in a position to get up now and deny it, and then later on you may hear, if not in this debate, if so and so is not from St. Thomas or from Mapp Hill - the emphasis being on the first word rather than on the second, and all the rest of it. I heard only this week, Mr. Chairman, that at one stage there were fourteen watchmen at this Transport Board and someone who applied was accepted to make the number fifteen; and when inquiries were made about the need for another watchman, a message came through that they were told to take on this fifteenth watchman and that it was not their business or money, it was the taxpayers' money and this was a very important man, a key man. I

would like to know if the Minister can contradict that allegation that at one stage - whether or not it now exists - there were fifteen watchmen employed by this Board.

Mr. Chairman, there is a point to which I must revert, having made it in my speech on the second reading. A decision must be made in connection with the nationalisation of the entire passenger transport system in this island. I gathered that certain recommendations have been made by the new General Manager and he, in the opinion of the Minister, is a superhuman. If that gentleman were to die, I gather that would be the end of the Transport Board and perhaps of the Minister himself, because his faith in him is so great and his praise of him is so exceptionally superlative - good as the man may be and I am not querying his efficiency - and the Minister would be absolutely lost and completely at sea even in St. Thomas if anything were to happen to the present General Manager. But I heard, Mr. Chairman, that only a short while ago a certain Local Government candidate was 'assuring' that the present Government in power was taking all steps to ensure in a short space of time that sea-water would be pumped to St. Thomas and St. George; that was simply low talk.

Mr. Chairman, we must face the fact that it is ridiculous; irrespective of what may be the Report of the first Manager on this point or whether he has really considered it, he may be dealing with the material he has, the routes he has to supervise and the buses which are now under his control handled by the Transport Board; but the nationalisation of the entire system must merit the immediate consideration and a prompt decision by Government before the next financial year. If you do not have all the buses run by the same authority and thereby be able to buy your parts and in fact your units so much more cheaply - because you would be buying them in so much larger numbers - obviously you can never hope to make the system pay. You have to consider bringing all the buses into line under the Transport Board and let them all constitute a nationalised public passenger transport system of this island, and then decide how many people you really need in the office, how many clerks are really necessary, not from the standpoint of political patronage, but from the standpoint of having a job to do - there being work for the person to do and not a question in the office of finding work or a job for someone who has been unsuccessful hitherto. You have to decide, therefore, the minimum number of clerks needed for the office, the minimum amount of cashiers, the minimum number of watchmen and every body else.

I may appear to be treading on a matter which is so predominantly within the scope of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, and that is the question of employment of the drivers and conductors of this Board. I remember when I was on the original Transport Board, the former Labour Commissioner, Mr. Guy Perrin, supported the employment on a day to day basis of transport workers which he said was the correct way and the recognised method of employing drivers and conductors. I have never been converted to the idea itself because it did not seem to me to be fair; but I submit that this Board should give serious and sympathetic consideration to the payment of these workers of a weekly wage, to be paid for seven days' work and be required to work six days and given one day off; and when there is a bank holiday, that is also a day to which they are entitled, even if they cannot have the particular day off, they are entitled to that as an extra day. The work of a driver is of tremendous importance; he has not only entrusted to him the lives of the number of people which these large buses can accommodate - and you will recall the occasion of that accident with a school bus at Half Moon Fort with children being taken to Coleridge-Parry and to Alexandra - there were more than 100 - but he is responsible for the lives of the greater number of people on the roads. Adequate time off should be afforded to the Transport workers and particularly to the bus drivers because with any omnibus which traverses the streets of this island, we may be affected by a bad, sleepy and inefficient driver who is employed by the Transport Board or for that matter by any other bus company.

9.10 p.m.

As a matter of fact, with these extremely large units, they call for the highest standard of care: and I am pleasantly

surprised that up to now there is no serious accident so far as I have heard of or of any lives lost or of any severe personal injury caused to persons on these buses. They do not go particularly slowly, just the same. They are either at a stand-still waiting to put down or take up some passengers or they are trying to make the scheduled time. That is all the more necessary why you should ensure that the drivers in particular get adequate time off, and not time off without being paid for the day. So, Sir, I recommend to the Transport Board that in order to get the highest standard in efficiency and care of the busses, the employees on the buses be paid for seven days and that when they are ill, adequate consideration be given to them on the production of a medical certificate of such illness as other regular workers. I am not referring to the employee or the casual man who gets one day's work per week; I am referring to the regular employee. If a man works six days a week and you only pay him for six days, that is not good enough. If a man is sick you should have such a rule that you will provide payment to him when he is sick on the production of a medical certificate and then you would get the best out of these men in keeping these buses up to standard in the interest of the taxpayers.

