

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1961

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 1st August, 1961.

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

PRESENT

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*); on. Dr. H. 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. C. E. TALMA; Hon. D. D. GARNER, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mr. C. P. SEARLES; Hon. L. St.A. THORNE, (*Minister of Education*); and Mr. G. E. S. STRAUGHN, J.P.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the Meetings held on the 18th and 25th July, respectively, have been printed and circulated amongst hon. members and unless there be any objection, the Minutes of these Meetings will be taken as read and confirmed. (*A Pause*).

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

Mr. WALCOTT entered the House and took his seat.

DOCUMENTS LAID

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Report of the Accounts of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank to the end of June, this year has been received;

Also the Financial Report of the Accountant General for the month ended 31st March, this year has been received.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Civil Establishment (Payment of Passages) (Amendment) Order, 1961.

Also,

The Civil Establishment (Leave Passages) (Amendment) Order, 1961.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were as follows:

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Resolution to approve the exchange between Messrs. DaCosta & Co. Ltd. and the Executive Committee of two parcels of land in the wharf area for purposes of highway improvement.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Governor-in-Executive Committee of a parcel of land at Eagle Hall, St. Michael, for the purpose of highway improvement.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: I beg to withdraw that motion temporarily.

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

STATEMENT re NATIONAL BABY WELFARE ORGANISATION

Hon. F. E. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to read a statement as regards the National Baby Welfare Council of the United Kingdom. The Statement is as follows:- 12.25 p.m.

"The National Baby Welfare Council of the United Kingdom last year organised a competition for all overseas territories of the British Commonwealth. The object was to determine which territory had made the greatest advance during the previous five years in individual, family, and community welfare. At this competition shields and trophies were allotted not only for the best all-round advance but also for specific advances or spectacular progress as determined by the judges on the evidence submitted.

Barbados took part in the competition and the Competition's Committee unanimously agreed to award the Kettering Shield to Barbados in recognition of the marked progress made here over the past few years in the maternal and child welfare services. (*Cheers*)

Mrs. M. A. Byer, wife of the Director of Medical Services, accepted this Shield on behalf of Barbados, at a ceremony on Tuesday, 11th July, in the Central Hall, West-

minster, London, at which Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of the National Baby Welfare Council, presented the awards.

The Kettering Shield may be held for a period of three years and with it is issued a certificate as a permanent mark of the award.

This award is one of which Barbados can be proud, for it is a tangible mark of the swift advancement made in the Maternal and Child Health Sections of the Medical Services. The Infant Mortality Rate, which is an indication of child health levels in a community, was 139 in 1953 the year the first Health Centre was opened. Last year — just seven years later — it was 60. While it must be made clear that there are many factors contributing to this dramatic decline, the role played by the Health Centres is a very important one. The services offered the expectant mother and young child started with the opening of the Speightstown Health Centre in 1953 and they are still expanding. When the first Centre had been in operation for two years, a second Centre was opened at Edmore and two years after that, a third one at Six Cross Roads. These Institutions have catered for an ever-increasing number of patients. Today, apart from the three main Health Centres, there are eight outposts — three attached to the Speightstown Centre and five to the Six Cross Roads Centre — where clinics are held. The clinics are in close liaison with the Maternity Hospital which is a teaching Hospital for pupil midwives and there is also a Public Health Laboratory and a District Hospital at Oistins both of which contribute to maternal and child health.

In building up these health services much help has been given by international organisations.

The World Health Organisation has given fellowships to doctors, nurses, and Public Health Inspectors for study in the Public Health field, with the result that the personnel at the centres have specialised training for their work. Apart from fellowships, W.H.O. also gives the island the benefit of consultant services in Nursing and Sanitation.

UNICEF, too, has been generous with supplies. This agency has provided all the centres with equipment which includes dental chairs, weighing scales and instruments. The Public Health Laboratory also has been greatly helped with equipment by UNICEF and the magnificent contribution to the Environmental Sanitation Scheme must also be remembered.

It must not be thought, however, that the maternal and child health services are all the work of the Government. Voluntary workers were pioneers in the child care service — the St. Lawrence Child Health Centre has been in operation for over fifteen years. This voluntary work is now carried out by a sub-committee of the Barbados Council of Women, the Child Care Committee which, with the aid of an annual Government grant of over \$7,000, does a wonderful job. They have eighteen centres operating in eight parishes and the nurses visit the mothers in their homes in between clinic days. Great tribute must be paid at this time to the work of the voluntary organisations and the contributions which they have made to the progress of our child health services must be recognised.

Acknowledgement must also be made of help given by the Local Government Councils especially with regard to home visiting.

This success story is due to the effort of many persons and many organisations. But special tribute should be paid to Dr. Byer who, as the first Medical Officer of Health in the Island, laid the firm foundation of the Public Health Services by his work at Speightstown.

But even as there is rejoicing over the Kettering Award which marks a great achievement, there must be a resolution to do still better. The Government is steadily expanding its services to the community and will not be content until the present Infant Mortality Rate of 60 is halved, thus bringing Barbados into line with the rate of the most developed countries."

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Hon. L. St. A. THORNE: 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 of Supply, Mr. BRYAN in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1961-62 — No. 10

DEEP WATER HARBOUR — DRAINAGE

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, the first Resolution is a Resolution to place the sum of \$38,600 at disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1961-62, Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1961-62, No. 10, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

The Addendum to this Resolution sets out the purpose of the Resolution pretty clearly so that there is very little that I have to add to it. As hon. members will see, it is necessary, for certain reasons which were not anticipated at the time when we came to the House for the original sum for this drainage project, to supplement this vote of \$108,135 by \$38,600. The Resident Engineer has said that this amount is necessary due mainly to the following: extra steel sheet piling for the pump house itself as well as the cost of subsequent excavation owing to the poor ground encountered.
12.35 p.m.

That was a thing that was pretty difficult to foresee, and I think the House will easily accept the explanation given. Provision of a crane is also needed, and there is a need to construct an annex to house the High Tension Switch Gear, as well as the provision of an outfall to the land drain at the North end of the site. This matter of the drainage has not been an easy operation, and certain engineering problems will arise in this kind of operation from time to time, and it is necessary to provide an outfall at the North end of the site.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister to tell us if some of this work has not been completed already. I have passed there and it seems as if the High Tension Switch Gear is already covered next to the Pump House. I would like him also to tell the Committee how well these pumps are working, and whether it has been decided if the entire responsibility will come under the Department of Highways and Transport. I would like to know who will be operating the pumps and who will be ultimately responsible for keeping these drains clear. I have made inquiries elsewhere but without any results, and it would be an opportune time for him to tell us whose responsibility it is for the entire thing.

With regard to the outfall on the Northern end, that was unforeseen because there was an extension afterwards and that would definitely be very necessary. That has not yet been done because they are still filling in that site. If the Minister could enlighten us on these points, I would be very pleased indeed.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, I must needs go just a little further than what the hon. member who just sat down has spoken of. This drainage touches on the very important subject of Public Health. I happen to know that there was enough publicity given to this matter some time ago, and I want to know how far does this vote for drainage go to satisfy the present problem that there is in draining

and Public Health in general in the Deep Water Harbour area. I know that at the moment there have been some kind of discussions going on between the Bridgetown City Council and the Government relative to certain matters, chiefly, I think, in scavenging in the area, but obviously the question of drainage touches on the whole aspect of public Health in that particular Deep Water Harbour area, and I think we would like to know how far this particular vote we are giving here goes to satisfy or to meet the problem of drainage in its relation to the general Public Health standards of that area.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, I think I will reply to the last question first. Apparently, Sir, the liaison between one Council and another is closer than I had thought. There have been certain discussions going on. Some officials did hold a meeting, but at my level there was limited correspondence and I do have Minutes of what took place. I am glad to see that the member is keeping *au fait* with what is going on in the City, but I can assure the Committee that this is an engineering problem which is by no means an easy one. We are in the hands of these experts, and as I told the House when I brought down the scheme some time last year, we accepted the scheme which we were informed would be adequate to take care of the problem. I can only tell the Committee what the experts have said. It is an engineering scheme and we are not only guided by them; we have been guided by our technical experts as well. These are things that you have to wait and see how well they work. It is a new problem and all I can say is "wait and see". We have no reason to feel that it will fail.

So far as scavenging is concerned, that matter is still being discussed with the City Council; I thought that the hon. junior member for Christ Church might have made reference to it. Anyhow, the hon. member will appreciate that it is still under discussion with the City Council and has not yet been settled.

So far as the questions posed by the hon. junior member for Christ Church are concerned, I am not aware that some of this additional work called for in the Resolution has already been done. The hon. member said he has passed and seen that some of the steel sheeting has been housed; that may be a temporary structure.

Mr. GODDARD: On a point of order, I did not say that the steel sheeting was housed, because that would have to be buried in the sand; it is the High Tension or what we call the Switch Gear or Transformer. It seems to me that the Transformer has already been housed next to the Pump.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I think that is a temporary structure. The hon. member will appreciate that I may not have been in the area as recently as he has been, but to my knowledge this still remains to be done.

When it comes to the question as to whose responsibility it would be, I must say it would be the responsibility of the Port. I am not saying that the overall drainage problems will come under the Port, but after all, much of the area which is now controlled by the Port Department comes within the City - I am not saying it would necessarily be so - but scavenging as well as other problems relating to Public Health or other matters would be looked after by the City Council as they look after Public Health matters which come within their ambit in the City. Scavenging still has to be decided, but much of this will come under the responsibility of the Port Authority which would affect the Government.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, firstly, this matter should not be the function of the Port Authority. It has been a problem created from building the Deep Water Harbour, but it is essentially a problem of drainage.
12.45 p.m.

That should, I think, come under the Department of Highways and Transport and I think the Director of that Department is the person who could adequately cope with this problem. I only want to get it clear. The City Council deals with matters of health for the City of Bridgetown. They would wish to know under whom the responsibility for the operation of this pump is placed. We feel it should be placed

directly under the Director of Highways and Transport, and under the estimates of that Department they should budget for this expense. That is what I am driving at. I only want to know who is responsible for the operation and maintenance of this pump for the adequate drainage of the Fontabelle area.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that I misunderstood the hon. member. If he means departmentally, that is the idea because from the start when we decided to run the Port, one of the reasons why we came to that conclusion is because we felt that the cost should not be added to it. The idea was that you could give such duties to the Department and there should be no necessity for keeping a separate engineering staff to deal with that matter.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1961-62 No. 11

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$6,730. There are two Heads of Expenditure and I will take it by the respective Heads.

HEAD V - MEDICAL SERVICES

HOSPITAL LAUNDRY

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Under this Head, the sum of \$3,130 is requested to pay for a Pressing Machine. This equipment was ordered for the laundry of the General Hospital and it was provided for in the Estimates of last year but it did not arrive before the expiration of the financial year which ended on the 31st March this year. This is a revote, so to speak, of the amount which was in that estimate and at the same time we are taking the opportunity to include the sum of \$430 to provide for the purchase of a spare control box for this machine.

I beg to move that Head V stand part.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: I beg to second that, Mr. Chairman, if any further information is required by this Committee, I will be willing to give the details.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, what I would like to know is whether when this pressing machine was ordered originally and provision was made for it, provision was made for a spare control box or whether that was an afterthought; or to put it differently, after the pressing machine was decided upon, it was realised that the spare control box would also be necessary for the machine.

I would like to know if the Hon. Minister can tell this Committee about that and can also give a breakdown in respect of these two items.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, two years ago we were in trouble for advice and information on the reorganisation of the laundry department at the General Hospital and we brought a technician from Trinidad who spent about two weeks and he gave us a detailed report on the matter. It was on his advice that we decided to buy this pressing machine and in June last year the indent was sent to the Crown Agents. This order either did not reach the Crown Agents or for some reason they were unable to trace it and when this request was sent back, the suppliers advised that we should also carry a spare control box.

The original cost for the pressing machine was \$2,700. We are asking for a revote of this sum and a supplementary vote of \$430 for the spare control box.

The question that Head V stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD IX - MISCELLANEOUS

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, under this Head, supplementary provision is required for the sum of

\$3,600 for Lighthouses, I think this matter is still fresh in the memories of hon. members because not long ago - it was in November, 1930 - the quarters of the Assistant Keeper at Needham's Point Light took fire, and were destroyed. The total cost of replacement is estimated at \$5,600. The balance of \$2,000 came from the General Insurance Fund. That fund was set up and administered under the provisions of section 7 of the Public Property Insurance Act, 1959 (1959-28). The rest of it, this sum of \$3,600, is asked for to make up the total of \$5,600.

I beg to move that Head IX stand part.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the Hon. Premier, or perhaps, the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing, a question which arises out of the Resolution before us. Sometime ago, this House voted a sum of money, the purpose of which was to lend the Assistant Keeper of the Needham's Point Lighthouse and the Assistant Keeper of the St. Lucy's Lighthouse \$1,000 each to assist in replacing their furniture which had been destroyed by respective fires at the two lighthouse sites. I understand that up to about three weeks ago, which is the last time I heard of the matter, that there was some difficulty by one of these people or both in receiving this money.

12.55 p.m.

Would the Minister say whether that is so, and if it is so, what has been responsible for the delay and whether the matter can be settled satisfactorily in the shortest possible time and in about what time?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, I was under the impression that the matter had been settled. I am a bit surprised to hear the hon. member infer that it has not been settled. I would really have to make enquiries into the matter and let the Committee know what the position is. I do not see anything in this file in that connection; however, I will go into the matter, although really and truly the paying out of the money would fall under the Premier's Ministry.

Mr. TUDOR: I thank the Hon. Minister for what he has said. I am not in a position to give the details, but I am informed that there is some dissatisfaction over the matter and it has not been entirely concluded. If the hon. member would investigate the matter I should be glad for that.

The question that Head IX stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I beg to move that a Resolution for the sum of \$6,730 do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1961-62 No. 12

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is a Resolution for the sum of \$4,471 under two Heads of the Schedule which Heads will be taken separately.

HEAD XV - POLICE

Head XV - Police - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the amount asked to be voted under this Head is \$914. The history in connection with this item, Court Expenses, is as follows. A woman policeman by the name of Jordan was sued for damages in connection with a case of false imprisonment. The case went against Jordan. This act was committed by Jordan in the course of her duties. The further history of this matter is that a woman was arrested and charged with the larceny of hats. The hats were taken back to the store for further investigation of the matter and the Clerkess, who was alleged to have sold these hats to the person who was arrested, said in the first instance that she had not sold the hats and then when she was confronted by

the Court she said that she had sold the hats. The case went against the Crown and the Policewoman was subsequently sued for damages. She lost the case and this amount which is now being asked for is really the amount of damages to the extent of \$400 and costs to the extent of \$514.00. It is considered that it is the moral duty of the Crown to pay this amount. I beg to move that Head XV stand part of this Schedule.

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

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know whether the accused person was actually handed over to the policewoman or if the policewoman apprehended her from information received.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, as is set out here, on the 4th December, 1957, woman police constable Jordan was on duty on Coleridge Street when she saw a large and excited crowd on the same street. She went into the crowd in order to find out what had happened and discovered that a woman called Errie Rowe was accused of the larceny of \$100. The woman policeman asked Rowe to accompany her to the C.I.D. where the matter could be investigated. At the C.I.D. an investigation was carried out; the \$100 was not found but Rowe was then in possession of six hats which she said she had bought from the Coronation Store. She was taken to the Store and pointed out the Clerkess whom she said had sold her the hats. The Clerkess said that she had never sold so many hats at any time. The hats were identified as the property of the Store and Rowe said that she had given them to a hawker to keep for her. The hawker said that Rowe did not give her any hats and that she had not seen Rowe for twelve months. The case was brought against Rowe and she was defended by Mr. Niles. The Clerkess said that she had in fact sold the hats to Rowe and the case was dismissed. That, *in extenso*, is the history of the case. I think that that will satisfy the hon. member; I do not think that the hon. member wants to have the whole matter which is in the file but what I have said is the history of the matter.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, after listening to the statement which the Hon. Premier has read out, it seems to me that there has been some amalgamation in this case. We are not against this Resolution because we have to protect the Policemen inasmuch as they are carrying out the services of the public. You cannot follow the depths of this matter; for what reason would any policeman try to bring a false accusation against anybody in this island? The bringing down of a Resolution like this is for the protection of this woman Police constable and we have no objection to it.

The question that Head XV stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

1.05 p.m.

HEAD XXI - SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE

Head XXI - Science and Agriculture - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Sir, this is not a new item but the subject itself is new, and that is a refund to the British West Indies Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station. The note says that this Resolution seeks to provide the sum of \$3,557 for the purpose of refunding to the British West Indies Cane Breeding Station the amount overpaid in error by the Station in respect of its contribution to the Colonial Superannuation Scheme on behalf of its Cyto-Geneticist. As will be seen the amount was overpaid by this body and this Resolution seeks to refund the amount to the British West Indies Central Cane Breeding Station.

I beg to move that Head XXI - Science and Agriculture - stand part.

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

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I am not offering any opposition to the passing of this \$3,557; I can see the wisdom of it all. It is to preserve the pension rights of the officer in question, but I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of

Agriculture whether in the case of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes which were instituted back in 1945 or thereabouts or earlier employees under such schemes - I refer principally to the Agricultural Stations which were set up in the first instance by C.D. & W. and handed over to the Government of Barbados subsequently to carry on.... In other words, the initial expenses of setting up the Agricultural Stations were those of C.D. & W., and when C.D. & W. ceased to carry on the Stations as such, the Barbados Government took on the running and the maintenance and all the expenses incidental thereto at these respective Stations. I want to know from the Minister if similar arrangements along these lines as set out here in this Resolution for protecting and providing pension rights and gratuities to the permanent employees of these Stations were not entered into and agreed on by the Government at the time, because the case which I brought to the attention of this Committee and to the Hon. Premier is one which is very important. There are several cases but I refer to one in particular. If you are not a Cyto-Geneticist or a very superior scientific officer your case might not be taken up. The case I have in point is that of a foreman at an Agricultural Station who served for seven years in one capacity. After having served for a period of about fifteen years in all, this officer has been deprived of his pension rights. In other words, he has got no pension rights after waiting for over a year.

I would like the Minister to look into the matter and find out whether under the Cabinet Development and Welfare schemes similar provision along the lines indicated here was not made so as to protect the pension rights of these officers who were in the first place employed by C.D. & W., and whose continuation of service fell in the hands of the Barbados Government. Although the period of service with the Barbados Government alone may not be ten years or more, when you accumulate these two periods and count them together, the accumulative period, so to speak, would be very much more than ten years which is required by our Pension Act. I would be obliged if the Minister would look into that. There are a few cases beside the one to which I referred, but people in the lower brackets who are entitled to gratuities and pensions apparently have nobody to stand up for them with the result that they get nothing. This Government should look into the matter and see that people like that, although they belong to the lower bracket, are the ones who put us here mainly, and their pension rights should be protected.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Chairman, I think I should inform the hon. member with regret that a Bill which should come before this Honourable House today has not been brought down. In that Bill he will see that not only the persons of whom he is speaking, but other persons - casual employees - will be taken care of. As I said before, it is with regret that I speak now; otherwise I would speak with a certain amount of authority as the Bill would be before the House or would be given notice of today; but in the very near future you will see the Bill coming before you which will really give these categories of workers pensionable rights. Government has been thinking and working along these lines.

As regards this other matter here before us, it is something we are doing for them now. It is something which they overpaid to the Treasury; so we are refunding to them just what they overpaid to the Treasury. We are not contributing anything now; this matter was settled ever since, and when they were paying in the money, they overpaid. Now that the end of their period has come, they are claiming this money which they overpaid in the Treasury. That is all there is to it.

The question that Head XXI - Science and Agriculture - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for \$4,471 do now pass.

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

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

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

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

THE MARKETING CORPORATION BILL, 1961

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries: Second reading of a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Marketing Corporation charged with the duty of improving the growing and marketing of produce and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion when we were dealing with this Bill which is before us again today and which is commonly known as the Barbados Marketing Corporation Bill, I was about to read the Objects and Reasons. I take the opportunity to do so now. They read thus:

"The Object of this Act is to provide for the establishment of a Marketing Corporation in the Island charged with the duty of improving of the growing, production and marketing of fruit, vegetables and other praedial produce, milk, livestock, poultry and fish."

I think, Sir, that I had discussed this matter to the point where any well-thinking legislator, or for that matter any member of the public who has the goodwill of the island at heart, would appreciate what this Bill really means to farmers large and small, and consumers generally. I said 'goodwill' because there are some people who are prejudiced, whose minds are warped and cannot see anything good in progress at all; therefore, at any time we make a move and a change is to come about, there are those - I would not say hysterical persons - but those whose minds are so diseased that you cannot make any good out of them and they see no good out of what you are going to do; so they try through the medium of the Press to give these sordid stories even to the extent of telling lies. They do not represent progress; they represent the subtle few who favour keeping people in the same place they are while they live in luxury and enjoy the fat of the land.

Let me say that this Government is here to change all of that, despite those who write derogatory statements in the Press. I started to deal with this matter last Tuesday and to my amazement I saw certain foolishness written in the Press some day after that. (Mr. WALCOTT: Do you mean in the "Beacon"?) Oh no; the "Beacon" does not write foolishness; it writes what is instructive and good for the people. I was saying, Sir, that to my amazement I saw written in the Press by people who do not count when you begin to count people who matter, an article which was nothing else but foolishness and a lot of rot.

