

THE

# House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

## SESSION 1961

### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, 24th January, 1961*

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

#### PRESENT

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*); Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, (*Leader of the Opposition*); Hon. Dr. 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*); Hon. D. D. GARNER, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mr. C. B. SEARLES; Hon. L. St.A. THORNE, (*Minister of Education*); and Mr. G. E. S. STRAUGHN.

*Prayers were read.*

#### MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th January have been printed and circulated amongst hon. members, and unless there be any objection, these Minutes will be taken as read and confirmed.

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

#### PAPERS LAID

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

An account of the transactions in rum in the several districts of the Island for the quarter ended 31st December, 1960.

Auditor General's Report on the Audit of the Accounts of the Colony for the year 1958-59.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

The Customs Duties (World Health Organisation) Order, 1961.

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

Resolution to place the sum of \$139,597 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1960-61, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1960-61, No. 33, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. L. St.A. THORNE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

Resolution to approve the lease by the Executive Committee to the Governing Body of Queen's College of lands for the purpose of extending the playing fields at Queen's College.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Bill to prescribe the hours of duty of domestic employees.

A Bill to amend the Holidays with Pay Act, 1951.

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

A Bill to amend the Housing Act, 1955.

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

#### PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. STRAUGHN: I beg to give notice of the following Resolution relative to the privileges of this Hon. Chamber:-

"WHEREAS the privileges of this Honourable House are neither firmly established nor clearly documented,

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to have such privileges in a clear and concise form,

BE IT RESOLVED that a Committee of privileges be appointed to thoroughly investigate and make recommendations upon this matter of privilege with a view to positive action being taken in respect thereof during the current Session, if necessary, by way of legislation."

#### QUESTIONS

Mr. TUDOR: To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Education:-

1. Is it true that some Relief Teachers did not receive their December salaries until the second week in January?

2. If true, has the Minister discovered the reason for their unfortunate delay and censured those responsible?

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

1. Will the Minister state how Government proposes to finance the Scheme, envisaged in the recent Speech from the Throne, for providing houses for rental by aged and needy persons?

2. Will the Minister further state whether the Capital necessary for the housing of middle income groups, is available locally and, if so, from what source or sources, or will it be sought elsewhere?

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

1. Is Government aware that there is no road (private or public) leading from Pile Bay, Winter's Land and the surrounding environs to the main highway known as Black Rock Road in the parish of St. Michael?

2. Is Government aware that as a result of the said lack of road facilities the residents of the said area suffer grave inconvenience and hardship in respect of medical aid, burial of the dead and the transportation of household and other articles to and from their homes?

3. Will Government take immediate steps to provide a road for the use of the residents of the area?

Mr. TUDOR: To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Education:-

1. Will the Minister consider releasing for publication the Report of Dr. Walters and Mr. Petter on Teacher Training at Erdiston College?

2. Will the Minister state -

- (a) whether the former Principal of the College was asked to submit his views on their findings;
- (b) whether he did so; and
- (c) whether he (the Minister) will consider publishing these as well.

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

Whether he is aware that, on 10th day of instant month, there occurred breaches of the Peace on the wharf, Bridgetown, when (a) one Tommy Steele is alleged to have violated Sections 35 and/or 39 of the Offences Against the Person Act, 1868 (1868-5), and Section 55 of the Highways Act 1900 (1900-5) by inflicting a battery upon one Thomas Belle, a Second Officer of Steamship "Mauretania", and causing a disturbance; (b) the said Thomas Belle likewise committed a battery on the said Tommy Steele?

2. If the answer to either of above queries is "yes", will the Premier state if it is a fact that no steps were taken, or contemplated by the Police to place the alleged offenders before Her Majesty's Courts of this Island?

3. Is the Premier aware that grave disquiet and concern exist amongst the people of this Island concerning Police failure to follow the normal procedure *a propos* of aforementioned incidents, irrespective of whether parties involved were residents or non-residents of this Island, and regardless of class, colour or creed?

4. If it is a fact that Police have deliberately refrained from taking steps re the above matter, will the Premier cause an enquiry to be made to ascertain why? 12.25 p.m.

## BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

*On motion of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER, the Bill to prescribe the hours of duty of domestic employees, was read a first time.*

*On motion of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded by Hon. D. D. GARNER, the Bill to amend the Holidays with Pay Act, 1951, was read a first time.*

*On motion of Hon. R. G. MAPP, seconded by Hon. L. St. A. THORNE, the Bill to amend the Housing Act, 1955, was read a first time.*

## COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the island.

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. D. D. GARNER: 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 ESTIMATES 1960-61 No. 31

### HEAD XV - POLICE

*Head XV - Police - was called.*

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the first item - Item 39, Upkeep of Animals - concerns another dog, "Flame" which has recently been added to the kennels of the Police Department. This increase of \$210 is sought for its maintenance.

The next item is Item 41, Burials. The amount is needed to supplement the vote so that a payment towards the funeral expenses of a Constable can be made. In the Estimates for this year, \$100 is provided; and that has been expended; therefore this additional amount of \$100 is to be kept in hand should there be another death occurring again this year.

The next item is Item 43, Bicycles. The vote for bicycles is inadequate. The upkeep for bicycles was underestimated. The supplementary amount of \$200 is required to provide for the cost of maintenance for the balance of the financial year.

The next is Item 59, Motor Transport. There has been a great increase in expenditure under this item on account of the necessity to purchase more petrol because of increased police mobility. There is also the increase in the cost of repairs. This amount of \$5,490 is required to meet the cost of maintenance of the motor vehicles until the end of the financial year.

The next is Item 60, Radio Telephony. This amount of \$960 is required to meet the increase in the cost of electricity used in the operation of the Wireless Equipment. This increase was due to the installation and operating of additional duplex equipment, and to the incorrect reading in the past of the meter at Castle Grant by the Barbados Light & Power Company Ltd.

The last is Item 72, Removal of Dead Bodies. There again this supplementary of \$1,290 is sought because, based on the monthly average already spent under this item, it is

estimated that this amount will be required to meet commitments to the end of the financial year.

I beg to move that Head XV stand part.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I did not rise of course to offer any controversy on this matter, but there is one question which I would like to ask the Hon. Premier and it is to do with Item 41, Burials. We have been asked to provide \$100. The explanatory note says that this amount is needed to supplement the vote so that a payment towards the funeral expenses of a Constable can be made.

I would like to know if the Hon. Premier would state precisely how this works, whether I must understand that the entire funeral expenses was \$100, or whether Government subscribes that amount towards the funeral expenses of a Constable. Just what is the position and what proportion of the general funeral expenditure of a police Constable is \$100? I hope that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph would throw some light on this matter.

Sir, I do not know if you can get a corpse decently buried nowadays for \$100. I doubt it. What with the duties expected of one while one is alive, and the duties exacted from one after one has died, the cost of dying has equalled the cost of living in steepness.  
12.35 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: I am sorry, Sir, but one half of what the hon. member was saying I was unable to hear.

Mr. TUDOR: Probably the hon. member was not listening. I just wanted to know from the hon. member whether he could give some explanation of this seemingly small account of \$100.00 being required as a contribution towards the burial of a Police Constable. I am not aware of what the law is on the point; I would like to know, therefore, whether one contributes an amount according to the rank of the policeman, or whether one gets an idea of the total funeral expenditure and then contributes this amount, because, it seems to me a very small amount for defraying the expenses of burials. I would like the Premier to explain it. I did say, when the hon. member was not apparently listening, that it seems that more is required for feeding a dog than for burying a man.

Mr. BRANCKER: Before the Premier replies, Mr. Chairman, he may be able to assist us as to the number of vehicles there are in this Department. We are asked to provide an additional amount of \$200.00; I would like to be reminded - this Committee has sometime previously in this Session been reminded - as to the number of bicycles which are in use by this Department at the moment.

Then, in respect of Item 60 "Radio Telephony", the \$960 which we are asked to vote is due to two things according to the note. One is the installation and operation of additional duplex equipment, and the other is the incorrect reading in the past of the meter at Castle Grant by the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited. That seems to be passing strange. I would like the Minister to enlighten us as to how much is in connection with the installation and operation of additional duplex equipment, and how much is left to be applied in respect of the incorrect reading of this meter by the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited. I should like to know who discovered that this meter was being read incorrectly, whether it was the Government Electrical Engineer or not. I should also like to find out whether the poor taxpayer might be victimised or if, for once in his life, he was getting the benefit of this incorrect reading and whether they are satisfied now that fool-proof steps have been taken to ensure the correct operation of this meter.