I will also say that if the opinion of the General Manager is not regarded as the best, then you should get the opinion of a Commission which should include a first class accountant. You should have a Commissioner to decide in respect of staff what reorganisation is necessary and will be in the best interest to smooth over your present troubles. It is not necessarily that the largest number of persons would be required to constitute the service and I gather that it is the other people whom you have employed inside who constitute the surplus. I know, as has been expressed this week, that when there are losses, there always seems to be the suggestion to put the blame on the door of conductors. I will say to those people that the conductors may be among the most innocent of them; and in considering the finances of this loan if I were making a check I would first direct my enquiry and activities to the inside staff. From what I have heard of the inside staff, it makes one wonder if all is right therein and if all the monies paid in by the Conductors in the final analysis reach the iron safe or the Transport Board Bank account. I am not at all happy about what is going on with the taxpayers' money which the conductors are paying in, and between that stage and when it reaches the accounts of the Transport Board or whichever bank its receipts are located.

So, Sir, as I have said earlier this week, let the Government come to a decision about this matter and the decision should be one way or another. They have a variety of choices to make and one of the choices is to carry on as it is with this dual ownership, that is to say, some of the buses run by the Public Board while others are run by different individual private concessionaires. Another decision which is the one I have advocated and which is the sensible and practical one is that the Government or the Transport Board run the entire passenger and transport system of this Island, irrespective of what private individual may be your best friend or not. It does not matter. You or I are only interested in the profits and in the taxpayers' money; and the decision which I want to be taken - and it should be taken rather than the other decision - is the one which I have suggested. One hon. member suggested that we should give back all of the services to the individual concessionaires, but I say that would be the most retrograde step. It would be a resourceless Labour Government which after having declared its stand on nationalisation comes to find out that nationalisation is a failure. You will find that as soon as you do what I have just said, that is taking over all the transport services in this Island and then by reconstitution of the staff, that is to say, getting rid of duplication in office - in other words, there may be too many people doing the same job - and by getting rid of the inferior, and by bulk purchase of spare parts which you will get at a much better rate than what you pay for them in the ordinary course of business, that you will cover all your expenses and still have something in the till. Of course, I will not expect it to pay in the sense of an ordinarily run business. It does not matter even if you do not make a big profit; but you will eventually be able to cover your expenses and show no more losses; and you can only do that if all the buses are

run by the Transport Board and the office staff is reorganised and you do bulk purchasing of your units and your spare parts and so on.

Sir, with those few words, I am looking forward to hearing as soon as possible the Government's decision in respect of Transport, either that you intend to carry on in the same way as you are carrying on now or that you are going to make a change and then we would be able to see where the Government is. As I have said, they have received a Report from the General Manager and the matter is now in the melting pot. It is time that a decision is made.

Mrs. BOURNE: It is a fact that this Transport service is an expensive service and it has been subjected to a great deal of criticism. Anyhow, Sir, I am of the opinion that the transport service can be made to pay its way because if private enterprise can run their part of the service and make it pay and it is profitable to them, then there is something definitely wrong if the Government Transport Service cannot pay its way.

9.20 p.m.

Perhaps there are several reasons for estimating this deficit which is estimated at \$50,000. I am wondering if it is the result of a top-heavy administration. What I feel is that the Government has to ask itself these questions; are we going to continue to pay the amount of money which is now paid to administer just the few buses which are now being run by the Board, or is the Government going to nationalise the whole transport service of the island? As I see it, Sir, I feel that the maintenance expenses will rise if the Government decides to take over the whole transport service.

As regards the administration, I feel that it will cost very little, if anything, more. The whole matter is that something is wrong, but the question is to find where the wrong is. Some of the blame has been levelled at the conductors who are responsible for collecting the money. I am wondering if the Government is contemplating the system or method which should be used whereby the money will not pass through the hands of the conductors - I refer to the turnstile system or something like that. I am wondering if it would not be the responsibility of one person to see after the money so that it would not have to pass through the hands of so many persons.