What did I say on the last occasion? I said that because the people of Barbados are inclined to buy imported products more than local products, the local farmer does not put his maximum energy in growing more food; but if the people would buy more locally grown food, certainly, the local farmers are willing and ready to produce more. However, they are not going to produce more when they cannot sell it. That person who wrote that foolishness in the Press last week should better keep himself quiet. We are not going to tolerate that sort of thing. If you have something constructive to write, write it; but when you are being malicious and you do not know what you are talking about, keep yourself quiet. As I have said, those people believe that certain people are lotted out for certain positions and that you must remain as you are. I am saying that that is not so in Barbados any longer. I wish those people would keep themselves out of politics and keep themselves in their place and do not interfere with what does not interfere with them, and do not give the public a wrong opinion.

Sir, unless we have a Bill of this nature in Barbados, we are doing nothing. By this Bill, we are developing the

economy of this Island and without developing agriculture, this Island will be all the poorer. To develop agriculture, you must have a marketing organisation. Let us take sugar. Is it not organised? Let us take bananas in the Leeward Islands and the Windwards. Are the growers of bananas in those Islands not organised? You could not sell your sugar unless you had a proper organisation. You could not sell copra unless you had a proper organisation for it. What we are saying now is that unless we organise the peasants and growers of Barbados they cannot dispose of their products. I repeat the statement which I made last week and which I still contend. Today, we cannot ask the producers of food to plant more, neither can we entice them to participate in any campaign to grow more food unless we provide the means for them to dispose of their produce. You go to St. Joseph and ask them to produce a particular item. You go to St. Philip and you ask the farmers to produce a certain item. Where is the market to get rid of those products? The average peasant knows nothing of marketing. That is the specialised field. Even transportation is a specialised field. It is all right for one to grow, but it is another matter to market it.

This matter goes further than that. It is not only a matter of sales but it is also a matter of strictures and all those things. This Bill seeks to deal with all those matters. I say again that unless you have an organisation such as a marketing corporation, you cannot progress in Barbados. Some people would like to know that we have a lot of tourists coming to Barbados. We welcome them. Some people would like to know that we have a lot of industrialists in Barbados. We welcome them too; but I do not care how many tourists and industrialists come, you will always have the bulk of the people living on this Island and must you not make provision for them? You must have agriculture and you will always have it. If that is so, should we not organise these people? This is more serious than some people think. Because it is being tackled by the Barbados Labour Party which forms the Government of this country, some people are prejudiced against it. We know when we have something which is good. We know that this is good for the peasants of Barbados. Our consciences tell us that it is the right procedure; therefore, we are going to pursue it.

Sir, already I have been approached by a few planters large and small and they have commended this Government for bringing forward this project from what little they have read of it.

1.25 p.m.

The newspapers have been carrying on a series of pages in publication of the Five Year Plan. (ASIDES) The "Beacon" is a progressive paper; the newspapers have commented on this Bill; they seem to think that we are on the right track. From my experience as a businessman, as a planter and from my experience as a Minister, knowing the needs of the farmers, I know that this Bill is the answer to the problems. I do not say that this legislation is fool-proof; we will make mistakes. Somebody says that costs will go up, but it is only natural that if people whom you employ ask for greater salaries, the commodities must bear the cost of the increase. That is commonsense. Whether you are a Socialist, a Liberal, Conservative, whatever you are, you do not have to argue that point. The Trade Union will tell you that; if you want better conditions you will have to pay more for them. If we have to give our employees better salaries, of course you will have to charge more for the commodities. We do not work a magic wand in the Government and we are not pretending to do so; it is betraying the position if people believe that. We do not have a magic box; in the magic box there is hope and sometimes people hope against hope. We are tackling the problems at their root; we say that from time to time we have been encouraging large and small planters to grow more food and we were trying to keep some of the money from going out of Barbados. We are saying that until we create a centre whereby all of these people will be able to converge with their produce, we are only touching the fringe of the problem.

I am very much sold to this idea and I had it from certain hon. members last week that this idea is a good one. I hope that what was stated in the newspaper had no ill-effect on them. However, I do say that this Bill recommends itself to the people of Barbados; it recommends

itself not only to the planters but also to the consumers. I said last week that the price of certain vegetables today prevents certain strata of society from buying certain items. I still maintain that. And what we feel is the remedy for that state of affairs is greater productivity at a cheaper price; that will solve the question. We have been confining ourselves to growing just a certain proportion of vegetables; so long as we can grow a certain amount of food at a certain price we are satisfied, but we are now saying that it is of no use limiting the production of these items for use by the hotels and other places and meanwhile we are buying tinned items. Why should these things come into Barbados? I will issue a warning here and now; when we get into full production and we have everything growing quite well, these other things will be put on licence and the merchants who now have their shelves stocked with such things will not be allowed to get them as freely as they get them now. This Government is prepared to see that the farmer is considered first. Only last Saturday I had a chat with a planter in the vegetable business; he said this: "Imagine I have cabbages now and I cannot sell them! When I go to town they tell me that they have ordered cabbages from Holland". I would like it to be known that when this Bill is passed, these things will be put under licence; they will not be allowed to come in unless it is for the good of the people of Barbados. We do not want to get things from the Dutch farmer when we can grow these things here; we will have marketing arrangements. I know that what I am saying now will not hit the ear of certain people kindly, but it will be done. (Mr. CORBIN: We hope so.) If life is spared, it will be done. I know that this Government will get back in power. I am not one of those "if and when" people; when you have your good works to show, everything will be all right.

Mr. Speaker, I have not got much more to say on this Bill. I take it that hon. members have read this Bill and they know what it is all about. This Marketing Corporation will be run on lines similar to those on which the Housing Authority or the Agricultural Credit Bank is run. The personnel of these organisations will have to be the big boss of the fish cold storage and the other activities in which we will be engaged. This will be the dividing line, perhaps, between private industry and Government-sponsored industry. I hate to say this now, but I must say it. 1.35 p.m.

Too few people in Barbados who count.... (Mr. WALCOTT: Everybody counts.) I mean people in financial circles and I thought you would understand that. There are people who count, perhaps, in Labour circles. These people, however, are bent on doing nothing but just those things which their grandfathers and foreparents have been doing all the years, and that is commerce. You buy an article for six cents and you know the mark-up is 33 1/3%, and that is safe business. But when it comes to really exploring the possibility of new things in Barbados, the average Barbadian has not got that temperament. When it comes to the development of this country, he does not understand what you are talking about. He understands doing a greater business turnover and having a greater volume of business, but when it comes to taking some of his reserves and helping in another direction, he cannot understand that. He is a trader by nature; he wants to know how much he is going to get out of something and whether his money is guaranteed.

Mr. Speaker, I refer now even to the Milk Scheme. Nobody can accuse the Government now, because Government has created not only the climate and conditions but some of the actual cash; but the average Barbadian likes trade. He buys something for 5 cents and sells it for 8 cents and he is happy; but when it comes to taking up some of his reserves to go into other development projects, he is not taking many chances; and until and unless we do these things, the average Barbadian is always going to say that we allow foreigners to come in and invest money. People do not come to Barbados to develop it for nothing.

I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that this Bill is the answer to many problems which we had for generations now, and when this Bill is carried into its proper functions I am sure not only will the farmers be proud of it, but the consuming public will also be proud of it. I do not think I should say anymore as I spoke for a long time on the last occasion, but I thought I would refreshen the memory of the Honour-

able House so that if for any reason people had forgotten what this Bill purports to do, they would be reminded of it.

I would just draw the attention of the House to Section 11 which gives in a nutshell the power of the Corporation and it reads as follows:-

11. (1) The Corporation shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, have power to carry on all activities the carrying on whereof appears to it to be requisite, advantageous or convenient for or in connection with the discharge of its duties under this Act, and in particular without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, shall have power -

- (a) to buy and sell produce;
- (b) to fix and determine the grading of produce;
- (c) to import and to export produce;
- (d) to establish and operate depots and agencies for the purchase, delivery, grading and sale of produce;
- (e) to enter into contracts for the purchase and sale of produce upon such terms and conditions as the Corporation may think fit;
- (f) to enter into contracts for the transport of any produce or of such other commodities as may facilitate the operations of producers;
- (g) to establish itinerant systems for the purchase of and sale of produce;
- (h) to establish and operate facilities for preparing and processing any produce;
- (i) to establish and operate facilities for cold storage or any other form of storage for produce;
- (j) to act as commission agents for the disposal of the produce of any producer or co-operative society;
- (k) to purchase, transport, store, insure, handle and sell any packing material in such quantities and at such prices as the Corporation may from time to time determine.

Well, Sir, on that paragraph rests the functions of this Corporation. That is it in a nutshell. Those are the main functions; and with that I recommend this Bill and beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, the object of this Bill before us is to provide for the establishment of a Marketing Corporation in the island. I was thinking of a Marketing Corporation for a long time, because I have seen the suffering of people in the many parishes of the island. It shocks my modesty sometimes to think that we have such good maiden soil in this country and yet when it comes to tomatoes and different vegetables we have to send to other countries to bring them here. If this Bill comes into operation it would be a great help to the people. At the present moment we cannot get sweet potatoes, yams, cassava or anything at all; so it would be good if some control could be put over a market of this kind, because we have a cold storage here and we would be able to preserve cabbage, tomatoes, and various other vegetables, and I am certain that if there was a shortage of any kind or if a famine came upon us, we would be able to survive much longer. In the present state of things, if a famine came upon us or if War broke out and no ships came to the island with foodstuffs, we would all perish.

I am not against what the Minister has said, except that he was trying to exaggerate too much on the people. He knows that such a Marketing Corporation could not come into operation because we never had a cold storage to preserve the food that was produced. Now that we have a cold storage to preserve the food that was produced, now that

we have a cold storage, a Marketing Corporation in this country would be beneficial to the inhabitants, because we would have more vegetables and better fruit. There are things that come into this country which can be sold cheaper than the ones grown here because we do not have the machinery and equipment to cultivate the land on a large scale to get the amount of produce; it takes too much labour at the present time. Having such machinery here we would be able to cultivate the land on a cheaper scale, be able to plant more food and sell more, and then what remains would be put in cold storage. I am a man who plants plenty of vegetables, and I live in an area where vegetables are grown all the time.

1.45 p.m.

We hope when this Bill comes into operation that we will have a cold storage plant to help preserve the food.

I do not think any sensible man in the community would resist the passing of this Bill because I know what it will do for the people of this Island. Plenty varieties of grain can be planted here and if we have a cold storage we will be able to preserve such grain. We would be able to preserve also sweet potatoes and such items of produce. We have coming here Irish potatoes for which we pay 14 cents, 16 cents and 18 cents per pound and I am sure that our sweet potatoes are more valuable than Irish potatoes and they are more nutritious. We have the land here which can provide such things. Why should we have this land which can provide us with such things and we send abroad to buy such things? One of the reasons why we have to import all these things is because owners of plantations plant the most of their land in canes. I am certain that, if this Government had kept up with the restriction and saw to it that the restriction was carried out every year which called on every estate to plant so many acres of their land in food for the people, there would not be this lot of importation.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would just like to inform the hon. member that those restrictions are still in force.

Mr. CORBIN: They are in force but they are not carried out.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I rise on a point of order. I can vouchsafe that this order is being carried out.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Hon. Minister of Agriculture goes through St. Joseph and St. Andrew which I visit regularly because they are under my jurisdiction, but I am certain that in the parish of St. Andrew some estates do not plant two fields in sweet potatoes; and when they plant them in food crops, they refuse to care them. Every Government in the world has a right to have everything such as foodstuffs under its control because the Government is responsible for the inhabitants of the country.

I cannot stress too much on the Government that we must have a cold storage to preserve the food. We are looking forward when this Bill is brought into force from henceforth to see what line of action Government would take. Lots of people talk about changing the Government and we look for a change. However, I am looking forward for better work. I hope that we will do like Joseph of old and would take up one-fifth of the land and plant it in provision. Joseph expected a seven-year famine and when the famine came he had food sufficient; therefore, we must look for a man like Joseph to put at the head of the Government. We must look for a man of such vision, a man who can look into the future and see the danger which is confronting the people. Pharaoh said that he wanted a man to put in charge and he said to Joseph: "You are the man, I would make you Prime Minister today." Joseph planted food in one-fifth of the land, he built storehouses and dug wells to provide water for seven years because it was said that there would be seven years of plenty and then there would be seven years of famine and when the famine came he had food for the people. We, like Pharaoh, ask you to take our suggestions into consideration and put them into operation. Choose the best material and use it for the preservation of the people. In the whole world, the name of Joseph is still remembered up to today. The name of a good

man will never die. If members of the Government show forth good, the people will love you; but if you do not show forth good, the people will hate you. When the people see that we are doing good, they will re-elect us. I can tell you that the people say this of me: " 'Homie', only God can move you." I perform my duty towards them, and as a matter of fact, before I came into this House I was doing my duty towards them. If this Government remains in power or another comes into power, whichever it is, I hope that Government would do better for the people and the poor people will be able to enjoy a little of the substance of the land.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if Joseph of old had a cold storage but certainly we would take the advice of the hon. member who has just spoken seriously for now. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture was very enthusiastic over this project. We all know that it is one which he had in mind for quite a long time. I do not know if it is part of his stunning legislation because he has been giving us the foreword for so long about it that having come, it does not stun us; it stirs us.

Sir, I would like to make my contribution to this debate by saying that it must be acknowledged by all and sundry that we live in an age of organisational pressures; therefore, just as anybody would understand that certain elements of commerce, or labour, or even Governments think in terms of federation and so on, and of organising, we must consider that everything in which you want to have progress and movement must move in a matter of a form of organisation. As I summarise it, I consider this an age of organisational pressures. Only yesterday, Mr. Macmillan was trying to see how he could move into another form of organisation.

1.55 p.m.

The pressures of organisation are there for all to see. Accepting that, I would like to point out or to recapitulate some of the difficulties which are evident in schemes of this sort. It is only when we remind ourselves of the practical difficulties that we will be able to bring all our concentrated forces in order to solve those difficulties. I think that the Minister knows quite well that Barbados as such is not the most fertile climate or soil for the development of co-operatives. He has already pointed that out and on diverse occasions; one of the reasons for that is that in nearly all actions which have been taken in the development of certain projects, whether it be a question of housing our marketing or of any other projects, you will find that the Government has had to take the initiative in that development. For some reason or other, the commercial interests of Barbados, in former years at any rate, have shown that they were more interested in exporting and selling things than in internal development. I am not sure how interested the commercial interests are now in such developments, but it would appear to me, from my experience in the Legislature, that they are particularly more interested now in trying to get pioneer legislation from whomsoever they can get it, than in any internal development; and they feel that their interests would be protected. From the point of view of internal development, we are not fully aware that they are interested in such development.

Mr. Speaker, it is now 2 o'clock and I shall resume my remarks on the resumption of Government Business.

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

On resumption,

Hon. L. St.A. THORNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to draw your attention to the fact that there is no quorum present and I ask that the Bell be rung.

On the Bell being rung, a quorum was obtained.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. Speaker, It is now Question Time. I understand that there are no replies to Questions ready. The House

will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1. There is no answer.

RESOLUTION *re* SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM MEASURES FOR THE ALLEVIATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 under Private Members' Business is to resume debate on a Resolution *re* Short Term and Long Term measures for the Alleviation of Unemployment. On the last occasion the hon. senior member for St. Peter was replying.

Mr. WALCOTT: On the last occasion when I was speaking in reply to hon. members, I said that I did not anticipate that this Resolution would have caused the exhibition which it caused from the Government, or from two members of the Government - the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Communications. The Minister of Communications spent two hours in filibustering a Resolution which aims at finding employment for the jobless, putting idle hands to work and looking for employment for those who are out of employment. This Resolution created a stir in the Government and the Government referred to Professor Beasley to Mr. Cumber and to every known person who has been here; it took the Government to the Five Year Development Plan and all the Plans which they have. With all of these Plans, however, the Government could not say what they are going to do in a case where 1,000 people have found themselves out of employment; not one of these Plans they could say was the answer to this situation. They were caught flat-footed like a batsman caught with both his feet on the ground; he cannot move and is shocked to think that he has been bowled. Both of the Ministers said that they have found jobs for 10,000 people in five years.

2.35 p.m.

Last week I was at pains to point out that the population in 1949 was something like 209,000 people. I am not going to recite the number of jobs because I did that on the last occasion, but the number of people employed in Barbados was 82,900. The Minister of Communications said that the number had risen from 74,000 in five years to 84,000.

Mr. Speaker, the population in 1960 by some of the figures of the census was 236,000. The population has risen by 27,000 people. The Labour force was 82,900 and over ten years it has only risen by 2,000 more; yet they say that the figure of unemployment is 1,600 or 2,000. I will show that it was not only political fraud but the most ignorant statement that could have been made in a Parliamentary Assembly, and I am going to show the amount of money it would take to employ 10,000 people.

An Industrial Development Mission came here and on page seven of their Report in paragraph 26 this is what they said: "Any estimate of capital requirement over the same period is of necessity very approximate. We consider however that for new industries the average figure of £2,000 capital per person employed is of the right order." If we put £2,000 in ordinary money to employ these people, it would mean something like \$96 million investment capital to create 10,000 new jobs. Now what ignoramus would come to Barbados and tell you that the investment capital in Barbados was \$96 million? Furthermore there are more ignorant statements that they will find 40,000 jobs in the next five years - which would mean \$384 million, more than the whole West Indies Federation can provide in the next five years. What more ignorance do you want? This type of mediocrity which you find in the Government that is prevailing in this country is keeping people in this state of starvation and stupor, and you will find that the population is gradually becoming more barefooted than it was ten years ago. The Government therefore could not provide 10,000 jobs in five years because they do not have the capital.

Mr. Speaker, the Government talks about jobs when a man goes to America or England, and they even pat them-

selves about emigration. The hon. junior member for St. John and I showed that when they were playing the fool about people going to England to find work at the London Transport and when Government was setting a third standard test for some of these people, private individuals were going to England in search of a job. More people were going to work with the London Transport on their own than were being sent by Government. You will find that more people have left Barbados on their own and have gone to the United Kingdom than on any emigration scheme which the Barbados Government has sponsored. People are leaving by the thousands to go in search of employment in the United Kingdom because there is no hope in Barbados for them; yet the Minister of Labour had the brass to say that Barbados has created more employment than anywhere else in the world. His world is very small. It is just as in Joseph's time when that was his world. The Minister's world was walking about Milk Market and up in Haggatt Hall. If we had the unemployment percentage which exists now in the United Kingdom, there would be a civil war; but he does not understand the relative difference, and what it means. He says that there is unemployment in the United States. There are crooks in the United States too, but if we had here the percentage of crooks as exist in the United States, everybody would be crooked.

In an ordinary way, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services talked about births and deaths, but people who study sociology will tell you that you have to count the population in certain units of thousands to be able to understand what it is. I will point out, Mr. Speaker, another stupid statement which was made. A lady by the name of Jeanette Bethel produced a document called "A National Accounts Study of the Economy of Barbados" showing the stupidity of those gentlemen over there. I am giving away 1960; I am giving away 1958 and 1959, but this is what she says: she said that in 1957 there were 233,000 people in Barbados; between the ages of 15 and 65 there were 136,000 people. Now that is the number of people that would normally be in the working labour force. There are people of 65 years and over that I am not counting, although there are some of 65 years who are still in the labour force. Now in 1957 when the population was smaller than what it is estimated at today, there were 233,000 people. I am going to allow that some of the people between 15 and 45 years would be boys and girls at secondary schools who were not in the working force yet. I am going to give you that some are in gaol because gaol is a permanent institution and people revolve around gaol all the time; I will allow for persons in the almshouses and in the various institutions and call that another 12,000. If I give you 12,000 people in gaol, in the various institutions and at secondary schools from that age, you still have 124,000 people. Let us round off that figure and call it 120,000 people of the labour force. They come out and say that they have 84,000 people employed; therefore there are roughly 50,000 people for whom they cannot find a job. That is what the lady says in the Report which came from the Premier's Office. They have shown that they found 10,000 jobs for people in the last ten years and Matthews has shown in this Report that in 1949 there were 82,900 people in Barbados employed with a population that was 27,000 less. With an increase in population of 27,000, you can only say that you have found jobs for less than 2,000 more; yet their deduction has given them 10,000.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know where they got this man-power survey from and who carried it out. You could not find a man-power survey at the Labour Department or at the Statistical Department; so the only persons who have carried out such a man-power survey are the hon. senior member for St. Thomas and the hon. senior member for St. Michael. They have made a man-power survey in which they have produced this conundrum that they have produced 10,000 jobs in five years, which would mean a capital investment of 96 million.

2.45 p.m.

But do you know, Mr. Speaker, that I have challenged the Government and anybody else to call back the jobs as I called them back, that is to say, agricultural labourers (nearly all sugar workers), 21,000; fishermen, 1,500; sugar factories, 5,000; other factories and public utilities, 2,000; dock workers and porters, 2,000? I am sure that

the figure they will call in any of these sectors will be lower and not higher. During the present period sugar factories have employed less workers and, as a matter of fact, there are fewer sugar factories in operation today than they were when that report was written.