I would also be grateful to learn, whoever discovered that this meter was being read incorrectly, whether we can be given any idea as to how long this meter was being incorrectly read by the Barbados Light and Power Company. Was it due to a mechanical defect in the meter it-

self or was it due to the inefficiency or incompetence of the member or members of the staff of the Barbados Light and Power company, who was or were sent from time to time to read this meter? This is a very strange thing to see put in a note, and I must confess that it excited my keen curiosity when it was drawn to my attention.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, before the Hon. Premier replies I should like to say that these are routine matters, but there are some very confusing notes. Item 72 "Removal of dead bodies", shows that we need the sum of \$1,290 for the rest of the financial year in connection with the removal of dead bodies. We have already voted the sum of \$1,600 and apparently the sum of \$1,290 is needed for the rest of the financial year. Based on a monthly average, it looks as though you will need \$1,290 for every three months, which is \$430 a month, and if this vote of \$1,600 is expended over nine months, the average expenditure is just over \$177 a month. I believe that it is just one of the errors in the notes; there is nothing wrong in the administration itself but these are the things which confuse us.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, it is remarkable that one of the Backbenchers of the Government is taking a definite interest in what is going on in this Honourable House. I regret that I gave way to him because I had the same point which he has made to bring before this House. These notes are an insult to the intelligence of the members of this House. It is an insult to us to have a statement like this. We provide the monthly average and they spend it; there is no reason given as to whether the amount which the administration needs is the correct amount. The person who has written the note does not know if it is the correct thing.

I must commend the hon. member for taking that stand today. I have been extremely lonely in following these things in this House. My voice on these notes has been extremely loud. I have demanded that this House be given more accurate information by the person who compiles whatever documents are coming to this House. It is not my responsibility to see if the administration is going wrong, but it is for me to say from these notes that everything is going wrong. Nobody realises that the money is expended at the rate of "X" dollars per month, per body or whatever the case may be. (ASIDES)

I do not know what to do about these notes. When one is dealing with the taxpayers' money, he should not be allowed to be so facetious in his remarks, the members of this House should not be satisfied to sit here and have their intelligence insulted by remarks like those when it comes to dealing with the taxpayers' money. I hope I shall hear in the future not only my loud voice crying out in the wilderness, but it will be joined by other Backbenchers of the Government.  
12.45 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, with regard to Item 41 - Burials - I think the hon. member who asked the question said that he is conversant with the law relating to the burial of policemen.

Mr. TUDOR: No, no, I said I was not.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: In case the hon. member said he is not, Section 97 of the Police Act says that the Funeral expenses of all members of the Police Force, except the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents, dying whilst in the Force, shall be defrayed from the Public Treasury. For some years now the amount of \$100 has been placed in the Estimates; the hon. member can verify that by going through the Estimates of a few years back. I do not know what the procedure is, whether this is part of the expenses or otherwise. I repeat that for many years that amount of \$100 appeared in the Estimates although some years it is not spent. In this case it was used to defray the cost of expenses of one member of the Force who died. Since then another has died, and this amount is asked for to satisfy that debt.

With regard to the number of bicycles at present in use by the Force, I do not know. If the hon. member wants me to get that information, I will get it for him by the next meeting.

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition asked lots of questions in connection with Radio Telephony, who discovered the mistake, who made the mistake and all that. That I do not know. If the hon. member is interested, I will get that information for him also.