Another question which I would raise is how many types of buses the Government intend to use. They should not use different types of buses, so that in ordering the parts they would not have to order different sets of parts in order to suit different types of buses. If the Government intends to retain the buses, then I think the Government should have direct control of them. As to the bus service, the one which we now have in St. Andrew is very inadequate although it is true to say that the transport system, since the Government has taken it over, has improved. The service which we now have in St. Andrew certainly needs to be improved; on almost every occasion on which I have been travelling on the bus - my colleague also travels on it and he can bear me out in what I say - it is overloaded, not only carrying passengers in the seats, but some on people's legs and one or two more standing. That is not good enough and then there is the question of several passengers being left on the road. I do not know if some of the drivers do work in the crop season or what, but it is not good enough for the age in which we live today to have the present state of affairs existing. When the bus reaches Lakes corner, the passengers have to walk for two miles or more with heavy luggage and sometimes it is raining. What is needed is an extension of the bus service around that area. I have been receiving several complaints from some of my constituents who travel on the bus almost daily as regards the conduct and behaviour which takes place on the buses, and that when they try to find out anything sometimes the behaviour of the conductors is far from what it should be. Not only that, but let us take the bus service from Shorey's Village to Bridgetown; the buses are practically run from Bridgetown to Sturges up to about one or two o'clock in the day; the bus coming from Shorey's Village has enough people in that area from St. Andrew to have it already overloaded, and when it gets to Sturges they still crowd in more people and

they are mostly passengers with their heavy luggage. The Hon. Minister who is in charge of this portfolio is also a representative of the parish of St. Thomas and I am sure that this matter has been drawn to his attention. I would like to see that we have a better and more adequate bus service in St. Andrew.

Let me tell you an experience which I had in coming from Hillaby to Bridgetown so as to attend a meeting here in the afternoon. I want to say that the buses are run whenever the people like to run them. There was no 12 o'clock bus that day; apparently the conductor and the driver got into some accident and they were supposed to go to the Police Station to give statements and they turned the bus completely off the route. They went into the Police Station and at ten minutes to two the bus was still there. The Police Sergeant asked: "Who is this in the bus, Mrs. Bourne?" The driver replied, "I did not know that you were in the bus." I should like to say that it is not a question of a bus service for me; it is a question of public transportation. That is not good enough. I hope that the Hon. Minister will look into the matter and see that we have a better bus service and if the Police authorities would keep watch on these overloaded buses then the concessionaire will know that she needs to put more buses on the road.

Mr. CORBIN: With regard to the Transport Board I think it would be a good idea if, as I said before, the Government were to give back the buses to the private concessionaires. I would go on to say that it would profit the Government to give back the buses to the concessionaires and to subsidise them to the tune of \$50,000 a year. That would go towards the upkeep of the buses and it would be better to do that than to continue having to pay out this great amount of money.

9.30 p.m.

If we go on like this, this whole island will run into Chancery. As I have said before, the rain is falling and the casks are catching water, but they have holes and the water is running out.

With respect to the buses in St. Andrew, if the bus owners are not in a position to purchase more buses to help the community, Government should arrange to lend them money to buy more buses to complete their job. I know that at certain times several people have to wait here, there and everywhere for buses. Wherever I turn I see the Transport Board buses crowded and yet they cannot make a profit for the Government. The Government has taken over certain buses and they have to spend a lot of money, but the poor concessionaires have no one to cry to; they have either to run at a loss or stop, and I am asking Government to look into the matter more carefully. As I said last week, it would profit Government better to give the buses back to private concessionaires and control the prices and the service of the buses; that is the only possible way that you will get this Transport Board running properly. If they are running part of the service now and it costs so much money, what do you think it would cost if they had the entire service?

I am therefore asking the Minister to look into the matter and try to stop the increased expenditure every year, because if you are spending \$50,000 and it goes on increasing, it will soon be \$1 million. We have to find the adjustment screw which is slack, and if we do not tighten it the whole island will run into Chancery; therefore I am asking the Minister to do his best to eradicate the evil that is existing.

The question that the sum of \$50,000 under Head XXXVI - Transport Services - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXXVII - Peasants Loan Bank - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$116,744 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$116,744 under Head XXXVII - Peasants Loan Bank - stand part of the

Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXXVIII - Old Age Pensions - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$845,920 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Item 6, when thinking in terms of the Transport Board, we have this comparatively small amount which we are asked to vote for old age pensions. It is time that we had an announcement from Government, and by that I have in mind that such an announcement may be forthcoming in the middle of 1961, but I am suggesting that an announcement is due now as to the policy of Government in respect of old age pensions - reducing the age and increasing the amount. I know there are others who agree that there should be a reduction in age whereby more people would be entitled to benefit from the change; if you leave the age as it is and do not increase the amount, the same number of people will be getting the advantage, and I think it is high time that Government should settle down to making a decision on this matter as to whether they will reduce the age or increase the amount or do both. Certainly 65 is the very minimum age, but the ideal thing would be 60 years for women and 62 years for men; but certainly Government should let us know whether or not they are proposing any thing along the lines of bringing it to 65 years.