Sir, this Resolution of mine was not a resolution introduced in the legislature of Trinidad, Tortola, Mozambique or Madagascar; it was introduced in the House of Assembly of Barbados in which I have the right to put it forward on behalf of the people in Barbados. It is as stated in the Resolution:

"WHEREAS the construction and operation of the new Bridgetown Harbour has increased the numbers of unemployed workers;"

"AND WHEREAS there is no immediate work programme to provide alternative employment for displaced workers;"

"BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly request the Government to take urgent and positive action to provide employment as a short time and long term measure for the unemployed;"

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the short time action should take the form of slum clearance in the City of Bridgetown and increased expenditure on tenantry roads and public works throughout the Island."

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the long term action should be the establishment of a National Committee representing all elements in the community with wide terms of reference to study a programme for industrial and economic expansion with a view to creating greater employment opportunities for the community."

Now, they say that you should not come in with things for a short time measure, you should come in with things of a long time measure. It is on record, and I think I should draw it to Your Honour's attention, that in my own private capacity I have indicated long ago measures which could be put into operation. On the 3rd January, last, I drew to the attention of the Government that these people would be displaced: on a motion to this House I drew it to their attention. Now I have here an article which was written by me. I stated categorically what is our understanding about certain matters. I said that it is necessary for the community to understand and become aware that a new approach is required for the new problem facing Barbados. Fifty years ago agriculture required more people to work the land than today. Then I said: "A look at the number of sugar factories operating today as compared with 1930 will give an indication of the serious loss of manpower. This change is inevitable if we are to keep pace with the competitive industrial tempo of world sugar. Moreover, the present number of sugar factories will be reduced in a comparatively short period."

I went on to say: "The answer is not easy or simple. It requires imagination, hard work and planning. This is not the task of one section of the community. It is the business of the whole community. All the elements in the community would be consulted and called upon to co-operate. Industry as represented by employers and businessmen; the workers as represented by the Trade Union and the Government as the constitutional organisation of the community."

Now, when you stated that publicly and not privately, there is no point anybody telling you that you are not trying to aid in the problem. You hear the startling ignorance of the Hon. Minister of Trade that when I came to discuss the question of displacement, I did not mention anything of our finding employment for the workers which means that he as a Minister will not have to find work for them, but I would have to find work for them.

The correspondent in the newspaper took a more balanced view; but the correspondent is not aware of the methods which you negotiated when it comes to displacement and severance pay. The Trade Union did not ask

the Government to negotiate for severance pay or for money for workers from private employment; but when a national project takes place like the coming into operation of the Deep Water Harbour, can you ask a private employer for displacement and severance pay? It was the Government who decided to build the Deep Water Harbour and operate it. You heard today the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works saying that the Deep Water Harbour is our responsibility because we decided that we are going to run the Harbour.

So far as the Workers Union asking an employer for displacement money is concerned, you do not have to ask that question. How can the Hon. Minister come in here hiding behind the statement that this is a technological change? He does not know the meaning of automation, a term which he also used along with technological change. The Deep Water Harbour is not a technological change nor is it automation. These are changes like those you have in the motor industry where instead of a man working, they start making blocks to work by automatic devices to do the work which men did.

The Deep Water Harbour is a particular project just as the building of an airport. You do not call a new airport automation or technological change because formerly the plane landed on grass and now you build an airport. A technological change is a change which is related to the technique and method which was employed previously. Formerly, you had a man walking about, blowing an old big horn, advertising goods. You say today there is no more need for a horn, you give him a microphone.

Mr. Speaker, I brought a Resolution in here calling on the Government to give the people a production bonus. Do you know what they said about it? They said that that was something going on before Governor Savage came to Barbados. When it is something dealing with the Provident Fund, they say that it is Mr. McKenzie who talked about it. Yet it was talked about long before Mr. McKenzie came here.

The Hon. Minister of Trade said: "Did you make the employers give towards these workers?" The hon. member called me as General Secretary of the Workers Union and said that the Government was going to provide \$2 1/2 million out of the Price Stabilization Fund to put up Bulk Installation for the people in the Sugar Industry. After that he got up in Queen's Park and said to the workers: "We are going to give you \$1 3/4 million." Which is more, the \$1 3/4 million or the \$2 1/2 million? He said all that and then said that Frank Walcott is the man. He also said that in West Africa they also had this sort of thing happening. Should anybody like that be running the Government? The hon. member just cannot count.

2.55 p.m.
He is suffering from being the victim of an eroded mind and the circumstances are now catching up with that. It is the Union who wrote the Minister a letter telling the Government that a levy should be imposed in view of the fact that these things are going to happen. Imagine the sum of \$2 1/2 million at 7% interest.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph spoke on this matter but he is a fledgeling and they have treated him as such. He cannot find anywhere to lie. (Laughter). He said that he was shocked when he came back to Barbados; he went to the Netherlands where they produce oil but he forgot that we produce sugar in Barbados. It is no point bargaining for a man who is unemployed; when I am a hard-headed Unionist, I cannot bargain for a man like that. You do not talk about getting a pension for a man who is starving; he will never be able to get a pension because he would not have lived long enough. In this House we cannot talk about giving pensions yet. Trinidad is talking about pensions; we will soon talk about pensions; but with their machinations over there, some of them would like to see you starving. However, we will have to talk pensions some day; but we cannot talk about pensions before we get a salary. What are you giving a pension on? Are you giving a pension on nothing? The hon. member must bear in mind that in the context of the Trade Union, the people had to organise and you can get pensions for them.

As to the construction of the Deep Water Harbour, everybody recognised that we would have to provide the people

who have been displaced with money. As regards the lighters, some of the people who own them have to sell them, some of the people who have warehouses will have to try and get them rented out. In West Africa they had automation but in Barbados it is not a question of automation. What has happened is that the employers never provided any pension fund, not even a fund for illness, and in the new agreement with these people they are required to pay 5% and 2% of the basic wages into the Provident and sick funds respectively. The Trade Union has asked, in the light of these circumstances, that the employers should make a contribution from the bulk installation. It is not a question of saying that the Union did not do that. When Mr. Adams was President of the Union, the same Minister was expected to be made Prime Minister, but he has been made Vice-captain. Mr. Adams said that the fancy molasses would not be shipped in bulk except it was done over his dead body; but the molasses has gone in bulk and he is still alive. Why did you not ask Mr. Adams to make the employers pay? Mr. Adams is not in the Union any longer. Walcott is in the Union and you say that Walcott will not make the employers pay. You did not talk about how much beer and rum you took down to the opening of the Deep Water Harbour; you thought that the opening of the Harbour was a political catch and that the next morning there would have been an Election. The consequences of the erection of the Deep Water Harbour have now got them flat-footed. They do not even know the consequences of a man who is not working; if a man is given money and he is not employed, he is not making any contribution to the community in which he is living. They do not understand the consequences of unemployment. When a man is employed, his mind is at work, he is making a positive contribution to the society in which he is living and he feels himself as being part of what is taking place; he does not feel like anybody who is on a dole.

The idea of having a works programme is not to chide the Government but to get them to face an ordinary unpalatable fact. It means that in Barbados without our economy, with our unemployment figures, nearly two million in the United States of America would be unemployed. If you shut down work in the United States of America tomorrow it would have the same effect on the two million people. If unemployment in the United States reaches the figure of 6%, that is regarded as threatening; it is regarded as threatening when it reaches that figure which you regard as economic. The Government regards unemployment as a natural, biological process in which the propagation of the species must take place; the Government does not regard unemployment as something which it must face. The members of the Government ask: "Why didn't you ask the employers for something?" Can they settle a taxation or fiscal policy? Can they lay down an economic policy for the people of this island? The people have to abide by what you do; they must have the collaboration of what is coming from you. You cannot sit back like marionettes in the party; you cannot be like the people who dance when you call the tune; it will not end there.

3.05 p.m.

The Minister tried to answer this problem by talking about when they were working for people. When was the Minister of Trade working for people? In 1944 I had to get on a platform to get him in here, because the people called him a taxi-driver or some other low Barbadian terms; so whom was he working for? There is this pontifical idea that they were working for people. You cannot count the Labourites they had in here on your toes even if some are knocked off; but now that we have brought a Resolution of this nature, he says that we are joining with people, and by implication says that I am an opportunist. I could not be an opportunist because they said that the Prime Minister did not want to make me a Minister and I walked out. That is not the attitude of an opportunist. It is the attitude of an opportunist who would say that you were not made Prime Minister because the man is an intellectual snob but you remain and drink in all the snobbery; so he is more a political opportunist than anyone else. He is more opportunist because he would live and let live.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to be a person in whom people do not have confidence. I have in my hand a book called "Foreign Investment in Economically Underdeveloped Countries." This is a study from our Tenth Con-

gress which was held in Brussels on 3rd December, 1959, a copy of which was sent to the Barbados Government saying that we the Barbados Workers' Union were asking them to do something about this to assist our economic development in Barbados. All we have had is an acknowledgement but nothing was done. The Minister of Communications who is now out of the Chamber spoke for about two hours on this Resolution, and he could not come home and end his speech. He reminded me of an occasion when I took a man who claimed he could sing a little Christmas tune. I have no doubt that you know the gentleman, Mr. Speaker. He said that he could sing the Lord's Prayer, so he started off the Lord's Prayer but could not get to the end. However he got back he was saying: "Our Father which art in Heaven" because he did not know enough of the Lord's Prayer to end it. He could not pass "Thy Kingdom come." So we get these sort of things where people start off things and do not know what they are talking about.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications said that he believes in planning; I believe in planning also and the Resolution says "and be it further resolved that the long term action should be the establishment of a National Committee representing all elements in the community with wide terms of reference to study a programme for industrial and economic expansion with a view to creating greater employment opportunities for the community." I am bringing in the community.

One Minister said "National Committee what!" in one breath, and in another breath he asked why we did not call upon the employees. What can we say to that sort of exhibition? I will read now part of this booklet called "Social and Economic Studies." It is a pamphlet printed by the University College of the West Indies, and we are all well pleased that we have a University in the West Indies that can publish these things without fear or favour and it does not matter which Government is in control. I have read the matter on the population which was published to underline the nonsense that Barbados has created 10,000 jobs, and now I am going to read something from this pamphlet in relation to what the Minister of Communications said about economic development. This book came from the Premier's Office and this is what the lady said:-

"Concluding Remarks: In general the size and composition of government developmental expenditure in Barbados since 1955 has reflected the provisions made in the 1955-60 Development Plan, and as a result is open to much the same criticisms which were earlier levelled at the Plan, namely, the lack of a positive policy which would take into account the employment-generating aspects of expenditure on development."

That is a criticism by an expert who came here and investigated and produced this document, "A National Accounts Study of the Economy of Barbados" by Jeanette Bethel. It is Volume 9 No. 2, June 1960 and is a "special number." In the same Development Plan there was a lack of generating employment policy. She goes further and says:-

"This is the most disturbing feature of government capital expenditure on Barbados and it is to be hoped that attention will be made to increase the role of industry in the island with more active assistance from government if necessary, especially in the initial stages of the programme."

That is a complete criticism and denial of what they have said about doing something to create employment. Two-thirds of the whole capital has been spent on the Deep Water Harbour and this Resolution stems as a result of the Deep Water Harbour. You come out with your moon-wash that you have produced 10,000 jobs. Somebody came here and carried out a study for the world to see, and you say in 1955-60 that your panacea is that you have opened up a new Jerusalem. She said you had to have a little introspection. She must have met the Ministers and heard what they said. Listen to what she says about them:-

"A discouraging feature is the current pessimism....." She would not be talking about me or members of the Oppo-

sition; she would be talking about people she met in Government. "A discouraging feature is the current pessimism which prevails and the assumption that there is no future for industrialisation on an important scheme in the island". That came from them, and you must have heard Mr. Allder in the Lower Green. He said "Industrialisation what?" You pick up all these little boys on the National Executive and carry them to a meeting and they say "Industrialisation what". These are the people whom you want to lead us in Barbados. We are mistaking this mediocrity for common-sense and ability and it is time that we tell people, whether or not they look like us, that they are not capable. Let them go and take private lessons. When we were at school we had to go home and do private lessons and as a result they would skip us from Third Standard to Fifth Standard, but there are a lot of idiots nowadays, people who cannot spell "Ada" backwards.

3.15 p.m.

I do not believe the Hon. Premier is a product of this. I know he had a quarrel with the Prime Minister of the West Indies at one time about the age grouping. As a matter of fact, it was a big row. I do not believe he would say so now because he is Premier. However, he had experience with his own sons in the way in which one son got along as regards the other. They were two normal children and he knew that there could not be that vast difference between them.

We have heard the Hon. Minister of Communications talk some more nonsense. He is telling me about somebody in the Federation and somebody in Monymusk. He does not even know where Monymusk is. Hear what this lady says:-

"Most people would agree that a great deal of the gain to be expected from pooling of resources by individual units of the Federation must be the function made to the Federation in the first place in terms of efforts and enterprise on the part of all units."

There is the old time saying that a chain is not stronger than its weakest link. You do not have to go further to philosophise. The Federation cannot be stronger than its weakest unit. You have a married couple. They cannot be stronger than what they are working for. If one works for \$20 and the other for \$10, that is \$30 between them; but if one is working for nothing and the other is working for nothing, that is nought plus nought.

"Now this gain to the Federation must be the function made to the Federation in the first place in terms of efforts and enterprise on the part of all units. Therefore, in the case of Barbados as well as the other units, there is the clear need to make the fullest use of all the available resources of manpower and capital."

What am I asking you to do? I am asking you to make the fullest use of manpower. I said in the article that this is not the job of the Government only; this is a job for all of us. I go a little further. I said:-

"The Deep Water Harbour should have been constructed 60 years ago.

Unfortunately, I had not yet arrived at this planet and could not quicken the pace for action.

The reduction from the deep-water harbour will have a greater impact on the community than the gradual reduction in the sugar industry, because the workers displaced from the port have been employed in their respective jobs for long periods and have grown accustomed to working and are now idle.

As a result of this sudden dislocation in our employment force, the community will suddenly lose the purchasing power from these workers and consequently a loss in general trade and prosperity."

Any idiot would know that if you suddenly release 1,000 people who were accustomed to working for between \$30 and \$40 a week, it would have a big effect on the economy of the country. At the Deep Water Harbour you have employed 467 people and we will have to go and review the whole situation there in the light of what is taking place so far

as the number of people required. One of the displaced workers came to me this morning and told me that he had no tea. Last Saturday I had to take \$5.00 out of my pocket and give to one of these workers. That does not mean that I am in the \$5.00 giving away bracket but I could not give a man a \$1.00 who has five or six children looking to him for support. That is the responsibility which some of us have to bear.

Men who are working on the Deep Water Harbour now are asking me if I can get a job of a more permanent nature for them. I am speaking as a man who is in close contact with these people. On this motion to find employment for displaced workers no member of this House had any right to be returned if he is talking of voting against it. You are not voting against me; you are voting against people who are in search of employment.

Mr. Speaker, it is your duty to regard this as a crisis. I am not talking about any Five Year Plan. They tell you: "Look what we have in the Five Year Plan." Can you put allocations for a fire or a hurricane in a Five Year Plan? If your wife takes ill suddenly, can you put the expenses for that in your plan? There are certain things which you can plan for but you cannot plan for this emergency. This is a national emergency. I said that it is of the greatest importance that there should be a rational economic planning at the unit level in all territories including Barbados.

The first thing we have to provide for is short term employment. Now, this Resolution was divided in two measures for the obvious reason that it would be most unkind of me to come and tell the Government that you must provide employment on a long term measure and that you can get a long time planning by just bringing in a Resolution. Why did I say 'short term'? I say that short term would be practical for these displaced workers who are at present out of work. You knew that they were going to be out of work. As a matter of fact, your Committee's report said so. The Hon. Minister of Trade appended his signature to the Committee's report on the Deep Water Harbour. From what he has said you would not believe he was a member of the Committee nor would you believe that he signed the report which said that you would have this problem of displacement. I told this Committee if the Government of Barbados in its wisdom saw fit to capitalise the construction of the bulk installation which in itself formed the greatest bloc for displacement, then you would have to look for other avenues of employment for these displaced persons. The Hon. Minister got up here and asked me about automation. This is the state of affairs which you get as a result of bulk installation. The Tally Clerks no longer work with sugar. The produce porters no longer work with sugar. Lightermen are out of it completely. So far as bulk installation is concerned, that has caused the greatest number of people to be displaced. For bulk installation, the Government took up \$2 1/2 million of the Price Stabilization Fund to construct it. The amount which these people have to pay back is \$120,000 per annum. We asked that they make a contribution to the workers. We wrote a letter to them and said: "can you tell us your plan?"

3.25 p.m.
President Kennedy in the United States of America formed National Committees. Mr. MacMillan during his tenure of office and Dr. Adenauer in West Germany did likewise, and the Inner Six and the Outer Seven forced Great Britain into the European Common Market. Do you mean to say that we do not want to have a National Committee? Is it that we do not have any interest in Barbados? One of the Government members has said that the Planning Unit has a policy for these displaced people, but you cannot ask the Planning Unit to plan your policy. Mr. Bonnett has been quoted in this economic study. This book which I have here is a book from the Office of the Premier and it issues criticisms; it is a critical examination or analysis of this situation. Are you afraid of the Elections? The members of the Government say that they have no fear about the Elections and when somebody brings forward any matter they say that he is only doing it because of the Elections. I want to say that you only get into this House by way of an Election. This is not a maternity ward of parliament; you have to get in here by an Election.

We are asking what harm will this Resolution do to Barbados by finding work for the jobless. I am going to show the Government, and others will show them too, that by our solidarity on this matter we mean business about it. I have been watching the Government and I see that each time a Resolution is brought down here, in whatever connection this Resolution is, the members of the Government say that they are not going to vote for it; however, we are not going to allow them - at least I am not going to allow them - by any of the machinations they use to prevent the people from getting their rights. I am glad to see that the Minister of Agriculture has returned to his seat. That Minister talks about a marketing organization; he wants more food to be planted. You can have all the marketing organizations you like, but if you have no work for the people, they will carry away all the food which you plant. You either give a man a job, you either lend him something or he will steal it. I do not care whether they vote for this Resolution or not; I know that the people are with me in this Resolution. It is only idiots who think that you have not got to find work for people. You have a man in the Housing Area owing \$49.00 and he has not worked for \$49 from the beginning of the year! I have already mentioned the case of the man who is friendly with five women and has three children; do you not understand what is happening? These are not people who have servants; the women and the children have to work.

I want to tell the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that, in a matter of this sort, it is not a question of saying that you should get money from the employers; it is a question of asking if the Barbadian economy can allow people to be unemployed. The Hon. Minister of Communications referred to the closing down of Monymusk Factory on account of technological changes. The Government did not give any money to build the Deep Water Harbour.....

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker,.....

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member cannot at this stage..

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Sit down.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member cannot tell me to sit down; whom do you think you are talking to?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: A point of order has been claimed.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member cannot get up in here and tell somebody to sit down. I am in here as an equal; he has to look for somebody to whom he is paying money and tell him to sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister did not mention at first that he had risen on a point of order; he addressed the Speaker and it is not for one hon. member to tell another hon. member to sit down. However, now that there is less heat being generated, I will listen to the Hon. Minister's point of order.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, I never said, inferred or in any way gave the impression that Monymusk was something like the Deep Water Harbour. I said that this problem is one which obtains throughout the area. I said that in Jamaica two thousand workers were displaced because of technological changes in the Monymusk Factory and the same thing obtains in the Oil fields in Trinidad. I never used the construction of the Deep Water Harbour as compared with Monymusk Factory.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member is on the defensive about the Deep Water Harbour. I went further in my opening remarks and I said that we will have more unemployment in Barbados as a result of the closing down of sugar factories; that will continue whether we like it or not. There are two sugar factories which I know of at least in that connection. We cannot go on producing 180,000 tons of sugar with 19 sugar factories with the technological change of grinding canes at so much per hour. We do not need 19 sugar factories to do that. You do not want to have a factory just crushing canes and getting nothing out of it. As

to all the canes which are being ground in Barbados now, the amount is ground at one sugar factory in Trinidad; and in Cuba the sugar crop of Barbados is ground in one week.

3.35 p.m.

I am not here talking about technological changes, because since 1950 we passed a Resolution in British Guiana saying that for good wages and a good standard of living to take place in the sugar industry, people must accept technological changes. As soon as you want to have a hoe and basket, you must get a low standard of living. The plantation system would never be in Barbados if we did not have slavery. There is no plantation system in Europe because slavery was abolished long ago. The plantation system is the product of cheap labour. You could not break up plantations and turn them into farms unless you are going to grow gully-root and let people drink gully-root tea or grow spices. When you come to the modern Western standard of living, you have to rationalise the economy on the basis that you have different facets in it.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member referred to Monymusk in referring to technological changes. The Deep Water Harbour is not a technological change nor is it automation; it is a national project which aims at something completely different. The shipment of sugar is not a technological change; bringing a ship alongside the Harbour is not a technological change; so do not be idiots. It is when you change a winch in a hatch that you get a technological change. Once there was a man cranking up the winch in a hatch, but today he sits and presses a lever. Technological change is not having one conductor where you formerly had two or lining up a bus on a particular side of the road. A different economy is taking place in the Harbour, but we are not protesting that. Do you believe that in this day and age anybody can come and say we do not need a Deep Water Harbour? Do you think we want to be like St. Vincent where you see men in a piece of pants wading through water with bags of sugar? Do you expect me to say that Barbados does not need a Deep Water Harbour or that we should not compete with Mr. Joshua in St. Vincent? The water there is too shallow for a ship to come alongside the Wharf and the water is too deep for the men and sometimes a man disappears!