As to Item 72 - Removal of Dead Bodies - this is done by contract. Every year it is advertised, tenders are invited, and these tenders are gone into. This amount of \$1,600 is only a provisional amount. Nobody knows how many people are going to die in the course of a year, therefore if, as stated here, that from the rate of expenditure existing now it is estimated that the amount here will be required to carry on to the end of the financial year, what is wrong with that? This is done by contract, and although I have forgotten the rates, there is one rate for the City and another rate which applies to country districts. I believe the hon. member for St. George does not know that a strict accounting of votes is kept; and when Departments see that a vote is running out, they do not wait until the last minute to have it supplemented. At the rates it is being spent now per month, they estimate that so much more will be required to carry on to the end of the financial year. I see nothing wrong with that. If the information asked for by hon. members is still required, I will get it for them by the next meeting.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member shortly before he sat down said he saw nothing wrong with the request for money for the removal of dead bodies between now and the end of the financial year. Of course there is nothing wrong with the request or the provision; what is wrong, it seems to us on this side of the House and at least to one of the Government's Backbenchers, is the amount which is to cover the end of the financial year. Here it is that when this House provided \$1,600 presumably for the whole year, it has been expended now in nine months time. That is an average of \$170.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member. The note does not say it is expended. All the note says is that at the rate it is being expended, we estimate it will take so much more to carry on to the end of the financial year.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, if you had a sum of so much in the Estimates and you need so much more between now and the financial year, it means that you need nearly 18% more on to what you asked for at the beginning of the financial year. Since the hon. member said he does not think it is all expended and has some in hand, then you do not need all you are asking for; unless the Government is going to do something so terrible between now and the end of March that we can expect people to die like flies.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I must request a little better information on this matter. No one is quarrelling about the voting of the money which is needed; what I am quarrelling about is the note and the manner in which the Premier has again supported the note. The mere fact that he has supported the note makes one feel that he does not know the reason why this money is to be voted. Frankly, up to now, I do not know the reason why either; so I agree with him! Nobody can tell how many people are going to die; I do not think the medical profession can work that out, but surely someone may be able to compute how many people are likely to die, and therefore the amount of money needed in relation to the amount of people to be buried would be so much.

When one adds up the majority of these supplementary votes as I do continuously from meeting to meeting, and one sees the millions of dollars that they total, it is not remarkable to me that there is this continual attitude of the insignificance, the unnecessary detail that is asked for, or the fact that the note is insufficient. No one with any

ability, Sir, or business acumen would expect such a remark for further expenditure of money. We have to have the facts of the case; and we will go on having these stupid notes thrown at us as long as the Premier sees nothing wrong with them. In this present set up, the attitude of the Service seems to be that all they have to do is ask for a supplementary vote, get it - but this House must not question it.  
12.55 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. This is the second time the hon. member has said that. I do not think that I have ever adopted that attitude. If information is required and I do not have it, I get it. So please do not say that that is my attitude.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has misunderstood me. I did not say that he was the person; I said that that was the attitude of the Service. Their attitude towards this Hon. House is to send notes in here regardless of whether there are facts or no facts, and they will get the money they want; but I say that it is our responsibility to search every single corner before we agree to the spending of a half-penny in this House. We are entitled to get facts and not confusing stupidity such as in this Note. If we had been told by the Hon. Premier what the facts of the case were, this debate would have ended a long time ago. Of course he is willing to give us the facts. I agree that if we ask him questions he says that he would get them answered for us; but I say bluntly that the attitude of the whole lot of officials down to the one who compiles these notes, whether he is the Head of the Department or not, is that they would not give you any reasonable explanation or the reason why they want a supplementary vote.

There is no reasonable man who can back up this note and say that there is a fact in this. What does the note say; "Based on the monthly average already spent under this item." We do not know what is the monthly average, and we do not know what is spent. It goes on to say: "It is estimated that this amount will be required to meet commitments to the end of the financial year." We do not know what is their estimation for the rest of the year in relation to the year past; and it reminds me of the situation which was remarked not very long ago in another place that we are working in the dark, I do not like working in the dark; I like working in the daylight.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to the Hon. Minister of Finance for his assurance that he is willing to provide the information which I sought, and which he does not know at the moment in connection with Item 43, Bicycles and Item 60, Radio Telephony under this Head.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, under this Head, the sum of \$100 is required to supplement Item 41, Burials. The note reads as follows: "This amount is needed to supplement the vote so that a payment towards the funeral expenses of a Constable can be made."

I would like to know how much it takes to bury a Police Constable. This Resolution only asks for \$100. Is it more than \$100? I think it should be more than \$100. It should be part of the Regulations so that we could see the difference for ourselves; and, if it had been thus regulated, there would have been no argument in this House at all towards this item.