The question that the sum of \$845,920 under Head XXXVIII - Old Age Pensions - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XXXIX - Statistical Service - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$14,159 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$14,159 under Head XXXIX - Statistical Service - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head XL - Waterworks - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$872,460 be voted under this Head.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, under Items 23 and 34, I should once again remind the hon. member of the point which I have so often to make here when repairs to mains are being effected, that it should be an instruction, to put it in Parliamentary language, to the persons who go out to repair and look after the mains that before they start the repairs they should run through the districts with a siren or some other means of letting people know they are about to lock off the mains for repairs, and to come quickly and get water because they are going to lock off in ten minutes' time. Sometimes the mains are locked off for a matter of twelve or fifteen hours and people find themselves without water to cook or wash and are put in that most unfortunate and disagreeable situation. It would be so simple when there is any trouble in the mains in any district for the vans to go through the districts with a loudspeaker - they can borrow the loudspeaker of the Minister for Water - and let the people know that fifteen minutes from then the water would be locked off and they should come quickly and fill their buckets, and I am sure they would all run out and do so.

9.40 p.m.

There is another thing as regards this matter. As soon as you are notified of some danger to a main, you should get your lorry working. It seems as if an appreciable time

elapses between the locking off of the main for the effecting of the repairs and the arrival of the lorry on the spot. I have personal knowledge of that. When a main was being repaired the other day - I think it was in Fitts Village - there was no notification in the district that the water would be locked off and we were all caught unawares. To overcome some of the difficulty, we called on the senior employee to try and get the lorry to bring some water for us and it was only after a period of time that he was able to get the lorry on the spot, but that happened after the main was locked off. As a matter of fact, I had to get in touch with the Manager himself and, as you know, since we had that showdown about him, he has never failed to treat people like us with the same courtesy as he would treat the other person looking like himself. Since that time, he has never failed to be courteous to me and to other people looking like me. When I got in touch with him, I must say that he did all he could to get in touch with one of his senior men to see to it that the lorry arrived on the spot and that it was available for buckets to be filled by the people.

This thing should receive the urgent attention of the Ministry. This is a thing which is very easy to be remedied; it only needs a little forethought and a little arrangement. There should be some person continuously on during the 24 hours of the day to look after this so that as soon as there is a breakdown in the water supply, the water lorry will leave immediately. You should not have to look for a lorry driver. I do not mean anything like what you get in the Casualty of the General Hospital; I mean a fool-proof service - and a lorry driver is the type of person who, as long as you arrange with him, he will be there because he knows he will be fired if he is not there. With a hospital doctor that is a different sort of thing because some of them feel that they can do as they like. Sir, we need not have to refer to this so often as I have referred to it because this is so easy to remedy.

The question that the sum of \$872,460 under Head XL - Waterworks - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XLI - SOCIAL WELFARE

Head XLI - Social Welfare - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$14,135 be voted under Head XLI.

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

The question that the sum of \$14,135 under Head XLI - Social Welfare - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XLII - CONTROLS, SUBSIDIES, ETC.

Head XLII - Controls, Subsidies, etc., - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$301,432 be voted under Head XLII.

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

The question that the sum of \$301,432 under Head XLII - Controls, Subsidies, etc., - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD XLIII - CONTRIBUTION FROM REVENUE

Head XLIII - Contribution from Revenue - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$500,000 be voted under Head XLIII.

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

The question that the sum of \$500,000 under Head XLIII - Contribution from Revenue - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

1. ANNEXED ESTIMATES - POST OFFICE

1. Annexed Estimates - Post Office - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$320,996 be voted under Annexed Estimates - Post Office.

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

The question that the sum of \$320,996 under Annexed Estimates - Post Office - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

PART II - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Part II - Capital Expenditure - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, before we begin to deal with the Heads separately, I just want to say that on pages 132 to 135 of the Draft Estimates are to be found the total amounts of money needed for capital development. Some of these monies are to be met from Loan Funds and are included in a Resolution for \$8,460,987 which will be voted separately in Committee of Supply and which appears as Order No. 2 on today's Order Paper. Details of the Resolution are set out on page 130 of the Draft Estimates and appear under the heading "Expenditure to be met from Loan Funds in 1959-60." The balance of the monies needed have to be included in the Appropriation Bill and are to be voted now.

To take the Heads separately:-

(i) Deep Water Harbour. (Page 132) - The whole amount \$6,800,000 is to be met from Loan Funds (see p.130) and so no monies need be voted now.

(ii) Housing. (Page 132) - The whole amount \$417,396 is to be met from Loan Funds and so no monies need be voted in the Appropriation Bill.

