
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1960

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 21st June, 1960.

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

PRESENT

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*); Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, (*Leader of the Opposition*); Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, C.B.E., M.D., C.M., (*Premier*); Hon. M. E. COX, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*); Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); 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.; Mr. C. B. SEARLES; Mr. J. W. CORBIN; and Mr. G. E. S. STRAUGHN.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th June, 1960, have been printed and circulated amongst hon. members and unless there be any objection, these Minutes will be taken as read and confirmed.

There being no objection, these Minutes are now taken as read and confirmed.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Financial Report of the Accountant General for the month ended 29th February, 1960.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I am commanded to lay the following:-

Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for two months ended 31st May, 1960.

Also, Annual Report of the Barbados Regiment - 1st April, 1958 - 31st March, 1959.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Customs Tariff (Conditions for Special Exemption from Duty) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1960.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Education, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

Resolution to place the sum of \$5, 350 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the

Estimates, 1960-61, Part I Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1960-61, No. 6 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my colleague, the hon. senior member for St. Lucy, to enquire of the Hon. Minister of Education, the following which are for oral answers:-

1. Will the Minister state what are the conditions upon which married women over 40 years are employed in the Primary and Secondary Modern Schools of this Island?
2. Will he state whether they suffer any disadvantages in status and remuneration if reemployed after marriage?

Also, To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Education:-

1. Will the Minister state what is meant by List "E" in respect of certain categories of Primary School Teachers?
2. Will he state (a) whether this particular group is regularly employed, (b) what work this group performs and (c) the number of teachers falling within this group?

Also, To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Education:-

1. Will the Minister state what arrangements are made for the supply of soap, cleaning materials, toilet paper, towels, etc. for the Primary and Secondary Modern Schools of this Island?
2. Will he further state (a) who supplies them, (b) the respective prices charged and (c) whether delivery is prompt and regular?

Also, To enquire of the Honourable Premier:-

1. Will the Minister state how many vacancies at present exist in the Civil Establishment of this Island?
2. Will he further state what is being done to recruit suitably qualified persons to fill these vacancies?

Also, To enquire of the Hon. Premier:-

1. Will the Minister state whether any extra emoluments are paid to the Officer currently acting as Permanent Secretary to the Premier?

2. If the answer is "yes", will the Minister state (a) the amount of such extra emolument, (b) who recommended it, and (c) the duration of the period for which it will be paid?

REPORT re BILL TO INCORPORATE THE UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA (BARBADOS DISTRICT)

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill to incorporate the United Holy Church of America (Barbados District).

The Report reads as follows:-

The Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill to incorporate the United Holy Church of America (Barbados District) have the honour to present the following Report:-

1. The Committee met on one occasion.
2. The Committee recommend the following amendments to the said Bill:- (a) In Clause 2, insert the word "to" after the word "given" appearing in the 18th line thereof;
- (b) In Clause 3 delete the word "names" where it first appears in line 4 thereof and substitute therefor the word "name";
- (c) In Clause 3 insert the word "further" after the word "any" in last line of the said Clause.
3. The Committee recommend the passing of the Bill with the amendments set out above.

LLOYD E. SMITH,

CHAIRMAN,
24th May, 1960.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 5) ORDER 1960

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order stands in the name of the Hon. Premier:- To move the passing of the following Resolution; Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 5) Order, 1960."

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this Order seeks to establish the new post of Training Officer. The history of this is that we did have a certain gentleman who was appointed as Director of Training; and when he had been doing those duties, it was more frequently than not that he was asked to leave off those duties and to enquire into the organisation and methods of certain departments and make regulations.
12.25 p.m.

These latter duties took up most of his time and therefore there was little or none left for the post of Director of Training. The Government subsequently decided, since it was found that the question of training for the Civil Service was an urgent one, and since this gentleman said that he could not perform both duties and that was accepted, to establish the post of Training Officer. It is proposed that if this post is established, the appointment of someone who is now in the Civil Service will be made; as a matter of fact the Civil Service will be combed so as to find the most suitable person for this appointment and he will be employed in this post of Training Officer for a while. After he has acquired a certain amount of knowledge and experience, then he will be sent abroad for further training.