The Ministers of this Government laugh and mock when hon. members from this side of the House put forward suggestions, but the suggestions from this side of the House are a help to the Government. We forgive them for laughing and mocking because we know that they do not know what they are doing; if they knew what they were doing, they would not laugh and mock. The Government should be in sympathy with us and see that we are bringing forward proper suggestions to them so as to enhance the welfare of the people of this island.

Sir, if I had this in my hands to do, I think I would make a better note to this item than this. I would say that the sum

of \$600 is to bury John and Sam; the sum of \$500 has been spent and another \$100 is needed. I am sure if it was set out that way it would need no further argument on this at all. I hope that all who are compiling these notes will understand that there are men with proper education on this side of the House who are capable of finding out mistakes.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I believe that a matter of this sort can be easily summarised in the proper way. I am speaking with respect to Item 72, Removal of Dead Bodies. I take it that this item is to deal with the bodies of persons who have met with an untimely death by accident or otherwise, and even the bodies of persons who though the representatives might actually agree to burial, yet the Police must take charge of those bodies until such time as the medical authorities and the Coroner give the O.K. for burial. The Police must move as set out by law as to how such bodies should be dealt with. I suppose those of us who have got, in a way, to deal with the running of some form of government, do know that you cannot budget to the last cent in a matter like this; but, surely, you can ask for information. I suppose that I can hear from the Hon. Premier if this \$600 which has been voted for this item has already been spent. I take it that it is.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I said that I did not know. That is what I said.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I do not think that the hon. member in charge of this Resolution will open himself to say that he had \$1,600 for ten months but he wants \$1,290 to spend during the next two months. That does not make sense. As I see it, you cannot budget for a thing like this up to a cent.

What really must have happened is that the amount voted must have been spent already, and that you must have had some other commitments. You must have had three or four deaths of this nature which the Police had to handle since we prorogued in December. As Your Honour knows, the Police must move in a case like this. They do not wait, or they cannot wait, for the House to come and pass things.  
1.05 p.m.

Around Christmas time you may have about four or five accidents and therefore you would have had your commitments. I would be at a loss to understand how the Premier could be so reckless as to say that all of this money has not been spent and he has come for this money. The explanatory note says this: "based on the monthly average already spent under this Item, it is estimated that this amount will be required to meet commitments to the end of the financial year." You can only arrive at the monthly average by the month of December. I am sure that the Premier will listen to cogent argument and logical reasoning.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: The hon. member is correct. I have since done some calculation and this money has been spent. The expenditure is at the rate of \$240 a month.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If you have an amount of \$1,600 voted and you come with this explanatory note saying that you want \$1,290 more, and you have an average of ten months, you would be wrong if you said that you had money in hand; you would have to say that it has been expended. This expenditure is bound to work out at \$2,880 a year which is \$240 a month. Up to the end of December you would have had commitments and you would have had to pay for them; you could not allow these dead bodies to remain where they are.

While that is so, while the average is at the rate of \$240 a month, I should like to enquire whether this work is done by contract, tender or what. I think I saw an advertisement about it somewhere. If hon. members were not quick enough on this matter, they would say that you are asking for this money and you have not said whether this work is done by contract or what. The amount varies from

time to time; you cannot be straight-laced in these things. The same stick which licks Bob must lick Dick; you would have asked this question of the City Council.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, in answer to the hon. member on that last point, I did say that the work was done by contract. The hon. member might not have been in his seat, I am not so sure about the rates, but in St. Michael there is one rate and in the rural areas there is another rate. However, the work is done by contract.

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

#### HEAD XXXIV - ELECTRICAL INSPECTION

*Head XXXIV - Electrical Inspector - was called.*

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Under this Head, Mr. Chairman, there is the Item "Travelling expenses". According to the note, there has been an increased number of inspections for connections to the supply mains, and of requests for inspections and service by Government departments. That has necessitated increased travelling by the officers of the Electrical Inspection Department, and this additional sum of \$400 is required to meet travelling expenses as the present provision is inadequate.