(iii) Development Board (Page 132) - Of the whole amount \$750,000, the sum of \$500,000 is to be met from Loan Funds and is included in the Resolution, and so \$250,000 has to be voted.

(iv) Water Supplies (Page 132) - Of the whole amount of \$350,000, \$308,755 is to be met from Loan Funds and is included in the Resolution (see p. 130), and so \$41,245 has to be voted.

(v) Medical Services. (page 132) - No provision is set out in the Resolution and so the whole amount of \$892,750 has to be included in the Appropriation Bill

(vi) Education (page 133) - Of the whole amount of \$560,991, \$15,036 is to be met from Loan Funds and is included in the Resolution (see p.130) and so \$545,955 has to be included in the Appropriation Bill.

(vii) Agriculture. (page 134) - The whole amount has to be included in the Appropriation Bill.

(viii) Communications (page 134) - Of the whole amount of \$1,005,216, \$10,800 is to come from Loan Funds and is included in the Resolution for \$8,460,987 (see p.130) and so the balance of \$994,416 has to be included in the Appropriation Bill.

(ix) Miscellaneous. (page 135) - The whole amount of \$279,598 has to be voted.

(x) Road Transport. - The whole amount is to come from Loan Funds and is included in the Resolution and so no monies have to be included in the Appropriation Bill. 9.50 p.m.

I have just made a resume so that hon. members would be able to follow what is being done taking each Head separately.

I beg to move that the sum of \$250,000 under Head iii - Development Board - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not understand what is being done. I believe that whereas these things are lumped together, they will come back to us for correction, because Capital Expenditure is set out on page 132 of the Estimates in the form which shows the amount to be revoted and the new provision, and the total estimated expenditure for 1959-60 is set out in the column with the notes next to the items. Professor Beasley has said that you should separate the amount of money which you will pass in the Estimates each year under Current Expenditure and Capital Expenditure; the separation would be what is Capital Expenditure and what is Current Expenditure, but you will be voting this money. Capital Expenditure has always been set out in Part II of the Estimates so that hon. members will see what is to be revoted. There seems to be a different way in dealing with these Estimates each year; we have voted amounts for the Deep Water Harbour and for Housing as distinct from votes which we have already passed in the Current Estimates.

I want to take this opportunity to make a statement as to what the Minister of Trade is alleged to have said when I was away from this House. He made remarks to the effect that I said that the Barbados Workers' Union should be represented on this Board. I repeat that, because the Development Board is something to which the Trade Union can make a contribution because you are dealing with the development of this country in many phases; and the sooner the Union participates in these things, the better it will be for the community. The hon. member said that I am trying to drive a wedge between the Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers' Union. I want to say that my reason for asking for representation on the Development Board is because I think that a member of the Trade Union has a right to be on that Board. It is not a question of saying that a representative of the Trade Union is on the Housing Board; the Sugar Industry has a representative on the Rehabilitation Board. The Barbados Workers' Union is represented on the Irrigation Board and I will say that there is no Board on which the Workers' Union is represented and nobody else. Is it that because we are represented on other Boards, it means that we are represented on the Development Board? I want to make the Minister understand that he must make his contribution to his Ministry just as I make my contribution to the Union.

There is no question of my trying to drive a wedge between the Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers' Union; I am a Parliamentarian and I express my views as I see them. If the hon. member feels that the Union should not be represented on the Development Board, well, let him say so; but do not let him talk about my driving a wedge between the Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers' Union. Do you think that I would accept an inferior position to the effect that the Trade Union should not be represented on the Development Board but that other interests should be represented on that Board? Hon. Mr. Lucie-Smith is a member of the Development Board and he is a member of the Other Place. I am not asking for anything for myself; I only want to be elected here and I have the will of the people. Do you think that Mr. Maurice Cave has a greater right on the Board than a representative of the Trade Union? If we did not have workers in the majority to elect members to this Chamber, the hon. member would not have had the opportunity to make that statement about me whom the workers have also elected; but he seems to think that he has been elected in here and I have rolled in here like a stone. What wedge am I driving? Is it that I am building a stronger Union? Why does the hon. member not say that the Trade Union has no right to be represented on the Development Board? He should do that; but do not go down the lane and say that I am trying to drive a wedge between the Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers' Union. I want to say that on anything which embraces the interest of the community the Trade Union should be represented. When the hon. member made that statement in my absence he should be quite clear of what he is saying; the reputation which I have for my Trade Union activities cannot be besmirched by anything which the hon. member says about my driving a wedge between the Barbados Labour Party and the Barbados Workers' Union.