Mr. Speaker, we agree with having a Deep Water Harbour because it is necessary, but as a consequence of the building of the Deep Water Harbour, it has produced unemployment. Why should we salve our consciences because we agree to have a Displacement Allowance Bill to give these people money? The hon. member talked about the Five-Year Development Plan, but he was not here to hear what this lady, Miss Bethel, said about the Five-Year Plan. She said that it had no intensive work in it; but the Minister has come back and talked about 10,000 jobs. The Minister cannot count if he says that they have created 10,000 jobs in five years, because that would mean a capital investment of \$96 million and Barbados had not got it. Your population figures have shown that you are lying when you say you have created 10,000 jobs because you had 82,000 jobs in 1949 and now you have 84,000 and your population is 27,000 more. These are undeniable facts for everybody to see.

The Government does not know, Mr. Speaker, that the employment in Barbados has fallen and not risen. When you take the number of people employed in Barbados with a smaller population and take the number of people employed now with a larger population, the percentage will show a drop because your labour force has increased. What has increased is not the employment force but the unemployment force, because the unemployment force has gone from 25,000 to 35,000; so that is what has gone up 10,000.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to put in this copy of the Beacon for the 22nd July; I am challenging that somebody from "The Beacon" and more especially the Minister of Communications has taken a *verbatim* account of the records of this House and published it in "The Beacon" of 22nd July. I am putting it in so that the Clerk can check it with the records he has in the House of the debates which have taken place. I say that because the Ministers have been trying in this House to use undue influence not only in their own positions in Government but in other places in thinking that they have special privileges unto themselves. If I am

wrong I would like an announcement to be made from the floor of this House. There was no Reporter from "The Beacon" newspaper in this House on the 11th July, and what has been published in their paper has not been published in any other paper in the island. I would therefore like to have this checked from Hansard.

I made that point, Mr. Speaker, because when it comes to the privileges of this House, as I said, we are entering independence, and there are some Ministers who would do anything to get something over members in this House politically; they have no compunction about doing it. I am prepared to say things not only in here but outside, because I do not want any special privilege. I heard the Minister talk about losing an election; his friends in St. Lucia lost an election. I know I am not going to lose any election for telling a man something I know. If the judge says that I should not call a man a thief, I would say he is twice a thief; you cannot tell a man these things unless you know they are true. That is why I want that paper to be examined.

The Minister wasted the time of the House by talking about the Five Year Plan. The same Minister takes papers that are given to them in confidence and carries them to "The Beacon". (Mr. TUDOR: Shame!) You would take State secrets and do anything with them, because if these things are circularised to you confidentially and you can give them to the people at "The Beacon", what kind of business is that?

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have made my position quite clear. I had to reply to some of the statements made by members. As I said, I do not think the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was serious in his condemnation. I do not believe that he is sure yet where he is going to land; so I do not know if it was a reinstatement speech. It was neither against or for; he was like Pilate.

3.45 p.m.

I can understand his predicament.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have answered all the points. I think I have made it clear about the 10,000 jobs which Gov- Government says it has filled and the 40,000 jobs which would be established by a capitalisation of \$384 million. Now, the Hon. Minister of Communications quoted the Beasley Report, but there is nothing in the Beasley Report which is applicable to this because that was a fiscal survey and it had nothing to do with unemployment nor with people being displaced. You do not need an economist to find work for people. The Hon. Minister of Communications should have quoted the Cumper Report because that Report gives a sordid picture of the Barbados situation as regards unemployment.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph made some reference about Sandy Lane. He said that workers at Sandy Lane came to him and he was surprised to hear from them that they did not receive any severance pay. I will tell the hon. member that the Trade Union along with the Sandy Lane Company agreed that they would pay people an amount arising out of their displacement and the reason why they are not paid yet is because the Barbados Sugar Producers' Association and the Government are still discussing the question of what the amount should be. I will also tell the hon. member that as chief negotiator for the Workers Union, I am not coming out of a conference room until I get what I feel is reasonable for the workers. There are certain things which we want and as a result of our not getting an answer on them, the discussions have not been concluded. Let me repeat that I am not coming out of any meeting until we are satisfied. We say that we want a certain amount of money and we are not going to complete the agreement until certain things are settled. The Government wanted to press us into going down to the Harbour before anything was settled and we said that we are not ready yet. We saw to it that those who were going to work there did not go until everything was settled. You have over 1,000 workers displaced as a result of it. Every Minister wants to be re-elected; but for the displaced workers there is no coming back. They have got to the point of no return. Are they entitled to work in Barbados or must they look for work in Trinidad, the Capital of the West Indies Federation? I repeat, the owners of Sandy Lane Factory have agreed to pay displacement allowance to the workers. That factory was

sold out; therefore, there is nothing which the Government has to pay; Sandy Lane has to pay. We have an agreement where if you sell your factory, you have to pay the workers displacement allowance. If you have a technological change, thereby putting people out of employment, you must pay a displacement allowance to those workers.

The produce porters received \$250,000 from the Sugar Producers which the Government did not know anything about. The employers had to pay this amount to the workers for the sugar which was exported ex-Wharf. The Minister need not tell me anything about West Africa. I have a friend there. He need not tell me that I do not know about technological things. Do not come and tell me that you did not go and ask the employers to pay. Ten years ago we found out that sugar was going out of the island ex-Wharf and we fought it; and on account of that, the produce porters received \$250,000 which the employers had to pay to them. Are you telling me, Frank Walcott, what I have to do? What does the Government boast about in this country? It is a fact that the Trade Union has got wages for workers up to a point in this island, and as a result the spending power of the people has increased. The credit which the Government gets as a result of that they take it unto themselves. The Hon. Minister of Trade said what he did for workers. Where has he ever sat down and got one penny for workers? Where has he sat down and negotiated for one cent for a worker in Barbados? They sit down and take the credit. We have read of the wages which were received by workers when the Government sent them to St. Kitts. They sent people to cut canes at a rate of \$1.15 per ton when it was \$1.25 over here. That is what we of the Union got for the workers; therefore, if the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was shocked to hear that the workers of Sandy Lane had not yet received any allowance, I hope from what I have told him now that he would be revived from the shock.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have done my duty to these displaced workers. They come to me every day and I feel that something should be done for them. I must thank the hon. senior member for Christ Church for the ideas which he has given on this matter and I must thank those hon. members who have spoken on this Resolution. As I said at the beginning, the Resolution cannot be taken as a political resolution because, so far as I am concerned, I happen to be one of the representatives for the parish of St. Peter and I do not know what special thing there is in this Resolution for the people of St. Peter. What I know is that what is good for any part of the island is good for the whole island. I cannot see in this age, with the cost of living being what it is, how any Government can say that with 1,017 people being put out of work it is not a matter for the Government to find work for them. When you put 1,017 out of work, that is a matter which would affect some 6,000 people. It means that there are 6,000 people who would wake up tomorrow morning without bread. This Resolution is for the purpose of asking the Government to provide a work programme which the Government has not done for these people.

I have much pleasure in moving the passing of this resolution.

The question that the Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:-

AYES: Messrs. WALCOTT, GODDARD, CORBIN, BRANCKER, TALMA, BARROW, CRAWFORD, and TUDOR - 8

NOES: Mr. BRYAN, Hon'bles Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, M. E. COX; D. D. GARNER, R. G. MAPP; L. StA. THORNE, Messrs. SEARLES, STRAUGHN and SMITH - 9
3.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question has been resolved in the negative, eight hon. members voting "Aye", and nine hon. members "No". I think the "Ayes" have it.

RESOLUTION re INVESTIGATION INTO ALL PHASES OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day under Private Members' Business is to resume debate on a Resolu-

tion relative to an exhaustive investigation into all phases of the Sugar Industry in Barbados by the Sugar Enquiry Commission under the Chairmanship of Mr. Carl Goldenberg. On the last occasion, the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour was speaking.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion when this matter was under discussion, I think I was making the point relative to the second part of this Resolution which reads as follows:-

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Government take steps to invite the Sugar Enquiry Commission under the Chairmanship of Mr. H. Carl Goldenberg, Canadian economist-lawyer, which recently enquired into the sugar industry of Jamaica, with such excellent results for the workers and cane farmers, to undertake a most exhaustive investigation into all phases of the sugar industry in Barbados"

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

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was referring to the second part of the Resolution as moved by the hon. senior member for St. Philip. The first part of the Resolution states that the future of the sugar industry is uncertain and there is therefore urgent need to place every phase of its operation on the most rational basis. As I said, the hon. member refers to the uncertainty of the sugar industry. I was making that point that that was rather strange to us when there is a guaranteed price for a high percentage of the sugar surplus - and also, as hon. members will know, that every year there are negotiations going on with a view to seeing whether or not the cost of the production of sugar has been increased, and if so, to allow for that increase. In addition to that, another year has been added to the Agreement. In other words, if the Agreement is for five or six years, every year in which you negotiate, you add another year, therefore, at least in advance, the producing countries can rely on a seven-year period within which they can produce their crop and be assured of a market and also of a reasonable price for a large percentage of the exportable surplus. This is an Agreement which has been reached by the Ministry of Food in Great Britain and the Commonwealth sugar-producing area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think I am correct in saying that this is as a result of the pressure brought to bear on the British Government by the sugar-producing areas including the West Indies in 1953 when the present Prime Minister of the West Indies with the present Premier of Barbados went up to England with others of the West Indian islands. That delegation included Sir Archibald Cuke. They made a strong case for the protection of the sugar industry and of the various territories which produce that sugar. I saw demonstrations in London where Londoners carried placards bringing pressure to bear on the Ministry of Food to consider the plight of the people of these sugar-producing areas. As a result of all that, the Agreement was reached. I have a copy of that Agreement in 1953; I am afraid, however, that I have not got that copy with me because I did not expect that we would reach this item today. In any case, at the Conference it was made quite clear that ample protection was to be given to the people of the sugar-producing areas. So much so, that when the Ministry of Food reported to the House of Commons - all of that is reported in the book which I have - the representatives of the sugar-producing countries including the West Indies went back thoroughly satisfied with the arrangement which had been made. From then on there has been absolutely no difficulty experienced by any of the sugar-producing areas in getting the British Government to honour the Agreement which was reached in 1953. As I said, we have a guarantee that the British Government will take 70% or 80% of the exportable surplus of sugar and in addition to that, the sugar will be taken at a price which is above the world price.
4.05 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the hon. member who sponsors this motion knows of any change - as no doubt sometimes he happens to know things that are unknown to the wisest in the world - I am sure that members will agree with me that he has not up to now made one point or revealed one of the changes that he knows during the course of this debate.

He has not pointed out any change to us, having said how doubtful and uncertain the sugar industry is. He has not said, for example, that the British Government after this year is not prepared to purchase sugar at the negotiated price, but rather at the world price. He has not said anything whatsoever to satisfy us that there is any uncertainty as far as the sugar industry is concerned.

What perhaps the member could have said which might have been acceptable is that owing to the drought which we were experiencing, we may not get as many tons of sugar as we got last year or this year. Before the rains came last month and perhaps late in June, we would all agree that the prospects were that our crop might not be as good as it was this year or last year, and if he had based this argument on that premise, we could perhaps agree with him, though not necessarily agreeing with the Resolution, because the Resolution would be completely out of place in respect of the particular happenings since then. But the hon. member said it was uncertain and therefore we must get Goldenberg to come down here. I think I am correct in saying that the General Secretary of the Workers' Union boasts of the powerful influence which he wields as a Unionist upon the employers of this island. In the course of his speech not long ago, he said that when the Union goes in to negotiate the Union does not come out from behind those doors until it gets what it wants.

As I mentioned already, Mr. Deputy Speaker, last year when negotiations were carried on between the Union and the Sugar Producers' Association, the Union asked for 10% increase for the workers, but 9% was offered and the Union accepted it. If that is so, and if we accept the Union - and I know they do on this occasion because they hope that the Leader of the Union with his strained relationship towards the Labour Party will throw his weight on that side, I am going to tell them here and now that his weight will be negligible in the set-up that is coming right now. As a matter of fact, he will be asking somebody to put a little weight on him. If he has all this weight as he claims, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and if they admit and regard him as this sole bargaining agent for the workers in the sugar industry.....

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like the Minister to quote the instance or the occasion on which any of us said, as he wants to claim, that we recognise the Union as the sole bargaining agency in this matter, or that we expect all this overpowering weight which the Union has.

Hon. M. E. COX: I thank the hon. member for that; it shows that somebody is fooling somebody.

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, the hon. member has not got to wait for me to say this. Just let him cast his memory back to 1958 which is not so far away.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am glad the hon. member has said what he has. I have heard, on several occasions since the two of them have joined together in recent years, members from that side getting up and praising him as the sole bargaining power with his vast knowledge of Trade Unionism and all this sort of thing, representing the workers of this island. If they want to deny it now, let them deny it. Whether or not they regard it as such, I and this Government regard the Union as the sole bargaining agency of the workers of this island, because as far as I know, there is no other Union. I think they have one on paper, but it does not work on paper; we want practical work. Theorising is quite all right, but more often than not we on this side do not mind what people say; we mind what they do. To say that you have a Union and are representing the people is all well and good, but what have you done to convince the public that you have a Union, to say the least about representing people?

They have regarded, and we regard, the Barbados Workers' Union as the sole bargaining agency of the workers, despite the fact that you may have one or two people in it today who would destroy the very foundations upon which that Organisation was built, who would murder those pioneers and people who faced the brunt of the burden of the

early days when talking about organising people was regarded in this island as treason, when a lot of people now talking about labour, socialism and all that sort of thing were the stooges and sycophants of the wealthy. Those are the days when some of us had courage enough although not having the money or anything like that, and believed in justice, fair-play and righteousness, and were able to go ahead and be successful in our achievements. If you regard the Union as the authoritative body of bargaining for better conditions and better wages for workers, then you have to conclude that since the Union has agreed, since you have not got any Union to bargain with anybody, and since you have no power in this House other than to filibuster and criticise whenever you like, that what the Union did was done in the best faith and in the best interest of the workers.
4.15 p.m.

You have to say that. Now, that is the position as far as the agreements are concerned. Those are the agreements reached between the two parties. I have not heard other unionists or the Leader of the Union say at any time that those conditions were not satisfactory to the Union; therefore, I have to conclude that the workers were satisfied with the arrangement made at the time. If the workers were satisfied, there is only one group which might be dissatisfied and that group would be the people who manufacture and sell sugar. I have not heard that they are dissatisfied either. As I have said, they have ample representation. They have their sugar experts who go up to England every year and discuss the agreement. They put figures to the British people with a view to convincing the British people as to the increased cost of production of sugar so that the British people would make the necessary adjustment. They come back and tell you that they got £3 per ton more or such figure that meets the additional cost.

I know for a fact that the peasants are not satisfied, but I am sure that the hon. member was not referring to the peasants because his Resolution was too general. He referred to the sugar industry. I know that the peasants are dissatisfied because in many respects they have got to meet higher cost in so far as the reaping of their canes are concerned. The cost to them is higher than that to the large sugar growers. It is so especially to those peasants who grow canes in the hilly districts of St. Andrew, St. Joseph and part of St. John where canes cannot be loaded on to the lorry, but must be headed first. I know that cost of reaping those canes is terrific as compared with the cost of reaping in the low-lying level areas. I know that the peasants have to pay extra because there is no production bonus given on the one-acre and two-acre lots; therefore the peasants are asked to pay a greater price for reaping and it is a price which more than squares with that of production bonus and the paying for loading and reaping of those canes.

As I have said, Mr. Deputy Speaker, no point whatsoever during the course of the debate did the hon. senior member for St. Philip make in respect of this particular point which I am now making; and as I said before, this is one of the regular pre-election stunts that are used every year that there is an election. The hon. member years ago used to talk about emigration. Well, no longer can he fiddle with that question.

Mr. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I object to the Hon. Minister's inanity. Ask him when and where I fiddled with emigration. Ask him what contribution he made personally to get one single person out of the Island. I also object to the lying statement that every election year there is some Resolution like this.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the hon. member mean the remarks used just now?

Mr. CRAWFORD: Did you not hear?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know the remarks to which the hon. member is objecting. I am going to ask the hon. member to repeat the remarks. I really do not know them.

Hon. M. E. COX: I can assure Your Honour that they are nothing unparliamentary.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I never said that the remarks were unparliamentary. I said that it was a lie. I object to his saying that I came in here and fiddled with immigration.

Hon. M. E. COX: I did not say that the hon. member every election year came in here with a Resolution like this. I said that this is one of the usual pre-election stunts. It is a fact because I know whenever there is an election on, the hon. member was famous for going around and telling people that they can get more wages, and so on.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I rise on a point of order. If the hon. member does not understand what is happening in this country, let him say so. Let him state one single occasion on which I have ever suggested that agricultural workers should get more money, that they did not get it. Every single time that I have urged for more wages for agricultural labourers, I have been borne out by investigations carried out by the Government into the matter. Up to 1958 when I had a meeting of agricultural workers in Queen's Park, they were compelled to bring in Mr. Lewis to investigate, and the agricultural labourers got more money. The last time I brought a Resolution on the floor of this House for sugar workers, the Government appointed a Committee of Enquiry and the workers got the now famous back pay to which the Government now wants to lay claim. These are facts which would be proven and well documented when I come to reply.

Hon. M. E. COX: The hon. member seems to have a very short memory. I would like to go a little further and say this. Not only, as he has said, when increases were given to the people in the sugar industry that they got more and it was due to the fact that he urged the Government, but he also wrote in his newspaper on several occasions about the matter.
4.25 p.m.

Mr. CRAWFORD: On a point of order. The Hon. Minister is only trying to spin out this debate because he has something to say. I defy him or anybody like him to quote a single paragraph of the statement which he has quoted. Let him bring it here in black and white and quote it.

Hon. M. E. COX: The hon. member is accusing me of dragging on because I have nothing to say; it is he who is dragging on.

Mr. CRAWFORD: I am correcting his infamous, lying remarks.

Hon. M. E. COX: If some of the people are dead, some of them are still alive. I know what was said as regards the hon. member speaking the truth. It is on record. However, I do not want to indulge in that sort of thing. What I am trying to say is this; we, on this side, are keeping abreast of things in this island; and can the hon. member seriously tell us, the Minister of Agriculture and all of us who are concerned in the interest of this country, about the uncertainty of the sugar industry and that therefore he had to move the passing of this Resolution in this House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now 4.30 p.m. of the clock, time for the resumption of Government Business.

BARBADOS MARKETING CORPORATION BILL

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On the last occasion when Government Business was under consideration, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was speaking on a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Marketing Corporation charged with the duty of improving the growing and marketing of produce and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was speaking on this Bill which has for its object the setting up of a Marketing Corporation. I was trying to corroborate the enthusiasm of the Minister (*ASIDES*) but now it seems as if the Minister does not want me to support him. (*Laughter*) However, I was trying to corroborate the enthusiasm of the Minister in the introduction of this Bill. I have made a few notes here and I will try to be brief in this matter.

I am hopeful that this Bill, which has for its purpose the setting up of a Marketing Corporation, will do whatever the Minister hopes it will do. I hope that it will ensure the encouragement of production in this island; I hope it will ensure that produce is available whenever it is needed and some of it might be exported as well. I was also saying that it is a fact that the commercial interests did not assist in any way in previous years in creating what might be termed a climate for the co-operative movement; conditions in the island itself, however, do not seem to be conducive to the work of co-operatives, and the commercial interests would be in the export and import trade. It so happens that the history of this kind of development, which is now before us, would show that many of the projects which, in other countries, might have been started to provide co-operative effort, had to be introduced and stimulated by the Government. This is just another example; you have any amount of literature to show that in other parts of the world there are producers' co-operatives, consumers' co-operatives and whatever they may be; but it happens that the soil in Barbados is not fertile enough for that sort of thing to flourish. The Minister has introduced the Co-operative Marketing Bill and he has high hopes for it; I do hope that he will be able to realise all of these hopes. If the Hon. Minister wants to have these things realised, I have a few remarks to make about the practicability of the scheme and I think it is right that I should make those remarks to show that we appreciate some of the difficulties in putting this Bill into practice.

In Clause 10 of this Bill it will be seen that the Bill is designed to stimulate, facilitate and improve the production, marketing and processing of produce in the island, particularly for the benefit of the producer. I think that it takes a brave and able Minister to introduce a project like this and to say precisely that he hopes to benefit the producer. I know that the Hon. Minister is thinking of encouraging the small producer and the small farmer and he is taking the matter boldly. Also in Clause 11 of this Bill one of the Sub-sections speaks about fixing and determining the grading of produce. I hope that this project will so come into operation that we will see people engaged and taking a big interest in agricultural economics. If you are encouraging people to produce and have this sort of organization, you would expect that this organization would determine certain standards of produce which will be of benefit to the community. If you are thinking of standards, you must be sure that the whole project is successful, and that you will come to the assistance of the people who are trying to put it into operation.

It is not an easy thing to set up standards and be sure that these standards will be maintained. If this is our interest then we should try to see that it is maintained. If we are hoping that this project will be successful, I want to find out if the Hon. Minister visualises that at some time or other we may have to subsidise a project of this nature. We do hope that this project will be self-supporting, but there is the possibility that you may have to subsidise it. If you are putting forward this project, you are going to expect the producer to get a reasonable return for his investment, and you will be faced with a situation that if you want to provide a reasonable return on the producer's investment, from the point of view of the consumer you have to think in terms of the consumer not being fleeced.
4.35 p.m.