I beg to move that Head XXXIV stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

#### HEAD XXXIX - STATISTICAL SERVICE

*Head XXXIX - Statistical Service - was called.*

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, under this Head there is also the Item "Travelling Expenses". The note sets out that the amount of travelling done by officers of the Statistical Department has increased considerably since the current estimates were prepared. Among the surveys undertaken have been an agricultural survey, a survey of manufacturing establishments, an insurance survey and a transport survey. This amount is being asked for to carry on the service until the end of the financial year. I beg to move that Head XXXIX stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

#### HEAD XL - WATERWORKS

*Head XL - Waterworks - was called.*

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, it will be noticed that the sum of \$84,760 was voted in the Estimates in respect of the item "Repairs to mains, meters, etc". This amount is inadequate to meet such services to the end of the financial year, and this sum of \$10,000 is required for the purpose of carrying on these services, until that time. I beg to move that Head XL stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that the appropriate Minister is not in his place, but since this is a question of general policy, the Hon. Premier should be able to answer. With respect to the laying of water mains, I would like to know this: now that the feeder routes to the Deep Water Harbour are being put down, will they be serviced

presumably with water mains as well? I would like to know from the appropriate Minister, who has now taken his seat, if attention is being paid to the saving of money. It has long been the custom that, when a road is being built, it is built and surfaced, people start to use it, and then a public utility company comes along and digs it up. When that company has finished, or it has not quite finished, the Highways and Transport Department will come along and then the Waterworks Department will follow. It seems to me a pity that, when you are putting down expensive roads like this, everything that has to go into that road cannot be put in at the same time or as nearly the same time. Water service, gas service or whatever it is should be put down so that when the road is surfaced these things would have already been done. It seems to be a wicked waste of money to build a road and then allow these distinct agencies to dig it up again, each for its own reason.

1.15 p.m.

I would just like to have the assurance of the Minister as to what is the situation there, and whether on the new Harbour Roads all that should be done is being done now that they are constructing them so that we would not see them dug up six months or a year from now for these services.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, it was a bit difficult to hear the hon. member; I do not know if his microphone is out of order, but I think he spoke about the problem of coordinating the programme of road construction and the laying of mains and services; and he asked if the same difficulties are being guarded against in the case of the roads to the Deep Water Harbour. In so far as the roads leading to the Harbour are concerned, I do not think that there will be any problem there. We will so devise things that it will be easy to lay the mains as in the case of the Sandy Lane Road. (Mr. MOTTLEY: That is not the question.) Is the hon. member saying that that is not quite what he wanted to know?

Mr. TUDOR: I am listening to the Minister; he must tell me what he wants me to know.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I did not hear the hon. member very well, but what I am saying is that I do not think any problem will arise in so far as the services are concerned in digging up the roads to the Harbour. Occasionally you do have this problem in other areas where you are constructing tenantry roads. You find that a road is laid and later on the services have to dig up the roads. I have tried to achieve coordination, but at times it is a bit difficult to get full coordination, because of the fact that the Highways and Transport Department may have a very full programme and it may be an urgent problem of water. The Waterworks Department might not be able to wait until the Highways and Transport Department can provide the rollers and soon to do this particular road, and they may have to go ahead in a matter of urgency; but we have tried wherever possible to achieve maximum cooperation and coordination in all these services.

I want to assure hon. members that from directives from the Ministry and from conversations we have had, all the Departments are fully aware of the necessity to coordinate as much as possible.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, from the Minister's reply it is evident that he did not hear the question put to him. I think I heard it quite clearly. The Deep Water Harbour is coming to a close, and what we want to know is whether the water mains and other services have been put in at this stage. We want to know whether the underground cables of the Electric Company are in, whether the gas mains are in and whether the Waterworks mains are in.

I go further and ask if, in the provision of the roads to the Deep Water Harbour, they have made the services area apart from the roads, that is, outside of the roads, for any repair work to be done. That is how we feel it should have been done, and may have been done. The question therefore is whether they have been done and whether in the plans these will be done. I would like the Minister to answer that.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I cannot tell the hon. member if all these services have been laid. I do not know what is the position as regards the Natural Gas mains or whether they are going into that area at all. So far as the water is concerned, it is very easy for me to find out and let him know. I think provision has been made for water mains and I would be much surprised if they have not been laid; but I do not know about the electric cables.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I believe what the member for St. Lucy really was addressing to the Minister, Mr. Chairman, is that the coordination of services would make it more economical if when you are building a new road these services were laid in. The Minister rightly said that you have this trouble with tenantry roads, but we want to know if when you excavated to have the road built up, the Minister in charge had taken the trouble to have the services coordinated. I am speaking now about the water services, because I speak on this matter with some knowledge.