10.00 p.m.

When the member made that statement in my absence about driving a wedge, he must have been quite clear of what it was. When you make a political statement on a platform where people cannot reply, people clap and cheer you, and you believe that you are right, but not so in Parliament.

How should the Development Board be constituted? Can anybody believe that a Labour Government would be in power and a Trade Unionist would have to be pleading with that Government to have a representative of the Trade Union Movement on that Board? One would believe that you are asking a Conservative Government to put a Labour Party member on a Board. If the hon. member does not read, I do. Lord Citrine is Chairman of the Electricity Board of Great Britain; he was the General Secretary of the T.U.C. of Great Britain and was taken from there and made Chairman of that Board. It is not a question that you do not have other business people on the Board, but you are accepting what the Conservatives accepted in that Trade Unionists are not fit to be on such Boards. You have on the Board Mr. Money from the Bank, Mr. Lucie-Smith, Mr. Cave and others who are big businessmen, but small Trade Unionists without money seem not to be capable of sitting on these Boards because you are taking money to lend to Easry House and various other places. They have a right to be on the Board because you are lending money with a view to stimulating employment. This is not wishful thinking; it is something which is accepted and acknowledged in all progressive countries. The Labour Party introduced this in Great Britain. There is not a single Board in the United Kingdom of this character which does not have a T.U.C. representative. Far from that, members of the Trade Union sit on Royal Commissions other than on Trade Union matters. Mr. Woodcock who is the Assistant Trade Union Secretary was on the British Guiana Commission along with Sir Donald Jackson. Do you want me to bring more instances than this?

As I said, one of the other things is to appoint Trade Unionists to the Other Place, because this idea that you do not have anybody in the Movement to sit on the Executive is a bunch of trash. That must be broken down, and I am positive in my mind that you should say whether it is an oversight and not talk about driving a wedge between the Labour Party and the Union. There is no man in this island who has done more to promote the Trade Union Movement which has made the Labour Party what it is than I have. Had it fallen down you would have been in a position to laugh at it, but instead we have the highest membership and are putting down a building to enhance the position of workers; yet you are talking about driving a wedge. You should be glad to find that there is a Trade Union Movement as powerful as it is, but members of the Labour Party have been trying to discredit me. This idea of trying to discredit me in my capacity as Trade Union Secretary only shows you up more, and you must hide your face behind a box. The hon. member had the effrontery to say in a *sotto voce* voice that I stole Trade Union money. Imagine the Hon. Minister accusing me of stealing Trade Union money! You can really get some surprises in your life. Every single penny in the Trade Union Movement is accounted for in such a manner that the Auditor General had to comment on the way we kept our accounts. We can show a certificate from the Auditor General up to our last Annual Conference; yet the hon. member talked about stealing Trade Union money. That is the sort of thing you get, and yet members of the Labour Party are asking me to forget the past. How can any man forget the past? How can you do that when a man calls you a thief and accuses you of driving a wedge between the workers? Can any person ask me to sit down and associate with a person who accuses me of stealing Trade Union money? He has only done this because I have asked for a member to be appointed to the Board. What is wrong with that?

I am one of those men who fought here in this island to have independence and I will continue to fight so that we can govern this country. I feel that you should control Police in this island, but I believe there are members of Government who feel we should not do it. Jamaica and Ghana have got independence and we must get it too.

The hon. member would say that of me, but he would not accuse the hon. senior member for St. George of being a thief, because he has one of those innate inferiority complexes which make him believe that a white man cannot be

a thief. He would not say it of the hon. junior member for Christ Church, but he believes he has something to say to which people will catch on. He would not say it on a public platform but he gets here in the House and says in a *sotto voce* remark that I stole Trade Union money. Imagine not putting a Trade Unionist on the Development Board as if he had no part to play! Can anyone truthfully say that the Trade Union has no part to play in Barbados at this stage of our development? We are emerging towards self-Government and you say that all elements should be represented on this Board; you have them on the Housing Board and on the Irrigation Board; why not on this Board? You have appointed Mr. Wilson and Mr. Ashby who are two small businessmen; we have no objection to them or to any one on the Board; but you should not appoint all the members and not ask the Trade Union. Are you suggesting that among the 17,000 workers in the Trade Union, you cannot find one member to appoint to the Board and that if you appoint one you are doing some injury to the Board? We meet employers at the Deep Water Harbour, in the sugar industry, and all the elements which you can talk about in this island; are you suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that on a Board like that a Trade Unionist has no part to play? Do you think that if I suggested that somebody should be appointed from the Trade Union Movement, the hon. member should talk about somebody trying to drive a wedge between the workers, and then the last vulgarity about my stealing Trade Union Funds?