The members of the Civil Service have approved of this proposal; discussions are not yet concluded and they are being held with a view to setting up a Committee of Civil Servants who will assist this gentleman and upon whom he can call for advice which will be freely given. That is the position with regard to this proposed post.

The last paragraph of the Addendum to this Resolution states this:-

"The duties of the 'Training Officer' will include the organisation of induction courses for entrants into the Civil Service, courses of instruction in various aspects of the work and courses in supervision at first supervisory level. The Officer will also deal with applications for awards from the Training Scheme Fund and the routine duties in connection with training courses overseas."

Mr. Speaker, it is my experience that criticisms have been frequently made in this House as to the need for the establishment of such a post. The duties which are set out here are fairly wide. As I have already said, this matter has the approval of the Civil Service and it is proposed that a Committee, probably of three persons, will collaborate with this officer when he is appointed and will give lectures and any assistance possible in the introduction and implementation of this post. Briefly that is the position with regard to this matter. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the Hon. Premier can tell us whether the Government has considered the possibility of having such training as is to be performed by this officer, done more on a Federal basis, so that we could coordinate the efforts of various officers in the unit territories into one, thereby to a certain extent, effecting an economy and perhaps ensuring a greater unanimity of standards, efficiency and all the rest of it. I would be glad to know if this matter has been given any thought. If it is not so, perhaps the Hon. Premier will undertake to give the matter his consideration in the near future. It may be possible to effect such an arrangement and I feel that it would be more beneficial to the area than the present system which obtains at present.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Speaker, this matter of training is a very important part of any Government's business or, for that matter, of any business at all; but I am a bit concerned about the particular nature of these very wide duties. In fact, as the Hon. Premier has said, the duties are fairly wide. I think that in this Government we are forgetting that one man is only one man and that one man can only, according to the authorities, effectively control between nine and twelve persons.

Now, Sir, if this Training Officer is to be appointed, I am wondering exactly how he is going to be able to achieve results which are needed. I am not only wondering that, but I am saying that in every office in this Government or in the Civil Service, there should be a definite statement of every single duty, responsibility and accountability which the person is accountable for, responsible for or from which he is expected to get results of a certain nature.
12.35 p.m.

I shall look forward to the day to see an organisational chart of the Governmental Departments showing exactly at what point authority is delegated. Do not let us forget that one can delegate authority, but one cannot delegate responsibility; the man at the top must shoulder the full responsibility, and in too many cases in my opinion, the man at the top is not shouldering the responsibility because the duties, authority, responsibility and the results he is to obtain have not been clearly and accurately delineated in black and white. I feel Sir, that it would be in the interest of the people of this island - the taxpayers, the Civil Servants and the Government - if each man knew exactly what his particular duty, authority etc, was. I do not feel, Sir, that one man can be actually responsible for the training of all the Civil Servants. I take it that the Committee which I understand from the Premier is to be appointed is purely in an advisory capacity. Now is he responsible for the actual training or is he responsible for the training programme?

If he is responsible for the training programme, Mr. Speaker, we should be given some idea at this very stage of what the Government's training programme is going to be, how many persons are going to be trained in what and to what stage, exactly what Departments they are in and what they are being trained for if they are being trained in that particular Department, and whether Government expects to maintain the services of that person in that particular branch for which he is about to be trained or has been trained.

At the present moment, a number of persons is going abroad to be trained, and I believe they are doing so locally through their own efforts, for a particular type of work, let us say for instance, agriculture or school teaching, and the next thing you find is that they are in a completely different phase of work instead of the one for which they had been trained. No operation, whether it be civil, military, clerical or otherwise, can operate without ascertaining that it has continuity, and continuity cannot be got unless proper training is done within the proper channel to ascertain that the continuity of each tributary to the main channel is correct.