You are therefore holding the reins in the middle in that conflict, the conflict of economics, as you are interested in giving the best benefit to the producer. You know that you do not want the consumer to be over-burdened with exorbitant prices; therefore one must certainly go carefully and warily along. If it does reach a situation where one might find that to keep encouraging the producer yet at the same time the competition might be of such a nature from outside markets especially if you get customs union that you have also to protect the consumer, you can see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there is a possibility of Government having to subsidise a project of this sort.

There is another thing, Sir, that makes it more necessary for us to pay very careful attention to the way you want to operate and administer this Bill, because this Bill also says that it is designed to make this Marketing Cor-

poration the sole exporter of any produce of this sort. If you are going to have a sole exporter and you want to give the benefit to the producer, you must also remember that in the competitive market your prices at some time might be uncompetitive and you might have to subsidise. It is a possibility that these things may happen.

I heard the Minister refer, for instance, to the cabbages from Holland and he pointed out where some planters or market gardeners in Barbados, now that they have planted their vegetables, found that members of the commercial community in Barbados have been ordering their cabbage from Holland. That is just another example of the open competition one has to face. The last figure I had from Holland, a place to which I was closely attached, showed that Holland was an agricultural community of more than one million people unemployed, and therefore obviously being an agricultural community and having to protect themselves against the ravages of the sea - being in the Netherlands - they have to work very hard on agricultural produce and gear themselves for world-wide competition in this business; so do not be surprised in competing against places like Holland and Denmark that you want to handle your produce internally, because that is a difficulty which you will have in competing with those countries who have so geared themselves so highly to fit into the world competitive market so far as agriculture and produce is concerned.

When the Hon. Minister mentioned that he knows that marketing is a scientific occupation and that we have been taking it too casually formerly, he is quite right. Producers have to organise themselves in a scientific manner, and so you have to study marketing in the same manner. I had some acquaintance, as I said, with the oil industry, and I know that the producers, refiners and marketers get together all the time in top-level conferences to see how they can co-ordinate their activities. Marketing in that particular field is one of the highest of high sciences, and even though it is a highly organised business like the oil industry, they know at times that they find themselves having to compete in the American market with produce that comes from the Middle East where because of the low standard they have been able to land crude oil in the American soil at a cheaper rate than is produced in America itself. We are going to face the possibility, therefore, of the same kind of top-level and throat-cutting competition when it comes to the marketing of our produce with places overseas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think we have to give all possible encouragement to projects of this sort, but we have to face the realities of the situation. You have to produce enough to make it worthwhile to make people continue producing, and at the same time you have to be sure that your produce can stand all possible competition from all sources at nearly all times. If you find you are falling down on that, then a Government subsidy should be given to these people. It is necessary to do that in order to prime the economic pump of the country involved. Those are problems we have to face, and as I mentioned casually just now, if Montserrat, for instance, is improving on its market gardening of tomatoes, if we get customs union, we can expect and we have to understand that we have to face that competition as well. It is going to work both ways. If we get the advantage of exporting any produce in the West Indies, obviously they must have the same advantage of exporting here; so while this Bill is designed as I understand it to stimulate, facilitate and improve the production, marketing and processing of produce in this island particularly for the benefit of the producer needs our encouragement, we must be willing to face certain possible realities of the situation.

I think the Minister must have taken notes of these things even before he introduced the Bill, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I believe it is a bold act on his part knowing that at some time or other it must be done, and the reason is because of a statement I made at the beginning of my address that we cannot get away from it. We live in an age of organisational pressure, and just because the commercial community has found out that it has to organise on its own, its members did that in order to cut down the cost of operation and get more profits.

At the time when the Sugar Producers in Barbados organised, it was not necessarily for their survival; it was for the improvement of their luxury; but private enterprise has a way of gauging its standards much differently from Government. Private industry considers that when a certain percentage of their profits drop, it is time to organise and check. They do not wait until they lose money in the same sense as Government operates a deficit. Private enterprise sets a certain standard or a certain percentage of profits they want, and if they drop one percent below the profits they have in mind, they consider it time to do something about it, whereas Government finds themselves waiting until they are operating on an operational deficit to see that something is lacking. In many respects, therefore, you will find that in providing profits or cutting down costs private enterprise is always in advance of Government. They do it because it is their business; but as Government do not operate on a profit, you will find them slower to do these things. Nevertheless, these things have to be done and here is Government stimulating them. Compared with other parts of the world, private enterprise has stimulated and made their own co-operative schemes; and if therefore you are living under these organisational pressures, you find yourself responding to them. As I mentioned earlier, this very week Great Britain was talking about entry to the Common Market, though with a lot of strings attached, but nevertheless the organisational pressure is there.
4.45 p.m.

We are just now trying to develop ourselves internally and we can only do it on the basis of proper internal organisation. It goes for all units concerned. If you want to develop yourselves in any phase at all, you have to do it with proper organisations, whether it is political, as parties are; whether it is economical, as commercial interests are; or whether it is on the wider basis of political federation. Whatever it may be, you have to do it on the basis of proper organisation.

It is because of that that I am quite willing to lend my support to this effect. I do not believe, neither can it be, the ultimate relief or the panacea; but it is certainly one of the bases on which the economy of our country is based. This is a Bill which should commend itself to us in principle, we knowing full well that even though we are going into it, it has certain practical difficulties which must be faced because they cannot be offset. I am willing to commend the Bill to all and hope it would get general support.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I heartily support this Bill because it seeks to strengthen the economy of the island. It seeks to encourage the growing of vegetables, the production and marketing of fruit, vegetables and other praedial produce and by so doing we would produce more for ourselves, so that we may be less dependent on things from overseas. I am strongly in agreement with that. It is a bold step; it is quite a large step; and as I see, it also sets up an organisation which I hope will be of well chosen people to run it, people who understand how to operate the cold storage which is to be put up.

It encompasses quite a large facet of the activities for producing food in Barbados. We have been for a long time condemning each other for not establishing suitable marketing conditions for Barbados so as to encourage the growing of more local vegetables. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture in introducing this Bill did not pay heed to one of the great deterrents why more produce is not grown. I mean as regards green vegetables. It is praedial larceny. It is no use an agriculturist growing cabbages if tomorrow night someone is going to move in on him and take away the whole lot so that his labour is lost. That is one of the great deterrents in Barbados from people not growing more vegetables, but that is something to be dealt with at another level.

The Hon. Minister spoke of merchants not co-operating to the extent of buying more local vegetables but were content to depend on the importation of foreign produce. He must remember that businesses have a duty to the consumers and if merchants can find a cheaper produce overseas, it is their duty to buy it and sell it to the public. Who can

buy today tomatoes at 72 cents per pound? That is the price in Barbados today. Why are not more tomatoes available today? The price is 72 cents a pound in my store. Cabbage is sold at 45 cents per pound. Encouragement must come from Government and now that you are setting up this marketing corporation, you must also decide to underwrite the producers of vegetables and say to them: "If you produce your cabbage we will guarantee you so much per pound as the minimum."

You are going to have a cold storage and you can adjust that. If you find that you are getting too many cabbages, you must still agree to buy them and find a market overseas for them after selling all you can locally. If you wish to encourage the production of growing string beans, you must say to the producers: "We guarantee you a minimum price of say 14 cents and 15 cents a pound. Bring all you can and we will buy them." It is your duty and the duty of the Marketing Board to set up distributing centres throughout the Island or through local dealers, and what you cannot consume locally, sell through an export market; but if you have the idea that you are going to protect the producers in Barbados by excluding or putting a punitive tariff on overseas produce coming in this country, be prepared to subsidise.

If our people cannot grow cabbages to sell at 30 cents a pound, then something is wrong with them. Cabbage cannot come into this Island from Holland, after paying a freight rate of about six cents a pound and then another four or five cents a pound duty here, and be sold at a price per pound cheaper than what is produced locally. I do not know if cabbage growers here can get over the hurdle of that nine cents per pound. I am not saying that we cannot produce more, but it is for the Marketing Corporation to go into all these facets and find out why it is costing so much. When you get a glut of cabbage and beans here, it is because you do not know what the other fellow is growing. You find that everybody is growing cabbage at the same time and because of that there will be a glut on the market and there is a limited market. Also if you can sell cabbage 20 cents a pound to the consumer, you can sell ten times as much; but when you take the price to 45 cents per pound, the price restricts the selling of it.

I commend the Government for its start in this respect. I see from the Bill that they are making provision for the growing of produce to export. That is another very important function to which proper care must be given because one exporter can ruin the market for all the rest. If there is no standard, he may grow carrots, say about two inches long, and very thin, and send them abroad and that would ruin the export market and you will find that when another person who has lovely carrots tries to export them, he will be denied that market because of what was sent before. The Marketing Corporation will have to determine the type of produce which you should send overseas. You must always remember that business people want to find a source of supply and no businessman would want to import cabbage from outside if he can find a ready supply every morning for his shop of the local produce.

4.55 p.m.

Preference will always be given to local produce because the businessman will have to put up so much credit; he will not have to expend so much in inventories; he could buy two hundred pounds of cabbage every day. This Bill will meet the approval of Barbadians but I hope that we will see a revolution of growing crops here. From the point of view of tourists, it is an amazing thing to find that we have to market so much of the produce which could be used in our hotels and in our homes.

The Corporation will have to be very businesslike in its operation. This is not anything on which you could lose money, but it is something on which the Government will have to spend money. The first thing which the Corporation will have to do is to guarantee a minimum price to all producers; then you can put up your organisation and sell. This idea is nothing new; it originated with people like Mr. Henry Arthur and Dr. O'Neale who were responsible for putting a duty which exists today on beets and carrots, but that is not enough to encourage the growing of vegetables here. I do hope that the incentives will remain and that they will be

great enough to encourage a big extension in the growing of vegetables; however you will have to amend the law relating to praedial larceny. I am saying that the punishment for praedial larceny will have to be greater than it is now. There are many people who refuse to grow cabbages and other things in their backyards for fear that someone will take them away and their labour and sweat will be all lost.

Flying fish should be marketed overseas, but they must be sent away in a good condition. One bad export to New York will ruin the market for a very long time. Standards should be adhered to. (Hon. D. D. GARNER: What about rum?) Well, I wonder if the Minister will include rum in the produce. However, the items are listed here in this Bill and I commend the Government for this measure, but it must be dealt with in the right way. The merchants will seek the cheapest source of supply for the consumers who are their customers; that will always be so; that will remain the criterion of any business.

Mr. TALMA: Like the hon. member who has just sat down, I would like to commend the Government for this venture in the establishment of this Corporation. It is a bold venture which the Minister is taking; it has many pitfalls but it is very timely with the world situation as it is. With Mr. Khrushchev in his threatening moods, no scientific adviser of the Department of Science and Agriculture could be heard to say that these commodities are easily available, the prices are low and attractive and that a scheme of this nature will necessarily fail or be difficult to implement. During the war years a scheme of this nature would be even more successful than in peace time in a certain way; in peace time these commodities are easily available and in the case of milk and other commodities you can get them at more attractive prices than the milk locally produced. I am glad to see that the Minister is making his every effort in this matter and I wish him all success with this Bill in that it will boost the economy of the island and assist the small peasant or farmer whom many of us claim to represent.

The establishment of a Marketing Corporation is nothing new; something similar to this was attempted about 25 years ago although such a Bill was not passed. It all originated with Mr. Tom Phillips, Mr. Henry Arthur, Mr. McIntosh and Dr. Saint; it functioned at various points in this town. The last place it functioned was at Marhill Street, but it all failed for the very good reason that this scheme which is now before us may fail, unless advice is taken and incentive and inducement given to the small peasant to grow these vegetables and crops. In other words, unless a guaranteed minimum price is held out to these producers, the Bill has not got the necessary incentive to it. Nowhere in this Bill does the Marketing Corporation appear to offer any guaranteed price for these products. In Clause 11 of this Bill, reference is made to the matter of entering into contracts for the purchase and sale of produce upon such terms and conditions as the Corporation may think fit. I want to say that unless this Bill gives the Corporation a right to offer and pay a guaranteed price for these products at this stage, the Bill will be an empty one in many respects and the absence of this inducement may bring the death knell of the Bill. The absence of a guaranteed price for these products may kill the efforts and plans of the Minister.

We have to remember that in the past the average peasant has been encouraged to grow canes in that he can get payment for his canes in a lump sum in his hands. He is given a negotiated price in the guaranteed price of sugar and, like that, a person who grows his canes is given the necessary incentive and inducement to plant them. As I say, when the peasant grows his canes and is able to reap them, he gets a lumpsum of money in his hand at one time; whereas, in the case of vegetables and crops he can never see a lumpsum of money in his hands so that he can repair his chattel house or pay the school fees for his children.

5.05 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, you are aware of what I am saying because you represent a rural constituency yourself. As against that, the Minister has to think of the inducement or incentive to cause the small farmer or peasant with

half an acre, an acre or a five acre lot, as the case may be, to turn aside from planting as much cane as he does today and devote more to vegetable gardening. How can the Minister or the Marketing Corporation expect to induce the peasant farmer to plant more vegetable crops unless he is given a minimum guaranteed price for his crops, whether they be cabbage, tomatoes, carrots, eddoes, yams, potatoes, lettuce or whatever it may be? He has to be given a guaranteed price and unless you start there, I am afraid the Bill would be an empty Bill and this high-sounding Corporation will end as a total failure and sink the Government a few thousand dollars, because it has power to borrow money and there is no limitation as to the amount of money which the Marketing Corporation can borrow. They can borrow any amount of money to pay its liabilities and obligations subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are no limitations as such set out in the body of the Bill which limits the borrowing powers of the Corporation, and I am saying that that is not good enough. If you want to give full-hearted support to this Bill, you should come out in the open and say that the Corporation can borrow \$1 million and no more in order to pay a guaranteed price for the vegetables which they buy from the various producers, whether they be peasant or planter, and to see after the exportation of the surplus after the need of the local consumer shall be met. To come here and leave it just blank that the Corporation has power to borrow an unlimited amount, let us hope that the unlimited amount may not run into \$2 million or \$3 million, or at least 1 1/2 million as another Organisation which the Government is still running, which is doing good business, but which is very costly to the Government and to the country.

In introducing this Bill the Minister was very aggressive. For once he has a very good Bill with this one exception of the guaranteed price. The Bill is very well drafted and for a Marketing Corporation set up in the proper way with all the functions, duties, powers and everything, it is perfectly in order. I compliment the draftsman who drew it up. In introducing the Bill the Minister seemed to treat that matter as though it is something which has just started. Let him tell the House that for years as I said a few minutes ago - and the hon. junior member for Christ Church touched on it - attempts have been made and on one occasion it was actually started; but apart from that start which was made and did not last long, there were many other attempts and many other Committees and investigations which took place on the establishment of this Marketing Corporation. The hon. senior member for St. Peter, the Trade Union Leader, as a semi-Minister sat on a Committee and I think he was Chairman for a long time, just as he was on the Committee of the Land Tenure Act. In like manner, the same hon. member, who was a semi-Minister in the semi-Ministerial set-up prior to full Ministerial Government as such, sat on a Committee to investigate this question and to make certain recommendations on the establishment of a Marketing Organisation. That was done in 1952 or even before that. As a matter of fact, this has been going on when I was a semi-Minister in 1947-48; it is an old matter which has been going on for the last twenty-five years, but the difficulty was that one Director would be in favour of it, another Director would be against it and so on. I dealt with it as a full Minister in 1954-55 and got it pushed on a little further, but I compliment the Minister in bringing it to its final phase.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: On a point of order, why does the hon. member persist in that sort of idle chat? The hon. member has no shame. What he is saying is absolutely untrue, and I categorically deny what he is saying to be true. There is nothing on the file about any Marketing Corporation Bill.

Mr. TALMA: I did not say anything about a Marketing Corporation Bill; I said, a Marketing Organisation. This is just a Bill to establish a Marketing Organisation, and he has brought a Marketing Corporation Bill. In other words, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I said about Mr. Henry Arthur 25 years ago is also untrue - that he - Dr. O'Neale and Mr. McIntosh had a Marketing Organisation. Anyhow I am saying

that the question of the establishment of a Marketing Organisation is nothing new; it is an old matter, but I compliment the Minister for getting as far as this.

5.15 p.m.

He brought down a Bill called the Marketing Corporation Bill and said that this is the first time the Marketing Corporation Bill has got here; but I say that the Marketing Corporation is an old matter. He wants to claim the field in everything.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the past, great opposition was always advanced whenever a compulsory order was being enforced. In other words, during World War II, the defence measures included a provision that a certain percentage of the arable land of a plantation had to be planted in food crops. That percentage was at one time 18%. It was reduced during my time to 12%, of course, by gradual degrees from what it was. I do not know whether the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has carried the percentage back up, but I know that the powers-that-be wanted to reduce it to even less than 12%. Unless the compulsory order is enforced to see that the percentage of land to be planted in food crops is maintained, there would be no hope of making this Bill a complete success. I am hoping that the Hon. Minister would look into that question and will also see to it that the percentage is not reduced. It hinges on the grow-more-food campaign.

While we are on that point, it would be a good thing if the Hon. Minister of Agriculture would bear in mind that although the policy of the present Labour Government is against the provision of a hot midday meal for school children, yet with the implementation of this plan and the setting up of a proper Marketing Corporation and with depots all over the Island, it would be a good thing to implement the suggestion of a hot midday meal for school children whereby the cabbages, the tomatoes, the carrots, the lettuce, the eddoes, yams, potatoes, and soon, which would be grown would be utilised in feeding the children attending those schools. In other words, what I am putting to the Hon. Minister, is that before thinking of any exportation of tomatoes, cabbage, carrots and soon, the children at present attending the elementary schools are suffering mainly from undernourishment: and if you are going to step up on your food production, see that your own little children who are going to school and who are now getting a glass of milk and a few biscuits, instead of getting that, get some of these cabbages, eddoes, yams and potatoes before you think of exporting them. See that these children are served first. It is alright for you to export, but see to it that your stomach is full before you export.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the Hon. Minister was speaking, I listened to every word he said; but he is now laughing and getting on like a departmental hog. All his gutter-snipe tricks he has brought in here.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would not ask him to withdraw that remark because I take the proper channel, but I am surprised to hear him say what he just said. All I said was "why, therefore." When the hon. member is campaigning, the people always say in respect of him "why, therefore." The hon. member has no right saying what he said just now. All that I said was "why, therefore." And he knows that is a slogan on him from the time he was a member of the Congress Party.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sorry for that remark I made. I beg to withdraw it because it does not behove me to say it from my culture. It is going down to the hon. member's level.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order. He is making bad enough worse, because I never said anything to make him use that remark. All I said was: "Why, therefore." And it is a slogan used on him by people all over the island. What is he talking about when he says that is going down to your level? The hon. member can get in the gutter and I can get there too. The hon. member can be high and I can get high too. We have wintered and summered together.

Mr. TALMA: I beg to withdraw the alleged remarks but I said it because I was under continuous provocation. The Minister of Agriculture would not allow me to speak. If he does not want to listen to my speech and cannot exercise common politeness, well, he can go outside.

Sir, I have reached the stage where I threw out a suggestion to the Government. I know the Government plans for every five years. Imagine this Government has brought down a Five-Year Plan which hon. members have not seen. It has appeared in the newspapers but I have not bothered to read it because I am entitled to an official copy. They are attempting to commit future Governments to what they have contained in their Five Year Plan. You can only make a Five Year Plan after you have been elected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member is now straying.

Mr. TALMA: I am not straying, I am explaining. I am making a suggestion that although it is against the policy of the Government at present to provide a hot midday meal for school children in that they say it is too costly and expensive, now that they are setting up a Marketing Corporation under this Act, the Government will have a golden opportunity to implement that suggestion. It is not what was told to the Royal Commission in 1937 that the poor people of this Island do not like milk. They did not like it because they could not afford to buy it. That was given in evidence by the late Dr. Hawkins who was a former member of this Assembly. If a change is made in the Government and the Party with which I am associated comes into power, you can rest assured that that would be one of the first things that our Government would see carried out. In other words, we will see that the poor undernourished children are given a square midday meal every day in every year.

5.25 p.m.

That is how we will take full advantage of this Marketing Corporation. We will see that all the children have access to cabbages, tomatoes, lettuce, carrots and things that they seldom see because their parents cannot afford to buy them. The average cantonnier who is working for \$13.20 a week cannot afford to buy these things. He cannot buy cabbage at 48 cents a lb.; as a matter of fact, very few members of this House can afford to buy these things every day. Probably the Ministers and one or two successful practitioners can do that.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: On a point of order. I wonder if the hon. member used to buy these things when he was over here.

Mr. TALMA: When you are a Minister, you can afford to buy these things. (Laughter) Is the Minister satisfied now?

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Not yet.