The question that the sum of \$250,000 under Head - Development Board stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head - Water Supplies - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$41,245 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$41,245 under Head - Water Supplies stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Head - Medical Services - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$872,750 be voted under this Head.

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

The question that the sum of \$872,750 under Head - Medical Services - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

10.10 p.m.

VI — EDUCATION

VI - Education - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$545,955 be voted under VI - Education.

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

Mrs. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, there is one little point which I want to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister and it is this: at the Alleyne School there is a latrine which was there before the extension of the building and I think it was intended that it should be included in the new building, but now it stands right in the centre of the hall and it looks very hideous there. If at any time anything goes wrong with it, I do not think the children will be able to stay in that school.

The question that the sum of \$545,955 under VI - Education, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

VII — AGRICULTURE

VII - Agriculture - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$1,186,849 be voted under VII - Agriculture.

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

The question that the sum of \$1,186,849 under VII - Agriculture, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

VIII — COMMUNICATIONS

VIII - Communications - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$994,416 be voted under VIII - Communications.

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

The question that the sum of \$994,416 under VIII - Communications, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

IX — MISCELLANEOUS

IX - Miscellaneous - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that the sum of \$279,598 be voted under IX - Miscellaneous.

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

The question that the sum of \$279,598 under IX - Miscellaneous, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Schedule of the Bill as amended stand part.

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

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

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive were called separately and passed.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS; seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee with amendments.

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

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

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL, 1959.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to finish these two short Bills - the Public Health Bill and the Public Assistance Bill - tonight. I will deal with the Public Health Bill first. This Bill is supplementary to the Local Government Bill which was passed a few weeks ago and is quite similar to the Public Health Bill which was passed in 1958. It only has a few minor and consequential amendments, as I have just said, as a result of the Local Government Act which was passed in 1958.

The minor amendments of a consequential nature include the following -

- (a) in clauses eight and sixty-seven the substitution of a reference to the Local Government Act, 1958 for the reference to the 1954 Act of that title;

- (b) in clause fifty-two, the substitution of a reference to the Markets and Slaughterhouses Act, 1958 for the reference to the Markets and Butchers Act, 1890;
- (c) the repeal by clause seventy of sections one hundred and eighty-eight and one hundred and eighty-nine of the Public Health Act, 1954 as those sections are now contained in Part XVIII of the Local Government Act, 1958;
- (d) the repeal by clause seventy-five of section two hundred of the Public Health Act, 1954 as that section creates too wide a penalty provision.

Of the amendments based on the recommendations for the Local Government Adviser the following are cited as the more significant -

- (a) by clauses three, six and the amendments made to the Second Schedule of the Public Health Act, 1954, this Bill seeks to keep alive the General Board of Health established under the Public Health Act, 1908 solely for the purpose of exercising those of its functions which under the Act last mentioned and the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1945, assented to by the Governor on the twenty-ninth day of December one thousand nine hundred and forty-five, relate to the division and sale and division and letting of land. The Board has been retained for this purpose as it was felt that as legislation of this nature did not properly fall within the sphere of public health, the Board should continue to function until such time as suitable legislation is enacted to replace that now in force.
- (b) clauses ten and eleven seek to widen the scope of section eleven of the Public Health Act, 1954 so as to enable Outpatients Clinics as well as Health Centres to be established in order to alleviate the pressure of medical aid on the General Hospital;
- (c) clause twelve seeks to repeal those provisions of the Public Health Act, 1954 requiring the local government Councils to establish committees of Public Health as under the provisions contained in Part IX of the Local Government Act, 1958 the Councils can appoint such committees as they require for any general or special purpose;
- (d) by clause thirteen the absolute duty cast on the Councils by section twenty-two of the Public Health Act, 1954 to "provide, repair and maintain" sewers and sewerage works has been modified to a discretionary obligation reinforced by a compulsive duty if a direction is given by the Governor-in-Executive Committee, as it was felt that in the circumstances of Barbados, having regard in particular to the financial position of the Councils, the Councils should not legally be placed under such an absolute duty;
- (e) clauses thirty-eight to forty-three (inclusive) seek to amend the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1954 relating to the repair of streets not repairable by a Highway Authority in order to clarify the law.

The amendment made by clause forty-six of this Bill in no way affects the law as it stands, but has been made solely because of an error in the printing of the Annual Volume of the Laws of 1954 which resulted in sections one hundred and nine and one hundred and ten of the Public Health Act, 1954 being printed as one section.