I think, Sir, that we are rather tempted to say that so-and-so is a Head of Department, but we have not got down to an organisation or factual delineation of exactly where his authority starts and where it ends, what he has to do, to whom he is responsible, what results he is expected to get and for what he is accountable. This type of training would make youngsters and the seniors in the Service realise that today the emphasis is on training and that it has to be done in such a manner as to get the greatest efficiency for the particular purpose for which he or she is being trained.

I have said in this House already that in my humble opinion the services of a professional consultant who knows about the organisation of Departments and Government control as a whole, the necessity for continuity and so forth for the Service should be obtained, and it would be well worth this island's while. I say from actual experience that if at the present moment you look into the Civil Service, you will find all sorts of people who have been working in one Department and have become by experience, if not by training, specialists in that particular job, and they are taken from those posts and handed over to other Departments where they have got to learn a completely new set of statistics or what job they are supposed to do.

I do appeal, Sir, to the Hon. Premier, that this training programme should be set out most clearly and accurately and that one man cannot possibly be responsible for the training of the whole Civil Service. He can only be responsible for the training programme. If we were shown an organisational chart of exactly what is expected of everyone, this Honourable House would more clearly be able to see what it is doing when it comes to a point like this. Right now, in my opinion, this particular job is going to mean the creation of other posts, or otherwise it is going to be of no benefit. One man, I repeat, is absolutely and utterly incapable of carrying out the whole of the training for Civil Servants, and I would have liked to see a clearer programme in the light of modern advancement in such matters as organisation which, I feel, if our Government has not yet started to digest it, it is about time they started at least to inquire into the facts and the future of proper organisation in any concern, even a Governmental concern. The results are bound to be better because an overall picture of all concerned, and an actual delineation of each person's responsibility, duties, authority etc. are given. There is much too much passing of the buck and this is a situation where if only one man is to be in control, he is going to have to pass the buck all around.

I am very pleased, Sir, that a start has been made on training, but I think it is such a slight one that it is possibly more liable to be dangerous than to be of any use to the community in this narrow-minded, small way.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, to answer the question posed by the hon. junior member for St. Lucy with regard to Federal training, I am not yet aware that the Federal Government has instituted such a service. One

thing I can tell him is that if they are going to set up one, I can assure him that Barbados will take advantage of it.

In answer to the hon. senior member for St. George, I said earlier, Sir, that this officer will be assisted by a Committee of senior Civil Servants who will also give lectures. Nobody at this stage can tell exactly what it is going to be, but when it is organised I am sure the hon. member will know. This particular officer who is appointed will at the moment spend his time in assisting and training junior staff.

12.45 p.m.

I particularly said when he has acquired the necessary amount of experience, then he would be sent abroad for training in order to assist in training senior staff. It may well be if the Federal Government sets up such a service that Barbados would take advantage of it. I cannot tell the hon. member anything more than that. It is believed that the training of this officer will be of invaluable assistance to members of the junior staff who now sadly lack and stand in need of directional training.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 7)
ORDER 1960

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: To move the passing of the following Resolution:- Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 7) Order, 1960."

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, this is another Civil Establishment Order and it is to do with recruiting of staff for the Fire Service. I am sure that Your Honour is aware of the fact that as regards the staffing of the new Fire Station at St. James, it was the intention of the Fire Officer to try out a system of part-time Firemen at this Station.

I, myself, was not sure of its succeeding but he was sure that he would have got the men and that they would be in a position to help whenever there were fires in that area. He tried it and did not succeed. He advertised and I think he only got two or three applicants who were interested but, unfortunately, they did not live in close proximity to the Station.

Well, Sir, he did not even train these three persons because they were living some distance from the Station and, as an alternative, we have to come to the Legislature and asked for funds to pay whole-time Firemen. That is the position. At the present, the Fire Officer has to borrow staff from some of the other stations in order to carry on the service at the St. James Station.