Mr. TALMA: If you set up a Marketing Corporation and put a lot of dunderheads to run it, well it cannot be successful. The Labour Party has the reputation that if you are not ignorant they do not like you for too long. (Laughter). Probably I can give you a good example in the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. I am referring now to the management of this Marketing Organisation and I am saying that unless you have in that organisation men who have had experience, men of know-how in these matters, men who can enthuse peasants to bring in more crops - unless you have that stimulating effect, the whole thing will be a failure. I see that the Corporation will have power to pay out salaries up to the amount of \$400 a month without referring to the Governor-in-Executive Committee. Salaries of \$400 a month are fairly attractive and let us hope that we will not have too many people at \$380 a month because we do not want this organisation to be a failure.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, the Bill has a great deal to commend it. I commend the Minister for bringing down such a Bill; it is a solid piece of legislation which will go a long way to help the small peasants provided that a minimum guaranteed price is included and provided also that the Marketing Corporation has the power to pay that price for these commodities. Unless that is done, there

will be no inducement to the small peasant or farmer who will find that it is more remunerative for him to plant canes in that when he reaps his crop he gets a lumpsum in his hand at one time; whereas when he plants vegetables he gets his money in such small dribblets that he cannot see what he is doing.

On the question of praedial larceny, I do not agree with the suggestion of my colleague, the hon. junior member for Christ Church; I do not think that praedial larceny is on such a wide scale in this colony as will kill this scheme. I do not see any reason why praedial larceny will kill this scheme. As to my last point, I hope that this Bill will be handled in a practical and businesslike way; I hope that this Marketing Organisation will be so handled under this Bill which is now before us that it will not turn out to be a mere electioneering stunt like all of these Bills which are being brought down to this House. I hope that this Bill will not turn out to be a fiasco or any electioneering stunt like the Domestic Employees Bill (Hon. M. E. COX: What is wrong with the Domestic Employees Bill?) I hope that this Bill will be made workable so that it will prove to be of practical benefit to the class of persons whom we have in mind. I hope that the Bill will be amended; already the Bill needs to be amended because the gist of it has been left out. I do hope that this Bill will prove beneficial to the class of persons who should benefit from it.

An hon. member has asked what is wrong with this Bill; imagine a Minister asking what is wrong with this Bill. I started off by saying that unless you have a guaranteed price for these commodities.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister did not ask what is wrong about this Bill; he was asking what is wrong about the Domestic Employees Bill to which I would not even allow the hon. member to refer.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I did not ask anything about the Domestic Employees Bill.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not referring to the Hon. Minister.
5.35 p.m.

Mr. TALMA: The Domestic Bill has no minimum wage.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Domestic Bill is not in this.

Mr. TALMA: For similar reasons this Bill will prove to be a fiasco and I hope the Other Place in its wisdom will amend it as they amended the Domestic Bill after the amendments were lost in here by the Opposition. When the Other Place amended the Bill in a similar way, the amendments were accepted, and I am hoping that the Other Place will see the wisdom to amend and insert a minimum guaranteed price for these commodities which you want the peasants to grow, but for which you do not really hold out any hope as to the money side. You do not tell them to plant more because they will get a guaranteed price for their crops; and unless you say that and have it inserted in the Bill, then it will be a worthless Bill, a mere electioneering stunt for which you may get a few more hundred votes, but it would be of no lasting benefit to the inhabitants of Barbados, and no benefit whatever to the economy of this country.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the two hon. members for Christ Church were very complimentary and moderate to the Minister who introduced this Bill, but on the other hand the Minister was very critical of both of them. The hon. senior member for Christ Church was very mild in supporting the Bill and I doubt very much whether the Hon. Minister would have been so mild if he were not a Minister. If the hon. senior member for Christ Church says that this Marketing Organisation was mooted for years and has now come into being, there is nothing wrong with that and the Minister should not take exception to what the member has said. Whenever anybody says Government should do something, they always say that they intended to do it. As I have said so often, it is typical of the boy who failed. When he was asked "John, why did you fail?" he said that just as he was going to pass they stopped working.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Government is always going to do what somebody says; but the Minister should know that the question of a Marketing Organisation is nothing new. The question of a milk project is nothing new. One of the problems of this island is that you have a plantation economy which you have not yet broken, and until you can break the back of the plantation economy, marketing for small farmers is always going to be a difficult job. If you do not know that, it is a plain ordinary statement. What plantation grows anything other than sugar cane? You do not have a coffee crop or a beet-root crop; so that is the problem. As I said earlier, the plantation economy is wedded to slavery and low wages, and people are only given small plots of land on which to squat. A Marketing Organisation therefore presupposes small-scale farming; that is the type of Organisation you are talking about within the context of the Barbados economy.

When I heard the hon. member say that he will compel plantations to do this, this could not be started to help a plantation. The plantations do not need your help to grow yams, potatoes, beets and so on. What you have to do to get the plantations is the reverse. The small farmer requires your help but you will have to encourage the plantations to grow more. If you have an economy, you have to study it. It does not matter to a man who has 200 acres or 300 acres in canes if his other land is planted in yams and potatoes, because his main acreage is going to produce the bulk of his money, because sugar is the economy of Barbados. Barbados is not a small scale farmer's economy; it is a sugar economy; so that is the big dog that is getting the money.

Everybody agrees that you should diversify your economy, and the economy of the market will force you to it. I would make a prophecy that Britain had to join the Common Market, otherwise she could not survive. You could not live in England with the English Channel dividing you from the rest of Europe and pretend you are not going to join the Common Market. What would happen to the 117 million people who are accustomed to wearing shoes? You will have to try and get shoes on the Indian's feet. More shoes are sold to the 117 million people in Europe than in Africa with its 600 million people; so that is the economy they are living in. If you are living in a shoes-and-socks economy, do you expect somebody to walk about barefooted? We had a shoe factory here which had to close down because a man bought a pair of shoes in 1950 which did not go until 1959. What factory could get a job off him? If you are working at some place where the articles manufactured last so long, where would you get money to buy food? We have therefore to concern ourselves with something which the people are consuming.

Now I agree with the members on this side of the House and this is what I would like the Hon. Minister to understand: the members on this side seem to have more intelligence than the members over there. We do not vote against something because you have brought it; but you vote against your conscience. I heard the Prime Minister say that if there was a question of expediency and conscience, he would vote for conscience. There was a crab called a belly-conscience. He must mean voting for one of those. You do not have any conscience in politics. The hon. member must know that if the Government brings something here which is worthwhile, nobody will vote "no" to let somebody see they are voting against it; but the Government votes "no" against anything we bring, because they seem to feel that as long as they did not bring it, people will say they are voting for something they did not think about.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, everybody has complimented the Minister in bringing down this Marketing Organisation Bill, and for coordinating years of activity. I would say however, that I hope the Minister really and truly has the backing of the community within the context of the producers, because the Government as such has no land.

The Government is not as such the producer; the Government is setting up an organisation for producers and it is to be a sort of twin which the Government is aiming at. The Government on the one hand is appealing to large plantation

owners to plant more produce and, on the other hand, the Government intends to give encouragement to the small producer by having a ready market for his produce. The small producers are already producing these things but not on a common basis. All the fresh meat which Barbadians eat comes from cattle grown by the smaller people. Plantation owners do not rear cattle. You depend on subsistence through a man keeping cows and goats and on evenings coming home and grazing them. However, if the economy of the agricultural worker was like the farmer in Europe, we would have to import all our meat. Barbados depends on the sort of economy in which the agricultural worker does not count the time he puts into the thing. His is not a cash capital investment; his is an investment of time and leisure. On evenings he comes home from work at three or four o'clock. He grazes his cow or sheep and if he is unable to do so his children graze them. That is a three-hour exercise which is not a capital expenditure. A man in business will have to pay somebody to do it.

What the Hon. Minister must bear in mind is that they seem to have become affluent and not bound to other people's frivolities. If they read a book on small-scale farming, they will know that wherever you do something for small-scale farming you have to provide price supports. I heard the hon. member making this statement that if you call upon a man to grow more food, you will have to pay him an economic price for it. Let us take a man keeping goats. Does he know what is an economic price for doing that? Will he be able to work it out and bring a statement of account to show you what should be the price it should be sold per pound, and what it cost him to rear, and so on?

I agree with the hon. senior member for Christ Church that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture must, as a condition precedent, see to it that not only do you guarantee giving a minimum price but you must also be able to give the minimum guarantee that you would buy any of the things which a peasant has to sell. If you do not do so, what is the point of making people grow more food? Let us take milk for example. The Minister must be able to tell anybody, even the person who has one cow, that he will buy any milk he has any time at so much per pint. You must be able to say that you will take anything which a man grows at any time. That is the sort of imagination which you must have. If you set up a marketing organisation to depend on the whims and fancies of the people, it would not work.

The Hon. Minister must bear this in mind; Barbados has been working on a sugar economy for very many years. The people who had been elected in this Chamber before 1944 were people who were bound up in the sugar industry; therefore, the protection that was given to sugar was given by people who had the power to protect themselves. The Hon. Minister thinks that those people thought differently. Selfishness is still uppermost in the minds of men; therefore, they were protecting themselves. We have come to this Chamber and have been put here by the small man; therefore, we must look out to protect him. The reason why this sort of thinking could not change before was because the votes were not in here to change it. The Hon. Minister spoke of 25 years ago and what happened at that time. The Peasants Loan Bank was formed at that time and I understand that a man was given a job at the Peasants Loan Bank in the hope that the undertaking would fail. A man was sent by the St. Michael's Vestry to take up a job there hoping that the thing would fail because it was only a question of an experiment.

What the Hon. Minister is introducing today is something to meet the needs of this generation in 1961. You say that you have a problem of food and of growing your own vegetables. Some years ago, you would not tell a woman in St. Philip that to go out and buy a few breadfruits and then walk to town with a tray on her head with those breadfruits to sell them would not be a profit to her. But that has died out. It is different today. A little time before, you would go to a field and see donkey carts waiting for the people, but today you meet more people with pickups. All that old time thing has changed. Now, you have talked of changing and you are going to create a marketing organisation.

According to the Bill, you say that no legislator should be a member of the Board of the Marketing Corporation. I would like to ask the Minister to explain why is that so. How is it that because you are a legislator, you are a bad man to serve on Boards? Why is it that because you are elected a member of the House, you should not be put on these Boards? I say again, you must not follow the traditions of England too closely. You must bear in mind that in England you have a lot of people in reserve who are capable of serving on Boards. It is an indication that people who come forward here for legislative honours have an interest in public life. It is true that some people temperamentally are not suited to be members of the House of Assembly. To be a member of this House of Assembly and one who can do well in public life, you should be able to marshal your arguments and you must be interested in things. Everybody is not interested in things political. I do not like your saying that any legislator should not have the right to serve on these Boards, just because he is a member of this Assembly. I do not like this sort of excuse. You can say such a thing when it comes to a Board like the Public Service Commission.

I remember very well that the Government made one big joke of it with the Transport Board when it was being created. You found Government looking around for yard-fowls to put on that Board and they put a man on that Board who did not know "B" from bull fat. You put a gentleman on that Board who only knew about a bus if it was coming to knock him down. There is a lot I am going to say about that Board soon, but not in here. I know in my heart of hearts that there are some people who are on Boards now and who were appointed by members of this Government and that if those same members of the Government had their own money invested in those Boards, they would not allow those persons to handle it.

5.55 p.m.

They would not pay one red cent. But you scratch my back and I scratch yours. You are looking for your friends and losing money.

It is a good thing when you have members who are in business in the House. The hon. Introducer of this Bill gave his experience as a businessman; he was very mild when he was being attacked. The hon. member made a contribution. You cannot have people shipping eggs which look like guinea birds' eggs, other people shipping a good size egg and yet others shipping eggs which look like sparrows' eggs; you cannot have that sort of thing. When you come to export these things, you cannot compel people to buy whatever size article you have; you have to sell them what they require.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph talked about Holland, but when he talks about Denmark he must have a second thought coming. Denmark is not a country where you can talk about any high level of unemployment; the Scandinavian countries - Denmark, Norway and Sweden - have one of the highest socialist systems and standards of living in the world. When it comes to agricultural and small-scale farming, if you talk about co-operatives, it would be a good thing if you were to send men from your Agricultural Department to Sweden or Denmark and let them see what is being done there. There is no question in my mind of our ability to compete with these people, but if we are to compete with them we must have extremely high standards.

I do not think that the Hon. Minister in introducing this Bill, has as its main purpose the question of an export market; he cannot concentrate on an export market while he is not supplying the domestic needs. You cannot come with this big talk telling people that they cannot import English Potatoes but that they must eat all sweet potatoes. It takes more oil to cook a sweet potato than it takes to cook an English potato. People cook from experience; if you are in a hurry, you must know what can be cooked in the quickest possible time. That is why when you come to carbohydrate diets, you know that if you have a pint of rice, that will dry down quickly; but that is not the case with yams. Yams will take all the oil you can get to cook them. Some people may only have fifty cents this afternoon to spend in cooking and do you think.....

At this stage, Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I was pointing out that if you have yams and pippies you have to boil soup because some of the water from the yams you would get in the soup. You are really drinking water with a little ingredients in it. That is why you have to boil soup when you have potatoes yam and breadfruit. But that is not the case with carrots. My wife said that she bought a cucumber for 35 cents; well, that is not for me because a cucumber has too much water in it. The water which is contained in a cucumber is too great, unless you have diabetes where you have to drink something which has not got any sugar in it. The nutritious value of one cucumber and a lemonade is not much different; the average poor man spends more money on certain foods than the average rich man; the poor man has to cook all the carbohydrate diets together because he cannot afford to buy the other things. The hon. member will realise that this question of diet is an involved question.

I quite agree with the Hon. Minister that this is another means of stimulating activity and in another branch of your economy; but what we want to hear from the Minister is: what are the steps which the Government, as a matter of policy, propose to take so that the implementation of this Bill can be something real? What is the Government's agricultural policy to buttress up this project? How much land do you have? What are the real incentives which you are prepared to give a man who is engaged in the business of keeping sheep? Are you going to have a Marketing Organisation so that a man can take his sheep to that organisation and be assured that he will get it sold?

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that there is no point now in asking the Corporation to go to a Bank - and I may enquire as to the Government's method of financing, can the Minister say what is the amount of money with which he will start this Corporation? Has the Minister given this House any indication as to how much money he wants to start off this Corporation with? Those are questions which the Minister should answer in connection with this Bill which he has introduced. He should let hon. members know the method of the financing of this Corporation.

6.05 p.m.

The hon. member should let us know what they are starting on and not tell us that he is leaving it to the Board. The background papers that tell you that you are going to start this must have some financial indications. That is to say, if you are starting this Marketing Organisation, we should know what are the potentials. We want to know how much you are borrowing to get this thing going. There is no point in sending Board members to Barclays Bank to borrow \$1 million at 7 1/2%, then to lend the men at 2%, and therefore you get some money lying down somewhere that somebody has forgotten just as you forgot to pay the Doctors their money for six years. We want to know how much money you can borrow from the Savings Bank to start this Marketing Corporation, which in truth and in fact is another Government agency.

The Hon. Minister looked up at the hon. member for Christ Church when he said that the Corporation had unlimited power to borrow money. You might have people like Mr. Shepherd who is Chairman of the National Executive of the Labour Party, Mr. Jemmott and Mr. Smith, or people like those whom you have taken to the Deep Water Harbour. Those are the people who will be on this Corporation; but if you carry those people nobody knows them; you are borrowing money in the name of the Government of Barbados who would be the underwriters. Do not let these men go to the Bank and borrow money at 7 1/2% and then do not understand how it works. Of course, I am not saying that you cannot use these men because they do not understand borrowing arrangements, as they are not borrowing the money as such; it is the Government that is borrowing. I feel that a man like the hon. junior member for St. James is more fitting for that than for a seat in here. You can make him Chairman of that Corporation; he would come to town with his little chest in the air and a cork hat, and he would be a person who is interested in agriculture. I feel that he has

a business approach to this matter as he has worked at farming for some years. You could retire him from here and utilise his experience for that kind of work, because it is time for him to get out of this.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. junior member for St. James is a member of the Agricultural Bank, and it is very rare that you can get men like himself and his colleague to put on such Boards. Mr. Shepherd is Chairman of the National Executive and is on the Housing Authority Board; so I do not believe you will put him on this. Anyway, I feel the Minister should tell us something about the financial implications of this new Corporation. When the Minister of Transport in England nationalised the Transport System, he had to tell the House of Commons something; but here the Minister comes with a Bill in which there are financial implications and the last thing he is telling us is what are the financial implications in this Bill.

The idea behind this Bill is to bring all the small farmers together, and if I were a dictator I would compel every man who gets less than a certain amount of tons of cane to send them through this type of organisation to save the man from himself, because there is no harm in it. The Minister said that he was going to bring down legislation that would stun us and that this is the first, but there is nothing stunning about this, because I sat on a Committee for many months on this question of marketing with a gentleman by the name of Mr. Marshall from Eckstein Village who had considerable experience in this field. I think this Mr. Marshall is one of the first men who ventured out on this on a wide scale.

In the country people talk about petty larceny, but unless you carry out an investigation into it, I do not know. Land in Barbados has no fence and the hon. member for Christ Church said that petty larceny is not as prevalent. The prevalence of larceny has nothing to do with a man putting down his hat and somebody taking it up. There was a man who knew that larceny was so prevalent that he put his gun in the window, but he remained there so long that he fell asleep and the gun was stolen, and the next thing you know was that the person went in the house because the man was asleep. I am not saying that petty larceny would not be a problem, because land in Barbados has no fence; but if you plant potatoes, yams or carrots, a man does not go and take up all. We have to take the precaution of not sleeping with our houses open, and that is why we have to have windows.

Anyhow, Sir, I do not think the Minister can ignore the point which the hon. member for Christ Church has made that he must be prepared to offer a guarantee for the sale of his products. That is what the United States did with its wheat. As soon as you talk about locally produced commodities for the local market, you have to talk about price and you have to talk about all the incentives and encouragement; otherwise it would fail. If there is a market for milk you have to guarantee buying the milk, provided it is pure; and if there is a market for vegetables you have to guarantee buying them, provided they are good, and I would say that it seems to me that this would offer a build-up to a new enterprise in agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, so far as I am concerned, I do not care to whom the project belongs. If it is Hunte's milk project, I would say that if he has more drive in it than other people, that is their business. What we have to realise as a fact is that Government itself is not possessed of a surplus of this kind of talent. In the past the Government used to criticise people like the hon. junior member for Christ Church, and I heard the Hon. Minister in here paying credit to the former Attorney General.

6.15 p.m.

I heard the Hon. Minister of Agriculture in here paying credit to the former Attorney General whose effigy was burnt in Barbados many years ago. His effigy was burnt metaphorically because the whole of the Barbados Labour Party along with its Leader said about him that he was this cruel beast of Ephesus which was to be destroyed. But we have lived long enough to hear from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that that same man has rendered service to the Government in their bringing something to the House.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I rise on a point of order. I said on another occasion, Mr. Speaker, when I was dealing with another Bill that the Sugar Producers' Association brought Mr. E. K. Walcott as their legal adviser at a meeting which we had on that measure.

Mr. WALCOTT: The Hon. Minister is afraid to repeat what he said when he was introducing that measure. Here it is, a man whom you criticised many years ago, you now acknowledge that he performed a good service. All I am saying is that his effigy was burnt metaphorically. I think we all should remember that the idea of the hon. junior member for St. James in his earlier days trying to obtain a seat in this House was based on the idea of moving the same Hon. E. K. Walcott out of the House. He felt that if he did not remove him out of this House, his politics would not have been removed. That is quite understandable when you understand a little bit of human psychology. I am not blaming the Hon. Minister of Agriculture for giving credit to the former member of this House, Mr. E. K. Walcott.

The hon. junior member for Christ Church made a contribution to this debate in which he pointed out to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that he should not criticise those merchants though they are rapacious. He was very kind and statesmanlike. Though he was ridiculed to the bone for their attitude, he shed a little light. Far from opposing, as he said, the merchants would prefer to buy local produce because if they were able to buy goods in Barbados, they could buy on a basis of what they want week by week, and to do so it was better to them than to write out an order and send for things to last for a period of time, say, from California.

I think we are mistaking the merchants who do the distributing for the commission merchants. It is the commission merchant who is interested in stopping you from manufacturing locally. What the hon. member does not know is that the commission merchants make more money than the distributors. The distributors carry the responsibility of stock, losses and the like, but the commission merchant only carries a typewriter; therefore, they are the ones who make the money. I see commission merchants going into all sorts of businesses. Commission merchants enter into everything else except those which carry risks.

Sir, I think the Hon. Minister of Agriculture should take into account our suggestions. He has brought a measure to the House and I will tell him now not to worry about what he saw written in the Press. We on this side are not going to adopt that dog-in-the-manger attitude like the Government where they say that we of the Opposition only bring things in here because the election is on and we only bring them in here for political reasons. When they talk of bringing in a thing because of politics, they talk as if this House of Assembly is a carpenter's shop. Politics brought you in here. Do any of you over there think that you got in here on a wheelbarrow? The people voted for you and they want to know what you do in here. The hon. senior member for Christ Church said that we represent the small farmers and that small farmers sent us here and that because some of us are the product of small farmers, therefore, we must support small farmers. However, we are also sensible enough to know that although small farmers sent us here, you must do something for the plantation owners too.

On minute they talk of employers in one breath and another minute they talk of the employers in another breath. An employer runs a business for profit. Therefore, when you are going to a plantation owner and asking him about planting his land in foodcrops, even 12% of it, he has to think of the loss or profit involved. What I would say to the Minister is this: You have Dodds Plantation. What are you going to do with it? Why do you not cut it up and use it for the planting of food crops? That would be an excellent experiment. Take some of the Government land and use it for this purpose to demonstrate to the world that you really mean something. Cut up some of Dodds and plant it in vegetable crops on a large scale. Cut down on some of the acres you have planted in canes. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture is a cane farmer. Let the Minister show forth that demonstration also. Instead of his keeping 30 acres in canes, let him say that he will only keep 20 acres in canes

and he will plant the other ten in vegetable crops. I doubt that you will get him to do that. A lot of us are socialists externally but not internally.