I have been driving across that road and the question of putting stand pipes has been raised with me. This is one of the roads which goes from Eagle Hall and runs through a tenantry. I am not talking now about electric and gas mains, because these are done through applications by way of the Department through the Ministry; but I am thinking of something directly under the Ministry, that is, under the particular Minister and not the Government. I agree with the hon. member for St. Lucy that in building new roads such as the main road to the Deep Water Harbour, one of the first things you should do, instead of having to go in for unnecessary expenditure, would be to lay your mains as soon as you have excavated. As a matter of fact, if the hon. member has been passing Eagle Hall, he will see that I happen to be in charge of some place where you have excavated the road, and one of the first things I did was to make an application to the Governor-in-Executive Committee to get them to lay the mains before building the road. That will save several thousands of dollars. That is how private enterprise looks at anything. What the hon. member wants to know is whether that has been done with the Waterworks Department.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think the Minister can answer the questions with regard to electricity or the underground cables and so on, but while he cannot answer that, I would like to say that this is going to be a main highway to the Deep Water Harbour, and one would have thought that though in the area it would not be absolutely necessary at the moment due to the type of residents who could not possibly afford the luxury of natural gas, certainly he would have got in touch with other public utilities to find out whether they were willing at the time and draw their attention to the necessity of running such services in. A Committee of the City Council a few nights ago traversed that area with a view to illuminating it, and it was drawn to our attention what is going to be necessary there.

I hope the Minister will find it convenient to visit the area himself to see that, now they have finished excavating, they have not put in the water mains yet. You are going to have to dig up the road and put down water mains. The Minister said it is a question of coordinating. From my point of view, I think it is a matter of a directive unless the Waterworks Department or the Department of Highways and Transport have a grave emergency for the services. In a matter of this sort you can save money, and I think the Minister should give out a directive.

1.25 p.m.

Surely, you can stop several thousands of dollars being wasted if you put in that main now rather than wait until later on. I hope the Hon. Minister will in due course take that into consideration.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I think the suggestion which has been made by the hon. member is a good suggestion. I also have a suggestion to make which I think will be of some help. As a former contractor of roads, I, Sir, know what it means when these different mains should be laid down when you are carrying out a new construction, are not laid down then. These different mains should be

laid when the road is being constructed because they give the road more time to mature. If we do not give the road time to mature and we disturb the surface continually, as is the case now, especially when heavy traffic would be running on that road, Government will have to be continually repairing that road. The Hon. Minister in charge of that department should have a foresight of that, and should have issued a proper directive that such ultimate services should be laid before that road was finish constructing.

I believe as long as there is a Barbados there will be such a road known as Harbour Road; therefore, all plans about the construction of that road should have been gone into. The Minister should have told them that Government was going to construct the Deep Water Harbour Road, that they would need electricity, telephone and water to be laid on that road when it was being constructed. By so doing, you would have saved a lot of money.

I know that when the Telephone Company, the Barbados Light and Power Company or the Waterworks Department disturb our roads that they pay for reconstructing them. Whilst that is so, by such roads being constantly dug up, it means that Government has to be continually repairing them, and when this is done to a road which has not been properly matured, it will take more money from the Government to keep it in proper upkeep. As I have said, these various companies should negotiate with the Government and lay their mains the same time as the Government is constructing that road. I hope in the future, regardless of whatever it is this Government or any one else, that they will have such knowledge and understanding as to negotiate with the different companies so as to have everything done at one level and at the same time.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, once again I must draw the attention of this Hon. House and of the general public to the rate of expenditure which is taking place in this island. Again, as I did last Tuesday, I must draw your attention to the utter waste of money which took place when one man took five weeks to lay 40 six-inch tiles on the wall of the dining room of this Hon. House, Sir, not one of the newspapers of this island had the guts to publish that statement of mine, Sir, if you continue to accept these things as our standard, we will have this vast expenditure and waste.