This is proposed, as I have said, to service that Station with fully trained Firemen. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, it will be recalled that I was not at all enamoured, when we were discussing the new Fire Service Bill a very short while ago, with this idea about Auxiliary Firemen because I never anticipated that it would be possible to get the available Firemen. I said that Firemen would have to be available in order to meet the emergencies and exigencies of a fire and you could not depend on auxiliary Firemen. It has turned out as I expected and I am not at all disappointed.

Sir, instead of these Auxiliary Firemen, you will have a permanent addition to the staff of six additional posts of Fireman. The only thing I am wondering is if it is felt that these six additional Firemen will be enough because they are to take the place of ten Auxiliary Firemen. I am wondering if the Hon. Premier is satisfied that these six additional posts will be adequate to take the place of the ten auxiliaries who were originally contemplated. There is a little noise and I am not so sure whether the Hon. Premier can hear me on account of

it, but assuming that he can hear me I would appreciate if he would give us a reply to that question.

Mr. SEARLES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make mention of something which has been brought to my notice and which I have only learnt of today. It is, as I understand it, that there is unfair competition going on at the St. James Fire Station where liquor is being sold to the general public or the public has access to getting liquor from there. That, Sir, is unfair to licensed holders in those districts if such a rumour is true, and I would be glad if the Hon. Premier would make a thorough investigation and put an end to this thing.

I would like to see a good Government and it would be unfair to a man to pay a licence fee and then have unfair competition indirectly from some Department which is being run by this Government.

I do hope that the rumour is not true, and in order to set the fears of the public at ease I would very much welcome the Hon. Premier having an investigation into the matter and let this matter be well taken of so that the general public would know that we are not parties to any such unfair trade.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who has just sat down somewhat anticipated me because I was going to ask the Hon. Minister who introduced the Resolution if there was anything which he could say on the matter, although I may say that I take a slightly different view from the hon. junior member for St. James. I appreciate the difficulties of the shopkeepers in the district; but it seems to me that the situation could not happen unless the consumers could have reaped a definite advantage, and I do not think we can really blame the consumers who buy at the Fire Brigade Club if because of buying there they can get something cheaper. The battle with the cost of living is so severe that people have to be forgiven if they find a way to save a penny or whatever amount the case may be.

However, what makes the matter most difficult is that there are rumours that this activity is taking place with the knowledge of the authorities - and by authorities, I do not in any way mean the Government, but the authorities in the Fire Service.

12.55 p.m.

I have taken the trouble to make some enquiries about it and I understand that it is a unique occurrence; certainly not in the City Fire Brigade Station is there anything like that. I do not know whether any similar trading activities are carried on by the Sub-station in Christ Church, and it would be just as well if the Government were to make a pronouncement to satisfy all concerned. I would like to draw to the attention of the House that you cannot throw any blame on the consumer nor entirely on the people who carry on this trading activity because, if there were no reasons for buying these things, they would not buy them. I have every sympathy for the shopkeepers who must face a loss of trade, but I would be loth to pronounce finally upon the matter until the Government has investigated it. The consumer is to be congratulated if he can find some avenue whereby he can purchase what he wants for less money. Competition is not necessarily unfair because the consumer can purchase his groceries or whatever he wants somewhat cheaper; it only becomes unfair if this trading activity in the Fire Service Station is actively encouraged by the authorities and that is what we have to find out first of all. As the situation is now, you will have to sympathise with the consumer.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Speaker, I am amazed as I listen to these rumours which can be very detrimental to a service if they have no foundation. I have never been one, and will never be one, who will get on the floor of this House, without having had good authority and without having first approached the Minister in charge or the Ministry to find out exactly whether there is any truth in what has been said or done, and attempt to damage publicly a particular service like this. Rumours are vicious things and they can do a lot of harm, as many of us know. We all know from ruined private lives how much damage an unfounded rumour can do, even in the particular case of a husband and wife. I feel that these matters should be very, very care-

fully considered and I sincerely hope that the two hon. members who have spoken - well, the first hon. member who spoke did so somewhat drastically on a rumour. As far as I know, this matter would be illegal, unless the persons who were being served drinks were persons of the particular club. Perhaps that matter can be clarified by the Premier on a broader basis. We do not want to cast any aspersions on this new service, if I may so call it, which has certainly advanced from strength to strength over the past year. I think that we should be very careful not to damp their willingness to advance or their very fine outfit. But the point here is this: is it really true that there are no people in this island who are willing to take the part-time and voluntary job of protecting the island's assets? I rather doubt that.