The opportunity has been taken to amend the provisions contained in the Public Health Act, 1908 and the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1945 assented to by the Governor on the 29th day of December 1945 which specify the scale to which a plan relating to the division of land shall be drawn by providing that the scale shall be such as may be approved by the Board, as Government has been advised that the scales specified are inconvenient for certain administrative purposes.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: 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. M. E. COX, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BRYAN in the Chair.

10.20 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 9 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 10 was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, in connection with this Clause, I am asking leave to make the following amendments:-

To insert after the word "Clinics" in the marginal note to sub-paragraph 11 (1) (a) the words "and District Hospitals" and delete the word "or" occurring in that sub-paragraph; in sub-paragraph 11 (1) (b) after the word "Clinics" insert the words "and (c) District Hospitals;" in 11 (2) delete the word "or" occurring in line 2 and after the word "Clinic" in line 3 insert the words "or District Hospital". In sub-paragraph 4 insert the words "or District Hospital" after the word "Centre" occurring in line 4 and finally to delete the second word "or".

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 10 as amended stand part of the Bill.

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

The question that Clause 10 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 11 was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I ask leave, Mr. Chairman, to amend this Clause by deleting the words "or at an Outpatients Clinic established under section eleven of this Act" and substituting therefor "an Outpatients Clinic or a District Hospital established under section 11 of this Act."

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that Clause 11 as amended stand part of the Bill.

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

The question that Clause 11 as amended stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 12 and 13 were called and passed.

10.30 p.m.

Clauses 14 to 57 inclusive were called and passed.

10.40 p.m.

Clauses 58 to 80 inclusive were called and passed

The First Schedule was called and passed.

The Second Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. M. E. COX, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of a Bill in Committee with amendments.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BILL, 1959.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this next Bill, a Bill to amend the Public Assistance Act, 1954, is a consequential Bill as a result of the Local Government Bill of 1958.

Many of the amendments sought to be made by this Bill are of a verbal nature aimed at achieving greater clarity of expression e. g. clauses 3, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 20 and 21. Other amendments have been made in aid of better administration thus -

- (a) clause 4 widens the power given to the Governor by section 4 (1) of the Public Assistance Act, 1954 so as to enable him to appoint officers to assist the Chief Public Assistance Officer;
- (b) clause 5 seeks to replace the present section seven by a new section of that number which widens the regulation making power of the Public Assistance Board;
- (c) clause 6 seeks to ensure that the Public Assistance Board is given the necessary power to perform its duties in cases where a Council has failed to co-operate with the Board;
- (d) clause 7 modifies section nine of the Act so as to exempt the Board from having to submit to the Governor a report as to the general condition of the poor of the Island in the year in which it is formed as the Board might not so shortly after its formation be in a position to make an adequate report;
- (e) clause 16 modifies paragraph (d) of section twenty for the reason that having regard to the circumstances of Barbados it might not be possible for a Council to find work for the able bodied poor;
- (f) a proviso has been added by clause 18 to section twenty-three so as to ensure that there is no duplication of work between the central government and a Council;
- (g) clause 27 seeks to introduce two new sections into the Public Assistance Act, 1954, to enable a Council to take care of poor persons and children belonging to the area of another Council, whilst clause 29 introduces into that Act certain new penal provisions.

Section forty-one of the Public Assistance Act, 1954 has been repealed by clause 27 as the provisions relating to compensation of officers and servants of the Board of Guardians of the several Vestries are contained in the Local Government Act, 1958; and in place of section nineteen, repealed by clause 15, a new section to be numbered 42A has been inserted by clause 28.

As I have said, it is quite a simple Bill and I now beg to move that this Bill be read a second time.

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

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill, and that it be an instruction when the House is in Committee to take this Bill as read.

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

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

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Sections 1 to 29 of this Bill inclusive stand part.

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

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

10.50 p.m.

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

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

The question was put and agreed to.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, in moving the adjournment of the House I regret to say that I did not ask leave to deal with this Resolution for \$8,460,987 or rather I did not ask that this Resolution be exempted from the provisions of paragraph 8 of Standing Order No. 5. In the circumstances, we have to adjourn until tomorrow.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Friday, 20th March, 1959, at 3 o'clock p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: In seconding the motion I want to explain that it might be considered as being somewhat tiring, but we have to pass this Resolution for \$8,460,987 which is set out in the Appropriation Bill; otherwise the Bill cannot follow. We ought to have asked that this Resolution be among the matters with which we had asked leave to deal today.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Friday 20th March, 1959, at 3 o'clock p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

10.55 p.m.