Sir, I would like to know what is the capital investment for the corporation. I would also like to know what provision the Minister is making so that there would be guaranteed prices paid to persons who grow the produce. Let us know if anybody brings in something to sell that you would not turn that person back and say that you do not want what he is selling today. If the Hon. Minister can give us that information, I would say that there is no opposition to the Bill in principle. Of course, I do know that so far as the two hon. members of St. Philip are concerned, you cannot reconcile them, but I do not intend to be personal. What I say is that I am not opposed to the principle of this Bill but there are certain important details which I think the Minister owes as a responsibility to the House to explain to us.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, it is inevitable that more than one member should want to make a contribution to this matter because of the obvious interest of the Bill. It is a vast matter with far-reaching implications and its importance can only be gauged by the width of activity it will cover if successful.

We have started out in the debate, so far as the Minister was concerned, by recommending this Bill to the House as a good thing both in principle and, as we go on, in practice.

6.25 p.m.

As the debate has continued further, certain things are emerging more and more clearly, which things tend to throw the Bill itself into considerable concern and call for considerable scrutiny. It is true that nobody could oppose the idea of setting up a Marketing Organisation in Barbados. In principle, it is a very good thing and it is nothing for a long debate if only that were called into question. However, if you study the Bill, you will come to one inescapable conclusion, that is, that it is a bit contradictory. The more successful this project becomes, the more dangerous some of its aspects are. That is a paradox and I will explain it. If a Marketing Organisation is set up, it is certain that one of the things which it will achieve is that it will concentrate the buying and distribution of produce into a single unit. In other words, what is now done by hundreds and perhaps thousands of people will be done more efficiently with greater services by a Marketing Organisation; so that the more a Marketing Organisation succeeds, the more concerned we ought to be about the large numbers of people who are going to be gradually eliminated. That is what I meant when I said that the more successful the project becomes, the more dangerous some of its aspects will show themselves to be.

If hon. members were to look at Clause 10 (1) (b) they will see that it says this:-

"It shall be the duty of the Corporation -

(b) to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, handling, transportation, storage, exportation, shipping, marketing and sale of produce whether in the Island or out of the Island, and in particular to assist agricultural and fishery co-operative societies to dispose of their produce to the best advantage."

Then Clause 11 of the Bill gives the Corporation the power, among other things, to buy and sell produce and to establish itinerant systems for the purchase of and sale of produce. This is what I want to emphasise; if any or all of these things set out in this Clause are done, and one assumes that all of them will be done, this Bill spells the removal out of existence of all hawkers. I am not now arguing the merits or demerits of the Bill as such; what I am saying is that it ought to be known to hon. members of this House that whatever we are doing, the more successful it becomes, the more efficient it becomes, to that extent it will be able to separate people from a livelihood.

In 1952 there were 6,000 people in this island engaged in hawking and huckstering; that was nearly ten years ago. With all of the things which have happened in this island,

it must be supposed that now the number of vendors of all sorts including the itinerant vendors, including hawkers, must have risen to about 8,000 or 9,000. Whatever this Bill will do, whether next year or in 1963, 1964 or 1965, since this organisation will become effective, it will throw 8,000 or 9,000 people out of work. No amount of praising of this Bill should make us blind to that particular issue. You have to set the pattern of buying and selling in Barbados. A considerable amount of buying and selling - as a matter of fact I would say that it may well be 50% of the buying and selling of this type of produce - is done by persons who are buying from hawkers; it may well be as much as 80%. That is, a large and numerous class of sellers is divided into the scale, from the woman who has a calabash with three eggs or a small basket with twelve eggs and a dozen balls of starch, to the man with the pick-up with his potatoes. Between the two extremes there is a large class of persons who gain their living by buying and selling. If you say what is said in Clause 11, that is, that the Corporation shall have power to do all of these things including the establishment of itinerant systems for the purchase and sale of produce and to buy and sell produce, that is serving notice to 8,000 or 9,000 persons that their day is done.

What the Minister has to satisfy public opinion and the people of whom I am now speaking, about is this: will this system be extended and have these people to whom I have just referred been included in the proposals? Let us hear something of the detailed organisation so that the people will be reassured that at least one half of the number of them will find a lucrative place within the new marketing system. I have not consulted with my colleagues on this matter, but I would like to say that if the Minister does not give us an assurance on this matter I shall persuade my colleagues to divide the House on this Bill. As I say, I have not consulted my colleagues on this matter but we, on this side, can do these things without being beaten. We are at liberty to do so; unless the Minister can satisfy us on that point, we shall be disposed to divide the House on this Bill. You cannot introduce legislation in which, as soon as an organisation becomes effective, it suddenly throws another 8,000 people out of employment. You have 1,000 people displaced at the Deep Water Harbour which are causing concern to some people if not to the Government, and do you mean to say that within a few months' time you will hear that hundreds of people in every parish are complaining that since the Government has set up this organisation they can neither buy nor sell? Has the Government studied the consequences of this Bill carefully? You have 1,000 people displaced in the municipal area and in the rural constituencies you will throw another 8,000 or 9,000 people out of work.

6.35 p.m.

I cannot understand, Mr. Speaker,.....

Hon. D. D. GARNER: You talked about so many bags of soot from the Church.

Mr. TUDOR: That is what is going to put me back in my seat, and I want you to come down there and talk about it. I bet when it is all finished the hon. member will be in the Gallery listening to me talking.

However noble and grand a conception is, you cannot ignore certain basic factors. Any Bill, or measure which has for its object the expansion of the country's economy, if it is a good measure, has got to be more carefully applied than even if it is not a good one, because if it is not a good one, the very fact that it is defective will soon be noticed and nobody will probably be the worse for it; but if it is something which is in itself worthwhile, you have got to study more carefully how you are going to apply it.

Now the whole pattern of buying and selling of this type of produce which the Marketing Corporation is going to concern itself with revolves around the small trader, the man with the donkey cart, the woman who goes from house to house as well as it does on the small farmer. Now unless you can bring these people into the new organisation and give them an assured place, all that you may achieve in efficiency will be thrown down the drain be-

cause of the unemployment which you are likely to have, I cannot see any other conclusion because the Bill itself gives the Marketing Corporation power to do all these things which are now being done by the hawkers; so it will be one or the other; it cannot be both unless Government has plans which it has not yet disclosed to bring these people to work them into the scheme.

I should like to let members on the other side know that you cannot recommend this measure wholeheartedly to the persons about whom I am speaking unless you can satisfy them that there is a place for them in this new economy, because as I pointed out just before the interruption, the peculiar characteristics of Barbadians have prevented them hitherto from understanding the benefits which are to come from marketing. It is only now that they are beginning to grasp. It will take time before the whole population thoroughly understands and appreciates it; but while the population is learning the value of marketing, you should not want at the same time to make any large section of it suffer because of the improvements which are going to come. I feel therefore that an improvement which at the same time works to the disadvantage of large numbers is an improvement which has got to be studied very carefully. Nobody on this side of the House has said or will say that in principle what this Bill seeks to do is bad. It cannot be bad; it is sensible; but like anything else legislation has to be applied to suit the everyday circumstances of a given people in a given place, and I do not think that the hawkers have clearly understood what their position is going to be, and it ought to be explained.

I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that there is a place for them in this set-up. I think, for instance, that since the Marketing Corporation is going to concern itself with such matters as grading, it is possible that a large number of women might be employed in selling produce and in the handling of it. I would not say any more because it is not my job to tell hon. members opposite what to do. At the same time, however, Mr. Speaker, what we should like to know and what the public would like to know is whether and to what extent consideration has been given to what will be an obvious consequence to the passing of this Bill, and what the detailed plans are for keeping these people within the economy and using their services in enabling them to maintain their livelihood within the new system. As I said, there are several thousands of them. If there were 200 or 300 people it would be possible to have them absorbed into other occupations; but it will not be so easy, failing a firm grasp of the issues, to integrate several thousands unless detailed plans are laid now.

We do not want a situation, Mr. Speaker, in which long after the Marketing Corporation has been set up and is working well we are told this is an inevitable consequence of having a Marketing Corporation, and "what can we do about it". The arguments which are now used about the displaced workers in consequence of the establishment of the Harbour should not be used in a similar case, because we should profit from the example which now exists. The Minister should therefore regard this matter as being one of exceptional importance, and he should, in my opinion reassure the House and the public generally that there is a place, if any, for these people; he should be able to say in some detail what their place is going to be and what plans he has for making these people aware of the part they can play.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, I have not heard anything concrete from the other side. Last Tuesday when I began to deal with this Bill I heard "oh, you sit down, you have told us enough, we are with you", but it is a good thing I made other remarks today, because today I have heard other stories. They all agree that the principle of the Bill is a good one, but now for some reason or other certain members at least have got up and like a

Mr. TUDOR: On a point of order, I do not like the hon. member saying "for some reason or other". If he is referring to me I have given my reasons.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is anticipating me. He would not allow me to say what I was

going to say, but I am still going to say it. For some reason or other which to me is useless, it seems as though they are saying they have had no part in it and therefore let us bring bitter and sweet. They have said that it is a good thing, but on the other hand, they are taking the chance to give the Government some more hell. It is difficult under those circumstances to tell when people are really serious. They say it is a good Bill which will help the development of the country agriculturally speaking and otherwise, yet they criticise the Government on it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member has established that point.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: They do it so often in here that I do not know if it.....

Mr. SPEAKER: One mistake never justifies another. 6.45 p.m.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: When I have a good thing, I do not have to belabour it. I know that this is a good Bill. I know what repercussions it would have. I said that we have no intention whatsoever to disregard the hucksters of this country. As a matter of fact, one member even said that you will not have to do anything about it; time will get rid of them. He also said: "Do you think that these people will favour having a basket or a tray on their heads especially when you are building markets?"

What do you find today? Hon. members are not against the Bill but they are against the Minister and the Government. Say what you like, you cannot pick any holes in this Bill. This is for the development of this country. It is for the purpose of helping a group of people whom some hon. members know nothing about and to whom they only give lip service. Let no hon. member feel that anybody would be put out of a job because of this Bill. It makes provision for greater productivity and cheaper prices for the consumer and that is what we are aiming at. You have to organise people. Do you think if the Sugar Producers' Association was not an organised body that the people in the industry would make the success which they are making today out of sugar? If we do not have a proper organisation for these people, they stand to lose. These people are loose; they want to be brought together. The public is taken for a ride when they go to buy anything and the planters are losing. If the hon. member does not know, let him keep himself quiet. Do not try to pronounce on it.

Mr. TUDOR: I rise on a point of order. The hon. member is distorting a point of my speech. I am asking him to say how these people can be brought into this organisation and what part they can play in it.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: The hon. member is like so many typical Barbadians who want to know how much profit you are going to make before you make a try of anything. They want to know how much you are getting before you make a try. I want greater productivity first.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Minister is injecting me into his speech.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I did not call the hon. member's name. Other hon. members spoke besides the hon. member.

Mr. WALCOTT: Is the Hon. Minister objecting to answering the questions which were put to him? He said that people want to know how much you got before you make a try. Is he objecting to the idea that there should be a guarantee of the minimum price, whatever that price would be? I ask that question on a matter of principle.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: This is the point. You are dealing with seasonal goods and seasonal crops. Can we come before we pass this Bill and say what minimum price we are going to give the people?

Mr. WALCOTT: I am asking the Hon. Minister whether this corporation is going to fix a minimum price for products. That is to say, if a man is producing tomatoes, will he be able to go to the Marketing Corporation and sell those

tomatoes at a given minimum price? That is something which anyone will have to know beforehand. The people in the sugar industry know how much money they will get for their sugar. They do not grow it by chance.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture referred to me mainly. It is only that I took long in getting up. It is simply this. No provision has been made in this Bill for paying any minimum guaranteed price and unless that is in the Bill it is empty and worthless.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Sir, apparently, hon. members have not read the Bill. They only come to pick on the Minister. If the hon. member will look at Section 11, subsection (1), paragraph (e), that would give them the whole story.

Mr. TALMA: I rise again on a point of order. If he says that I have not read it, can I at this stage be permitted to read Clause 11 in its entirety?

Hon. D. D. GARNER: That is not a point of order. I have read this Clause before; I will read it again. It reads as follows:—

11. (1) The Corporation shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, have power to carry on all activities the carrying on whereof appears to it to be requisite, advantageous or convenient for or in connection with the discharge of its duties under this Act, and in particular without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, shall have power —

- (a) to buy and sell produce;
- (b) to fix and determine the grading of produce;
- (c) to import and to export produce;
- (d) to establish and operate depots and agencies for the purchase, delivery, grading and sale of produce;
- (e) to enter into contracts for the purchase and sale of produce upon such terms and conditions as the Corporation may think fit;
- (f) to enter into contracts for the transport of any produce or of such other commodities as may facilitate the operations of producers;
- (g) to establish itinerant systems for the purchase of and sale of produce;
- (h) to establish and operate facilities for preparing and processing any produce;
- (i) to establish and operate facilities for cold storage or any other form of storage for produce;
- (j) to act as commission agents for the disposal of the produce of any producer or co-operative society;
- (k) to purchase, transport, store, insure, handle and sell any packing material in such quantities and at such prices as the Corporation may from time to time determine.

This is so plain.

Mr. WALCOTT: I rise on a point of order. It is a question of policy as to what you have to do. It is for the Hon. Minister to say whether he agrees with us or he does not agree with us. The question of paying a minimum price is not stated here. The question of giving a guaranteed price is not stated here. The Hon. Minister says that it is in the Bill but it is a question of policy.

6.55 p.m.

It is not stated there because you must understand that the question that you are giving a guaranteed price is not yet stated. If it is a question of policy, well let us know what is the policy of the Government.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: The hon. member has hit the nail on the head in that. We are not going to put the matter of policy in a Bill; we have to be sure of productivity first before we can engage in these things. I hope that I will not live long enough to depend upon subsidisation for agriculture; I hope agriculture will be able to pay its way. There are other things which we have to get together and work out, but this is the principle on which we are beginning. When hon. members get their Five Year Plan they will see how much money is allocated for this purpose. (Mr. WALCOTT: You must give us the information.) We have a comprehensive plan for these things and we need the law so that we can go forward with it. The hon. member knows that.....

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. The hon. member cannot tell us that he is introducing a Bill and it is not within his province to tell us the policy surrounding the Bill which he is introducing. After all, that is axiomatic.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: If we were dealing with an item like milk or fish which is quite stable and steady, we may be able to say that; but provisions and foodstuffs are in a different category.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the Hon. Minister intend to conclude his remarks within ten minutes?

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I would be glad to do so.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is an extension of five minutes now.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I will try to take advantage of that. Hon. members know that an organisation such as this is now in the embryonic stage; I cannot say what I will do. We have to get the principle established first; you cannot just go ahead and say that you will make \$30,000 at the end of the first quarter and \$60,000 at the end of the next quarter. You cannot do that. We have people from the Federal Government and people from Marketing Organisations to advise us. (Mr. WALCOTT: We must have a policy.) I do not want to say that I will support this or do that and that if the commodities do not grow I will bring them up to scratch. What I have just suggested might well be so, but I will not say that. (Mr. WALCOTT: You have no policy.) Mr. Speaker, I am finished.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being after 7 p.m., of the clock, this sitting now stands suspended until 7.45 p.m. of the clock. This sitting now stands suspended.

On re-assembling,

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, there is no quorum present, and I ask that the Bell be rung.

On the Bell being rung, a quorum was obtained.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the suspension of the sitting, the second reading of a Bill to provide the establishment of a Marketing Corporation in this island was passed.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Hon. L. St. A. THORNE: 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 being in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 9 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 10 was called. It reads as follows:

10. (1) It shall be the duty of the Corporation —

- (a) to stimulate, facilitate and improve the production, marketing and processing of produce in the Island, particularly for the benefit of the producer;

- (b) to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, handling, transportation,

storage, exportation, shipping, marketing and sale of produce whether in the Island or out of the Island, and in particular to assist agricultural and fishery co-operative societies to dispose of their produce to the best advantage;

- (c) upon being required so to do by the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make recommendations on any matter directly or indirectly relating to the production and marketing of produce.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 10 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister in trying to get the second reading of this Bill passed, did not give us the information we had asked for, but he is introducing something which a Board has to run. He must understand that he is not talking to anybody in St. Philip who does not understand how legislation is passed. It is for the Minister to tell us what the Government's policy is in passing legislation of this sort; if you do not know what is going to happen, how can you bring down this Bill? You can set up a Board but is the Board to tell you what is to be done? The policy of the Government has to be enunciated to this House here and now, not when the Board has been set up. You talk about the powers of the Board, but what is your policy? This is not a meeting turn which you are running so that you want to know if the last person will really pay up. If this is a Board which you are setting up, we want to know how much money you will put at the disposal of this Board. I am not talking about the Five Year Plan; let us know what you have in the Five Year Plan in so far as this Corporation is concerned. Is it going to be \$2 million, \$3 million or \$2 1/2 million? What is the idea you have in setting up this Corporation? What is the sum total of what the experts tell you, going to be? We have a right to know that.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, in fairness to the Committee, these questions should be answered. We are establishing a cold storage plant near the market; will this Corporation be the owners of that as a Department? Will this Corporation be operating a portion of that cold storage plant or will it be operating the entire thing? What will it cost and what funds will be put at the disposal of this Corporation for purchasing, and, it may be, for subsidisation? I think it is a reasonable thing that the public should know all this. A Bill of this sort could not have been worked out without more details and therefore the Minister must have the information in his file. Even if the information is not in the file, the Minister must know what the information is from the discussions which have taken place on the matter. I think that he should let us know how he proposes to operate this Corporation in so far as the finances are concerned.

7.50 p.m.

Will you be handing over all the markets to this Corporation, or will they be only functioning in the markets or depots? You may be establishing your own depots in other areas, and even if you know where these depots are likely to be, you can mention that, the size of them and the personnel you expect you will require.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I want to tell the Minister that I have as much right to know these things as he does. This is not money he is spending in Marchfield; this is money belonging to the public. If you can get with Dan Springer and Dr. Cato and they can know our business and we cannot know, what do you think it is? What kind of idiot would bring this down here? When you came with the Displacement Bill you said you wanted \$13/4 million. The hon. member is putting up markets about the island, and now he is telling us that this comes under the Five Year Plan. What the devil are we to do with the Five Year Plan? What the hell are we to do with the Five Year Plan? It is foolishness and you all want kicking out of the place. What the devil do you all think it is? (Hon. R. G. MAPP: Shut up!) Shut up what? You want slapping in your face and I will come over there one of these days and slap you in it. You

all come in here with legislation and do not want to put things before us!

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like to draw to the attention of the hon. senior member for St. Peter that language such as that he has been using is not permissible. It is not the best language to use in the House; it is unparliamentary. Another thing I want to draw to the hon. member's attention is that when I rap the gavel and stand, some attention must be paid to me. You cannot go on talking while I am standing.

The language used in my opinion is language which should not be used in here, and I will ask you to withdraw those words. You must contain yourself, and I know you are capable of speaking without reverting to such offensive language.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw the remarks. They are unparliamentary but not offensive because they are not like "nasty" and things like that. We have grown to know the difference between Heaven and Hell, but we do not like to use the word "Hell" in here, although that is a place some of us will be abiding in. The hon. member is talking about co-operatives, but he is showing the most uncooperative attitude in bringing in a measure like this and asking us to support it. He does not have the Parliamentary decency to know that he has to reply to questions; but too many of them over there believe that members on this side were not elected to this Chamber, and the only thing which will bring them to their senses is what I said. They do not know anything about order; they know order when you bring them to their senses. The hon. member talked about the gutter. It is only when you get right down in the gutter that they believe you have reached their level and they can answer; but when you are above the gutter, they do not answer. These are not gutter questions. These are Parliamentary questions.

Mr. Chairman, we want to know what this Bill will cost. The Minister says it is in the Five Year Plan. Where is the Five Year Plan? Is it up in Marchfield? Must I go up there for it? He is introducing a Bill here and he is such a dun-derhead that he cannot tell us what are the things in the Five Year Plan that pertain to this measure. You are not waiting until the Five Year Plan has been passed to do this; so are you telling us that we are in an indirect way debating the Five Year Plan though it is not before us? I did not know we were discussing the Five Year Plan in that way. If the Minister believes he can get this Bill through tonight, I will tell him that it will not go through tonight. When we asked certain questions in the second reading speech, we thought that the Minister was utilising the five minutes grace which the Speaker allowed before the Suspension to give us the information for which we had asked, because those of us who spoke on the second reading were not against the principle of the Bill. We thought however that he would give us the information which we were seeking when we came to the Committee stage; but now the Bill has reached the Committee stage, that information is not forthcoming.

Mr. Chairman, when we passed the Housing Authority Bill, we had to have some idea of what we were putting at the disposal of the Housing Authority; therefore we passed the Bill with that information. We passed the Transport Board Bill with the understanding that we were going to have to buy old buses.