The Hon. Premier did not touch my point on the first occasion; it is not for the Government to enter into anything without first having clearly decided in their minds how it is going to work and setting up a situation where they will find out the actual functions of each particular branch or of each particular officer, and ascertaining that that is their view and that "A", "B", "C" or "D" will be responsible to So-and-So and not having anything done until they get the definite plan. All these indefinite plans will only cause further and further expenditure of the taxpayers' money because they have not been clearly thought out in the first place, as obviously is the case with this Training Scheme. Anything which has been started without knowing what it has to do, is obviously a scheme which has been badly thought out.

I hope that we will give a little more thought and planning to these schemes because, in this particular case, I rather doubt very much that the public relations function. The public relations should function; merely putting an advertisement in the newspaper asking for auxiliary firemen does not amount to a row of pins. But if there was someone who has the function of educating the public to the effect that these voluntary firemen can do this, that and the other in their spare time, the position would be a different one. They do that in other parts of the world; in the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom - in many parts of the world that happens. However, as far as I know, we have not even had any talk about Auxiliary Firemen from the person whose function it should have been to talk about these Firemen. Naturally, a scheme like this, not well thought out, not planned and delineated as to how it is to be carried out, will fall through. I do hope that the idea which we seem to have arrived at here in this island that there is no one who is willing to undertake or perform the voluntary duty as a fireman - well, I know this place better than that, and I am quite certain that if we were to educate the public on this matter, there would be a number of people who would be only too willing to undertake voluntary part time work of this nature.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I have visited this Station myself. I do not know if anything was hidden before I got there, but all I saw when I got there were non-alcoholic drinks. I was told that these drinks were for the staff there. There is also provision for making tea, and there are certain cosmetics, soaps and things of that sort sold for the use of the men. I was assured that they were for the men only.

1.05 p.m.

I was assured, Sir, that it was for the men only and that they were not selling anybody; so it was not a question of profit. I was quite satisfied that it was so, but I do not know what has happened since, and I think that these rumours were just exaggerations.

Mr. TUDOR: On a point of order, if the hon. member would give way, I would just like to tell him, speaking now from my own experience, that that is no exaggeration because I have seen rum and ovaltine purchased on the premises.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I was perfectly satisfied because I think similar facilities are granted at the Central Station on behalf of the Police. They have their canteen, etc., so I am only telling you what I saw. I do not know what the hon. member saw; I know what I saw.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I really did not intend to say a word on this debate, but after sitting down and listening to the various speakers, I have been enlightened and I will speak. I am not against

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has not said anything yet.

Hon. M. E. COX: I think I know my way around in here. I wanted to draw to Your Honour's attention the practice in the House as well as the Rule that after a Minister has replied, no other member should speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: If I am satisfied that the member did not have occasion to speak. That is the whole Rule. I must be satisfied, and I am not satisfied that the hon. member had an occasion to speak.

Hon. M. E. COX: You are not satisfied that the hon. member had a chance to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: No.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, according to the dignity of this House, as far as I have seen, your manner of ruling, I think, is justifiable to everyone on this House, and I would not like to know that anyone has tried to rise to tell you this or that. They should work in accordance with Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few remarks which I would like to make concerning this debate. I am not against this, but I would like to see things work in the right way. As I have heard the Premier say, there are certain facilities or commodities for the Fire Brigade or the Police to purchase. There is no one who would be against such things, but the important thing is that I would not like to see any outsider go into the Station to purchase alcohol of any sort; it would be a disgrace and would lower the dignity of the Government if such things were allowed to be carried on. I did not intend to speak because I did not get at the nature of it, but hearing one member testify to the fact that he has seen alcohol purchased there by strangers, (Hon. R. G. MAPP: When?) I would be glad if the appropriate Minister would put his foot down on such things and prohibit such things from being sold at the Station at any time.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I know it is not the usual practice for another Minister to join in the reply, but due to the fact that the Rules preclude the Hon. Premier from replying, I think I should say this.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister should get the permission of the House. That is in the Rules also. It seems to me that hon. members rehash half the Rules and surmise the other half.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I do not think, Sir, that applies to me. Anyhow, I would just like to say this because we very often have to check on these various Rules and see the sources from which apparently these allegations have emanated. The hon. member has spoken for himself as having gone down there and seen these things served...

Mr. TUDOR: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I said I have seen rum and ovaltine purchased.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The hon. member has seen rum and ovaltine purchased; but I would like to say that I myself spoke to Major Bradford soon after I heard about this allegation, and he told me that soon after the opening of this station - in fact it was a day or two after - a lot of people in the district visited the station - it was their pet baby, so to speak - in order to see it for themselves. The rule is that a member of the staff could have his family or friend - a chap may have a girl friend come in, because he may not be married, on a festive occasion of that sort - and he could purchase a drink for these people; but there are a lot of people milling around and you are bound to have a mix up on these occasions as to who is a friend or who may be family etc. I am only

saying what was explained to me and what on the face of it seems to be a reasonable explanation. Here it is; you are opening a new station, and it is a function where there is conviviality and celebration; therefore you cannot exactly expect that the ordinary rules of the place would be observed on that occasion. That is all that happened, but you get these various exaggerations as though the Station is selling and competing with other people. There is nothing of the sort. Major Bradford assured me that it is not the rule; it cannot be done, and if it is done it is against the rules, and the offender is liable to punishment under the Regulations.

I think, Sir, that the House should be satisfied, especially the hon. member for St. James who is naturally concerned, it being his constituency, that it is not the rule but rather the exception, and under the particular circumstances, I think we should overlook what happened on that occasion.

Mr. SEARLES: Mr. Speaker, I accept the explanation made by the Hon. Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: In other words, the hon. members wants no further investigation of the matter.

Mr. SEARLES: I wanted an investigation, but at the same time I want it to be known that if what the hon. member said is right, I will accept that.

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

QUESTION

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Lucy may ask his question at this stage.

Mr. TUDOR:

To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Education:-

1. Will the Minister state what work was done by Olive Williams and Gertrude Clerke up to October, 1959, at Combermere School?
2. Will he state (a) whether they were required to perform duties additional to their normal work, (b) what those duties were, (c) whether they received extra payment for such work, (d) the amounts due to each, (e) the amounts received by each?

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, that ends Government Business for today.

In moving the adjournment, I feel it is far better to have some work on the Order Paper so that when we come in and sit, we can sit for a length of time than to come in every Tuesday and work for only an hour or two; therefore, I move that this House adjourns for three weeks as from today, whatever date that is. I have to check with the Clerk as to the date. I presume that is agreeable to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

I now formally move that this House adjourns until the 12th July, 1960, at 12 o'clock (noon).

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

Mr. TUDOR: Speaking on the adjournment, I just want to ask my customary question of the Hon. Minister of Trade, which is, whether he has anything to add to what has been said already in this House in respect of the cessation of trade in this Colony with the Union of South Africa.

Before the Hon. Minister rises to reply, I would just like to add that this is a matter which is still agitating the minds of the public and within recent weeks there has been quite a disquieting development. The last two weeks or so, the public interest has arisen by the display of canned goods in Woolworth's store without labels and because of it I took the trouble this morning to go into that store to see for myself; and here, Mr. Speaker, is something which

was purchased which was set up in that store for sale and without a label. I believe it is some species of South African goods. A matter of great public importance is involved here.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would just give way, I realise that this is something serious but I would just like to ask him this question. Is that to be the property of the House or is it for the use of the hon. member?