Mr. Chairman, Clause 10 of this Bill says "it shall be the duty of the Corporation to stimulate, facilitate and improve the production, marketing and processing of produce in the island, particularly for the benefit of the producer". What are we going to stimulate? How will you stimulate the producer? By giving him more corn or by giving him money? You say "stimulate, facilitate and improve"! That sounds as though you are rhyming; it sounds like the day when the politicians used to say "agitate, educate and federate". What is Government's policy in so far as this stimulation, facilitation and improvement are concerned? What money are you putting at the disposal of this Board to start it off? From where will they get the money? What sort of power are you giving the Board that they may be

able to borrow? These experts come here and draw up things for you, but you do not understand them.

Mr. Chairman, Clause 10 (b) says "it shall be the duty of the Corporation to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, handling, transportation, storage exportation, shipping, marketing and sale of produce whether in the island or out of the island, and in particular to assist agricultural and fishery co-operative societies to dispose of their produce to the best advantage." All this would have required some background information which is at the disposal of the Minister. Should this not be put at the disposal of members in the passing of legislation? Are we not entitled to it? Then Clause 10 (c) says "it shall be the duty of the Corporation upon being required so to do by the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make recommendations on any matter directly or indirectly relating to the production and marketing of produce." 8.00 p.m.

Now, what it is that the Minister has in mind for the stimulation of productivity and the setting up of the Marketing Corporation that he would not want to tell us? You are going to put up depots and markets. Anybody who knows about Boards knows that they have to work within the framework of the policy of the Government. Tomorrow, if the Government is dissatisfied with the working of this Corporation, it can pass a Bill to abolish it.

The Hon. Minister would not answer our question. It is an insult to hon. members. The Hon. Minister can get up in St. Philip and tell peasants about this matter; but when we come to this Chamber and ask for information, we cannot get it. In the Other Place, if the Minister without Portfolio is asked a question and he does not have the information, he tells the member: "I will get that information for you." I have no right to sit here and allow the question to be put without the Minister even exercising the common courtesy of saying that he would get the information. A Minister of Parliament is there to answer questions which are put to him. Ministers of this Government want to copy all the things done in Great Britain, but they do not copy the example that they should pay respect to members of the Opposition. The Hon. Minister has no respect for members.

The Hon. Minister of Agriculture is setting up a Corporation and he has absolutely no idea of the financial implications. He is a fourflusher. I thought he had some knowledge of what is going on. The Director of Agriculture, Mr. Frampton, is clever enough to be running this Island's agriculture and all this ministerial business in the same manner as it was before. They have all of these four-flushing ideas that they are Ministers, but you must go up to Mr. Frampton if you want to get the information. The Minister of Agriculture knows nothing about it. He is forgetting that for the last century this country has been run by the Director of Agriculture but we have Ministers now. When they were outside, they said that the Colonial Secretary ran the country. Now they say that they run it. Mr. King is Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture. I think he knows more about this than the Minister of Agriculture. If the Hon. Minister is too busy and do not know everything about this, do not come down here with it. Do not tell us that we want to know too much. He says that we want to know how much profit it would make. He says that just as if we are asking him something about his personal business or just as if I were asking him how much money he has in the bank. I am not asking him his personal business; I am asking him public business. If he does not want to answer me on public business, get out of here. As regards the Hon. Minister of Communications, I will deal with him in another way. So far as his life is concerned, he is working for a living in here. That is all he is doing. Anybody in this country can work for a living the way the Minister of Communications is working for his.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member leave out the personal business and get back to the Bill.

Mr. WALCOTT: I say that prostitution is not confined to one element of life. When you get this type of political prostitution in which you come into an assembly like this and have the brass not to answer questions put to you — on —

ly an ordinary prostitute would not want to answer a plain, unadulterated, honest question put to her and say that she cannot answer it.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking to the hon. member. I am asking you to get back to Clause 10.

Mr. WALCOTT: You have this type of political prostitution in that you ask a question and you cannot get an answer on it. You will get this type of thing as long as the Chairman can sit down and refuse to ask the Minister to answer a question.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: It is not my duty to ask a Minister to answer a question.

Mr. WALCOTT: It is your duty to see that Ministers are prepared to answer questions before the motion is put. They must have the inconvenience of not having their own way and that is the only way they can be brought to their senses. Every clause of this Bill should be subjected to the scrutiny of members of this Committee. If Ministers do not want to answer questions, do not bring Bills before the Assembly. If the Government does not want to answer questions put to it by the Opposition, resign. It is part and parcel of our parliamentary work, when you come in here with a Bill and a member asks you how much money you are going to put at the disposal of the Corporation, that you give an answer to the question. Those questions must be answered.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Sir, you hear the hon. member making a speech of personal abuse and what not. I am not going to get myself in trouble about this Bill. If it passes the House, it passes. I am not moved by all the abuse of the hon. member. I am attempting to do something for the people of Barbados; and if I am misunderstood, I am not going to have cold sweats over anything. Anyhow, Sir, I think these questions were all answered. I was interrupted from time to time when we discussed these things. This question was asked over and over again and I answered it to the best of my ability. Anything which this Corporation wants, we would have to come to the House for. Whenever funds are needed, we will have to come to the House. I said that this matter was all wrapped up in the Five Year Plan. This Bill does not deal with any plans; this is the principle which we are laying down. 8.10 p.m.

This does not ask for any funds; when this Bill is to be operated, when we are to have a staff and all of that, I will have to come to this House and ask for funds. Hon. members know that, but it is an easy thing to abuse people. That sort of thing does not move me; when I am not in this House of Assembly and I am at Marchfield I will be just as happy. When I am not in here I will be at my own home; I will not be subject to any Board, whether it is a Union or not; I will be at D. D. GARNER only. Do not let hon. members have any qualms about me; if I am in here, I will do my best; and if I am not in here, do not let hon. members shed any tears for me. I do not need them. As I said, when I am in here I will do my best and when I am not in here I will not ask for any money.

Mr. Chairman, I will tell you something now. A lot of people have had the hospitality of my home; I have not had it from them and it is not fair to me. It is not fair to ask me how much money will be required. I say that when we want a staff to run this Corporation, I will come to this House for the money. The hon. member has referred to Mr. Frampton, but he is nothing whatever to do with Markets. I should like to say this; last Tuesday the hon. senior member for St. Peter agreed with this Bill; he said that I could sit down and we would pass it, but today he comes back and he is abusing me.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. I spoke on the second reading of this Bill. I said that I agreed with the principle of the Bill but that does not mean that I do not have any right to comment on any part of the Bill. I am only asking for information; I am not asking for any details. In fact, I would be a stupid man to ask for details. I am asking what is the policy of the Government in so far as the financial implications of this Bill are con-

cerned. There must be some financial implication involved in this whole matter; there must be something which the Minister has recommended to be put into the Five Year Plan. If I were to ask the Minister of Social Services what is the policy of the Hospital, would he tell me how many beds there are?

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, we have been treated to a wonderful display of monstrous ineptitude by the Minister this afternoon. I never thought that I would live to see the day when a Minister would say that the principle of the Bill is all right and the rest of it is merely a question of crossing the "T's" and dotting the "I's".

Hon. D. D. GARNER: On a point of order. I do not know anything about dotting the "I's" and crossing the "T's". I said that when the principle of the Bill has been agreed to, then we have to come to the House for money to run the Corporation.

Mr. BARROW: That is the particular part of the Minister's harangue which I have described as monstrous ineptitude. Unless the Minister is being guilty of what an hon. member has expressed the fear, that is, if he were not introducing this Bill for pure electioneering purposes, he would have had all the financial implications of this particular measure worked out and ready, as soon as the Other Place had passed the Bill, to be put into operation. What is the purpose of passing this Bill at the stage when it is not the result of any economic planning on the part of the Minister?

Hon. D. D. GARNER: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, when this construction of the Deep Water Harbour was mooted, hon. members were not told how much money was wanted in the first analysis; you had to agree to the principle of the construction of the Harbour and then we came back with the estimates.

Mr. BARROW: That is not true. Far be it from me to discuss any such controversial subject as the financing or the non-financing of the Deep Water Harbour; but from 1958 Sir Douglas Ritchie set out all the details and the financial implications of such a project. As a matter of fact, I will say this now; there is a Bill which has the object of regulating the Port, but there is not such a thing as a Deep Water Harbour Bill; there is no such Bill authorising the construction of the Deep Water Harbour. I have checked with the Ministry, I have checked with the Attorney General and up to now they have not introduced any Bill to deprive the fishermen or the people who own the foreshore, of their ancient and customary rights. Long before they came with the Inscribed Stock Loan to raise the £2,500,000 in connection with the Deep Water Harbour on the foreign market, all the financial implications of the Harbour were discussed in Sir Douglas Ritchie's Report, although no specific provision has been introduced in this Chamber to authorise the construction of the Deep Water Harbour. When you introduce a measure of this kind, you must have a plan, and the financial commitments of the Treasury must somewhere or other appear in the plan. I know that I will be accused of accusing somebody or other now, but how do we know that some genius in the Chamber of Commerce does not want to use this Bill as the thin edge of the wedge to say that we have a general Bill and that he will do such-and-such a thing and he will ask the Government to subsidise so-and-so?

Mr. Chairman, let me give you a concrete example (ASIDES).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Do not mind the asides.

Mr. BARROW: Cox, Garner, Cummins, Mapp; the four most incompetent politicians in the West Indies, the four most monstrous inepts.

Mr. CHAIRMAN. May I ask the hon. member to get back to Clause 10?

Mr. BARROW: I am dealing with Clause 10; I am sitting and standing on it. If you want to know where I got that from, I got it from one of the Directors. I have already

disclosed his name to the hon. junior member for Christ Church and he can tell you outside. Now the Minister of Agriculture is at present negotiating for a dairy scheme which should have been here 15 or 20 years ago. The dairy is going to be put up in the Pine, and they have already guaranteed the people who are promoting the scheme for pasteurisation protection in every possible quarter. They have already guaranteed them the complete output of all the Government farms. Let the Minister deny one thing I say is true. I am going to talk at dictation speed so that the Reporter can get it down.

I am not saying that there is anything wrong with a dairy scheme, because if you want to know why we did not have a dairy scheme years ago, it was because they refused \$94,000 from C.D. & W. to set up the same dairy scheme, because some individual in the Chamber of Commerce was not yet ready to become the Managing Director. (Hon. R. G. MAPP: When?) You get over there and ask "when"?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: May I appeal to hon. members for order?

Mr. BARROW: They are like a pack of mongrels yapping, yapping all the time.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will appeal to the hon. junior member for St. John to let us get back to the Bill.

Mr. BARROW: Everybody over there who is a Minister can tell you that this Labour Government refused \$94,000. It has been discussed on the floor of this House years ago, not last month or anything like that. We have debated that in here many times and they have refused to use that \$94,000 or \$98,000 from C.D. & W.; but now that somebody has bought a plantation, now that a gentleman who is in the Other Place, was put there by the Labour Government and is the Chairman of the Development Board, is going to be one of the Managing Directors, they are going to do it. They have refused several people who have applied and would have put up a plant long ago, but they are now talking about putting up a pasteurisation plant in the Pine on Government land with private Directors. They are going to tell the small man that it is for the small man, but let us get down to brass tacks. I have been reliably informed, and the gentleman would not have told me that on this Bill unless he wanted it to be known, that they intend to prohibit the importation of evaporated and condensed milk. Not immediately the plant opens; but the Minister has guaranteed them the entire output of milk for the pasteurisation plant from the various Government farms, and they are going to prohibit the importation of evaporated milk and condensed milk.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I have guaranteed nobody anything. These people have not even formed a Corporation yet. They have asked and are negotiating.

Mr. BARROW: I would like to ask the Minister a question. Can they form an association if you do not pass this Bill?

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Certainly.

Mr. BARROW: Will they have the same immunities and privileges if you do not pass this Bill?

Hon. D. D. GARNER: It is a separate and distinct thing.

Mr. BARROW: When I asked whether they will have these privileges, whom do you mean by "they" when you answer. This is a very serious matter. None of them over there has any initiative; they had to bring Mr. Cadbury to tell them what to do. They published the manifesto and have to bring people to tell them how to carry out what is in it. The reason why I say that we are a bit chary about the implementation of Clause 10 is because it is only on the occasion of somebody wanting to get something done that you see legislation like this coming in. We know that the Minister has given a firm unequivocal undertaking that after a certain time the importation of condensed milk and evaporated milk will be stopped.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, anybody who hears the hon. member carrying on like that would think that we have something to hide. The dairy owners of Barbados are the ones who are negotiating with the Government of Barbados. We have not got to go to Timbuctu to find out who they are. The dairy farmers are the ones who are negotiating with us, and there is no secret about that.

Mr. BARROW: I would like to ask the Minister if there is a Dairy Farmers Association in Barbados. The same person who is negotiating with them was the bitterest opponent of the scheme. He is a close friend of at least three of the Ministers on that side, perhaps a friend of mine as well, and a good friend of the Premier, and he was the bitterest opponent outside of this House to the same dairy scheme.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: On a point of order, I did not know that the hon. senior member for St. George happens to be the bitterest enemy of Government, because he is the person who is negotiating with us.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 8.30 o'clock p.m., this is the moment of interruption. Is that matter considered controversial?

Mr. BARROW: It is, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then it may not be continued.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether we can postpone Orders Nos. 3 and 4 and take Order No. 5.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is Order No. 5. considered controversial?

Mr. WALCOTT: Yes, Sir.

Hon. M. E. COX: I have gathered from the hon. senior member for St. Peter that all Government matters now are controversial. 8.30 p.m.
I would like to assure him that we are not fighting him because we do not regard him as anything to fight.

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave the personalities out.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I believe that Orders Nos. 7 and 8 are not controversial.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will put it to the House. Are they considered controversial?

Mr. TUDOR: No, Sir.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I will take Order No. 8

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT MELVIN'S HILL

Mr. SPEAKER: This Order stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing: To move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Governor-in-Executive Committee of a parcel of land situate at Melvin's Hill, St. Joseph, for the purpose of highway improvement, and for the use and benefit of the public.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, hon. members who pass this place recently will have noticed that the Department of Highways and Transport is carrying on repairs to the road at Melvin's Hill. Those hon. members who observe the work which the Department has done will observe that it has done very good work especially in St. Andrew and in St. Joseph on bridges which have been broken down due to heavy rainfall and nature of the soil. At Melvin's Hill, there was another movement of the soil after the rain we had recently and we had to carry out some repairs to the bridge there.

This parcel of land abuts and bounds on the bridge at Melvin's Hill which has suffered from land-slipping after heavy rainfall. The owner of the land cannot give a good and marketable title although she had suitable evidence of peaceful possession. The vendor has already given the Department possession of the land to carry out the necessary work. The purchase price has already been agreed upon and acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, is being sought in order that the Executive Committee may acquire a good marketable title.

We want to acquire this piece of land because it is absolutely necessary in order to do some soil conservation and to strengthen the land from future slipping.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BARROW: I think the hon. senior member for St. Joseph probably is in a better position to give the House the history of this road than I am; but there are a few comments which I want to make on it.

I do not think the general public of Barbados is particularly impressed by the standard of engineering in the Department of Highways and Transport. For years, we have Turners Hall Road closed, we have had landslides at Melvin's Hill practically every three or four months and, particularly in the parish of St. Andrew, the standard of road making has left a lot to be desired. The difficulty which I see is that people get into a sense of complacency and in the passing of time they become incompetent to deal with this. When it comes to road repairing, generally speaking, we have no road engineering problems. In the only part of the Island where we have any kind of engineering problem they cannot construct a single bridge out of the taxpayers' money which would stand up for two and a half rainy seasons. It is time that the Government get the qualifications of people in the Department of Highways and Transport because they must be very suspect. If the top soil is to be excavated to the average depth of 30 inches, that is all they can do; but the minute they come to the normal set of conditions they cannot build a single road which can stand up.

I use this road frequently. The hon. senior member for St. Joseph can verify that I frequently have to use it and anyone driving over this road for the first time must be in mortal fear of life and limb. I want to suggest to the Hon. Minister of Communications that not only the land with which the Resolution deals, but the people in that area ought to be evacuated from the lands they hold there because some of these houses are perched precipitously on the highway and I can very well see the day with the standard of engineering prevailing in the Island when all of these homes will be floating out to sea near Joes River.

That is the only part of the Island, and it is only one-seventh of the Island's land mass, where we meet with an engineering problem. These people around Melvin's Hill are living practically underneath the bridge. I am suggesting to Government that they remove all the people off that roadway. The road is constructed along the spine of one of the hills in St. Joseph and therefore, it is in the position where it is likely to move to a lower level at any time. There is no land higher than there; therefore, I suggest that the Government actively consider effecting as an emergency measure the removal of all the people along the two sides of the road at Melvin's Hill, because I consider from long experience and by watching landslides and the soil erosion which takes place up there that the people there are living on the brink of disaster and danger.

Sir, I would like to see some improvement in the standard of engineering in those parishes. We do not know if anyone in the Department of Highways and Transport is competent to deal with the basic problems. If there is no one, then we should go to the Technical Administration or some other body which is available in the more industrialised countries for assistance in order to save this annual drain on the Treasury and which comes out the pockets of the taxpayers of this island.
8.40 p.m.

Mr. WALCOTT: I would like to know if Melvin's Hill is the place where the houses are beneath the road where you are walking. I would be very sorry for some of the people if some Barbadians had to live there at these houses. These houses seem to be underneath the road and I wonder how these people exist. I do not interfere with the problems of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph and it seems to me that he has lived down there for all of these years and these problems do not worry him. I would like to know what is to be done for people who live underneath the bridge, for practical purposes.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: For the benefit of hon. members I would like to say that two of the houses which might have been affected in this matter have been removed. I think that the hon. member has in mind or has described, the particular area with which we are dealing in this Resolution. These houses were beneath the level of the road and they were affected. These houses would have been in danger if the land had slipped.

As far as the hon. junior member for St. John is concerned, I wonder if we should take him seriously. Which of us who have seen the work of this Department, and who have any generosity, could not but praise the standard of the work which has been done by the Department especially since the present Director took over; Where have we got a West Indian who has shown such skill and has revealed such competency, honesty and everything else in his job? Despite the fact we are talking about Federation, we have somebody attempting to decry the work of the Department since the present Director has taken over. The exact opposite should be the attitude of the hon. member.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would like the hon. member to state what are the academic qualifications of the Director of Highways and Transport.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, I always regarded the hon. member as a snob and I deem him more so now.

Mr. BARROW: Is the hon. member serious when he is asking what are qualifications to do with engineering?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, there are people with academic qualifications but what are they but failures? You have several men who have no qualifications, but they have experience and they can make a success of their job; the Director of Highways and Transport is one of those men. Nobody who has seen the work done under the supervision of this Director could have anything but praise for him. The parish of St. Andrew has been very properly served under his supervision; in every rainy season the roads of that parish used to slip, break away and do all sorts of things; but since the work has been started by the Director down there, look how the roads have stood up!

Mr. BARROW: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the hon. member if it is not a fact that Melvin's Bridge has been repaired since the Director has been in office. Public money has been spent on that bridge and it broke away at the very first rainfall after it had been repaired. If the hon. member has got his facts, he could answer that question.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, anybody who has a spark of honesty about him could not gainsay the work which the Director has done in St. Andrew. This is the first time that that bridge has had a major break away since the Director has been in office. The Director is doing a major repair job and I am sure that the experience will be the same as in the case of the roads which he has already repaired. What the Director has done amounts to something which we have never seen in this island before. It is a miracle not to expect the roads in St. Andrew to break away after a heavy rain. I do not believe that the hon. member travels in these areas. When he is in the island he goes

to St. John and when he is not here, he is in Trinidad or in Antigua. Mr. Chairman, I am told that the hon. member does not even go to St. John. I will bet you that he will go up there now.

I do not regard the hon. member seriously; he cannot really reveal such profound ignorance as to get up here and say that the Director of Highways and Transport has not done a good job. This gentleman who is in charge of Highways and Transport came here from Dominica and anybody who knows the contour of the land there, knows what a man this officer would have to be. The people have sung the praises of this man in Dominica. I am told that.....

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. There are no roads in Dominica; you have to put one stone on top of another.

Mr. BARROW: On a point of order. The Hon. Minister of Communications is entirely wrong. There is one road from Roseau to Layou and not only did this road which was constructed by this gentleman slip away, but they buried a bulldozer there. I do not think we could accept these standards because the gentleman happens not to have any qualifications (ASIDES) I nearly lost my life.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the Hon. Minister is getting a series of interruptions from the right and unfortunately also from the left. I think that the Minister should be free from interruptions both from the left and from the right. 8.50 p.m.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I assume the interruptions will end; but I would like to say, and I am very serious on this point, that there are certain things said in here under the privilege of this House which I am sure members would think twice and hesitate before they said them outside.

Mr. BARROW: I am not going to hesitate. I would go to the gentleman and to the Press and say that he has no qualifications and the taxpayers' money is being squandered in St. Joseph. There are no roads in Dominica, and when I went there I nearly lost my life on the one road which Mr. Grant built.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not of much interest to the House.

Mr. BARROW: It is of consuming interest to my constituents that he nearly caused me to lose my life.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I am sure that the hon. member would not say many of the things he has said in here outside.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker; I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 8th August, 1961 at 12 noon.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to discharge the Select Committee to consider the matter of privilege arising out of the letter dated 6th March, 1961. That Committee is hereby discharged.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 8th August, 1961, at 12 noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly. 8.55 p.m.