Mr. TUDOR: It may well be, but since I suspect it is from South Africa, I really do not want it; but if the Hon. Minister of Communications would like it, he is welcome to it and I would not even ask him to reimburse me.

As I was saying, Sir, there is great public opinion that goods set up for sale in this place, particularly in these circumstances, should have labels on them, but these are not exposed for sale with labels on them and, as I was saying, there is a considerable quantity exposed for sale throughout the past two weeks or so.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would just remind the hon. member that although the topic which is brought to the attention of the House is very interesting to me, under the new rules of this House, these matters are not now brought in under a motion for the adjournment of the House.

Mr. TUDOR: I thank Your Honour and I would just ask the Hon. Minister whether he would make an investigation and let the Honourable House know what is the position in so far as this matter is concerned.

Hon. M. E. COX: I would like to ask Your Honour just to give me a little latitude as I was about to give the House the opportunity of hearing all the facts about this matter.

I would like to say at the outset that there is no hon. member in this Chamber who is more deeply concerned about the people in South Africa than I, and because of that I would use any sort of restriction that is within my power to use against the entry of South African goods into this Island.

Mr. Speaker, when I last reported to this House on this matter, as you will remember, I told the House that the Government was investigating ways and means by which we could bring about an imposition against the importation of South African goods. As Your Honour knows, we are being bound by GATT, and it was brought very forcibly to us that we could not do anything as regards imposing a ban on South African goods because it would be a violation of GATT: but sometimes it is good to violate something. It serves a very useful purpose in order to bring pressure to bear on certain people. It is necessary, I repeat, at times to violate something. In 1937, the people of this Island violated the law and out of it came this grand movement and this complete social and economic reformation in Barbados. Therefore, it is good to violate something sometimes.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Government of Antigua under their Import and Export Restrictions Act imposed a ban on South African goods; so I wrote to Antigua to find out how they did it in view of the fact that Antigua like Barbados is a member of GATT. They said that they simply passed that Order-in-Council and so it was. They felt it was their Island and they were prepared to do it. I would, therefore, like to assure the hon. senior member for St. Lucy that similar action will be taken in Barbados under our Import and Export Restrictions Ordinance. If we violate GATT, whatever restriction they can bring on us, let them do so. I cannot care less of GATT because up to now I see nothing which we have benefited from by association with GATT. Therefore, I assure hon. members that that will be done very soon too.

As regards the exhibit which we saw just now, I would just like to say that this is the first time I have heard about it. I will investigate it but, again, I must say that we have found out ways and means where we can

restrict it. The people are not going to get around this ban in any clandestine, subtle manner by selling things in that manner. We know what to do. I will investigate that matter.
1.25 p.m.

I also notice that some trade mission is to come from South Africa to Trinidad and I would like to say here and now - Your Honour will forgive me for saying it - that I do not want to see them in Barbados at all. We are not trading in goods; we are dealing with human beings first of all. (*Cheers*). We are not first dealing in rice, cornmeal, butter and things of that sort; we want freedom of human beings first and food can come after.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I was thinking of the legality of the matter. This is the one occasion on which I believe there should not be any criticism of any one side of the House in this matter. (A MEMBER: This is a national issue.) It is a national issue. One wonders what the Hon. Minister of Agriculture would do if this were in the old days when you could speak in a debate on the adjournment of the House; I do not think that the Hon. Minister would stop speaking until 10 o'clock tonight. The Hon. Leader of the House says that this is the first time that he has heard of this matter; and I am very happy to see that he has adopted that attitude and that he will act in this matter tomorrow. Outside of this matter appearing in the Press, it was brought to my notice that we are suspicious as this is from South Africa - as a matter of fact, in the normal run of things, when these things are labelled you have to be careful about them; but I was thinking of the legality of these things.

The Hon. Minister of Trade is very prompt in his promise. Whether we violate GATT or not, there must be a violation so that we can help people. Not only are we trying to help them, but there are people of a different hue - there are white people who do not have the same views as the South African Government. They tell them that they must keep out of politics although they realise that it is interfering with the industrial and commercial progress of South Africa. As far as the remarks of the Hon. Minister of Trade are concerned, I feel that there is only one thing which he said with which I do not agree. Personally, I feel that this trade mission should be met at every Airport and be asked to go back to South Africa. That is the only way in which we can help the people in South Africa. We can protest by saying as a priest has done "I am not praying with you".

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the latitude which you have given in this matter. I believe that deep down in the hearts of everyone in this House, everybody who was born in Barbados and who knows Barbados feels very strongly in this matter. This is the one occasion on which we appreciate the Minister's action; let him act promptly, let him act tomorrow in this matter. There may be poison in this tin; there could be anything in this tin having been sealed. In every case these things must be labelled; you must have labels on them to say what they are. We should not allow these people to get away with this sort of thing. In an article you saw what is being done to Woolworth in other countries; we cannot change at all we are like the fingers of a hand.

Mr. BRANCKER: I should like to assure the Hon. Leader of the House that in this matter he will have the full support of the Official Opposition in the most drastic and immediate steps which he feels fit to take, even if it means re-calling the House within the period for which it has been adjourned. This is a serious matter. We have already read in the Southern States of America that they have refused to serve people in that branch of the United States of America. It is a highly suspicious state of affairs when dozens and dozens of tins happen to be without labels, and so whatever steps the Hon. Minister chooses to take - I suggest that he moves very quickly because who knows if somebody who is representing Woolworth has not already telephoned them about this matter in the hope of getting a grog. However I will not delay the passing of the motion for the adjournment of the House any longer than I have already done.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Speaker, you have given hon. members a certain amount of latitude in this matter and hon. members have appreciated it. They have appreciated the importance of this matter. There are a number of firms and people throughout the world who trade on these mishaps and misfortunes. This may be a very dangerous situation; this may be a situation where a large amount of goods have become available due to the attitude of Woolworth towards South Africa, goods which can be bought cheaply. This is one of the opportunities of which certain firms in this world avail themselves. I do not know anything about this particular case but the situation is a very suspicious-looking one which I think we should trace here and we should advise every member of the public not to have anything to do with any particular tin which has not got any print or label on it. Mr. Speaker, I am willing to start a fund for the people of this island so that they can get the whole lot of these tins dumped into the Careenage where they should be. I am not entering any agreement in trying to get around this matter; we should insist that every item should have its country of origin marked on it and if our regulations do not state that, then that should be stated.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I am craving your indulgence to say a few words. This situation is a very serious one; it is the most serious situation of which I can think. The Minister of Trade is responsible for whatever comes into this island and I want him to use all the force he can upon anyone who has such goods for public sale; wherever they are in this island they should be seized.

We cannot allow such things to go ahead in this country. 1.35 p.m.

I understand that the South African goods are boycotted; therefore we have to be very suspicious about any goods which we receive without labels, because we would not know what we are eating and the poor people might suffer from a disaster. I am very glad that we have one of the items here so that we can see for ourselves. I think it was in a Republic in which a policeman seized such goods from a store; and if we had to come here tomorrow I would devote myself to doing so and yield with both sides of the House in getting such things out of question. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the latitude which you have given me.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Speaker, there is one thing that the other members omitted to mention inadvertently, and it is that that exhibit does not only not have on a label as such, but it does not say what the article is, and from the point of view of the Health Authorities it is also a dangerous matter. I am wondering if as the Minister said he is taking immediate action, he could also go on the air and let it be known. It is really a bad thing for anything to be sold when you do not know what is supposed to be in the tin. It is bad enough for the Health Authorities, and I would like to know what they think about that.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 12th July, 1960 at 12 noon was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

1.40 p.m.