On this item the explanation - and it is not an explanation - the words written for the requirement of \$10,000 more are merely that this sum of \$10,000 is required to supplement the \$84,760 voted for repairs to mains, meters, etc., in the current estimates. The year before we only expended \$81,870. This year we voted \$84,760 and now are asked to supplement it by \$10,000; but we have not been given a breakdown; there is no statement put to this House for the reasons why this money is required. I would like to ask why in this particular case \$20,000 or \$40,000 was not required, instead of \$10,000? There is nothing to tell me why such amount is required. It is amazing. You only say that it is required. You do not say how you are going to expend this money or how it was expended. These are tantamount to requisitions coming down.

Then the Note goes on to say that the vote is inadequate. It will never be, in the history of mankind, a vote which was not inadequate. A vote is always inadequate. Of course we know that it is inadequate but why is it inadequate? That is what I want to know. It was inadequate to meet such services to the end of the financial year; that is what is stated. I do not know why; perhaps the Hon. Minister can tell me why. I really cannot say from the Note the reason why but this amount is required, therefore the amount voted already is inadequate and we require \$10,000 more. I do not know whether we require \$20,000, \$50,000 or \$100,000! Then the Note goes on to say that "major repairs and alterations in the distribution system were necessary during 1960 due to the long drought during the early part of the year."

I wonder if anybody knows what these major repairs were, what they cost; I do not. I wonder if it is not possible that there can be control over these expenditures; if there

is someone who knows what is going on; or whether it is not possible for some people to sit down and state that the amount of \$10,000 is now needed because the expenditure to date on the scheme is that A, B and C have used up so much money each, and the unforeseen circumstances which occurred in 1960 used up a sum of so many thousand dollars, therefore the amount of work to be done which is the laying of 2,00 feet of pipe, 20 metres or whatever the case may be, is now estimated to be so much.  
1.35 p.m.

Only then, Sir, I believe that they would begin to stop this flow of money out of the taxpayers' pockets; but not before we question these requirements and these inadequacies which come with the bald statement that they are required, that they are inadequate, and a few words which are quite controversial, rather than supplying the facts and giving a specific report giving the facts but not in detail. I know I will be blamed for requiring all of this nonsense about details and so on, but I am after a simple matter: a comparative situation along with a statement as to what is going on *in toto*, I am not asking for the details as to every length of pipe which has been laid down or every hour of work which has been done; but I would like to see the total situation of what has been done.

As long as we continue in this way and as long as the newspapers of this island refuse to show up the people who are pulling us all down, we will continue to have this high rate of expenditure. I may say that it only takes a little going around to see the high rate of expenditure and the waste of money which is going on. It is quite fantastic; you have hours, days and weeks spent on doing jobs which could be done in a very short space of time. It is quite amazing to me, and it points to the same factor at which I am driving now: that there is no Ministerial control over the matter; there is no standard set and therefore money is expended as "X" likes to expend it, whoever "X" may be.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, I want to reply to the hon. member on two points. One is that he has tried to give the impression that a Department comes in and says "I want \$1,000 extra" and *ipso facto* that department gets it. The hon. member is an old member of this House and he knows that these votes are carefully scrutinised. When you come for a supplementary vote, you have to satisfy the Financial Secretary that it is required; you cannot just get it by asking for it; you have to satisfy the Financial Secretary how the money has been expended and for what reason you want more money.

Relative to the man who took five or six weeks to put in a few tiles in the dining room of this House, I want to say - I should have said it on the last occasion - that this matter was brought to my attention before Christmas. I called up the Director of Public Works and told him about it. He investigated the matter and reported that this same man who was doing this job was, at the same time, doing similar jobs - about three at the same time. The Director of Public Works told me that. (ASIDES) If the Director tells me that, then I must accept it. In fairness to the particular man who cannot answer for himself, I think I should make this statement in the House. I repeat: I reported the matter to the Director of Public Works; the Director investigated it and the report he gave me was that that man was doing several jobs of the same nature at the same time, and was going from one to the other.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am not accusing the Premier of covering up anything. You cannot put in tiles here and go somewhere else to work; you have to put in these tiles all at the same time. I quite believe what the Premier has said; but he knows that if a man is putting in tiles here, he cannot be putting them in here and putting them in somewhere else as well.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: On a point of order. May I enquire from the hon. member whether he means that a man cannot leave one place where he is laying tiles and go somewhere else and lay more.

Mr. MOTTLEY: What does the hon. member want me to explain?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: The hon. member said that the Premier should know that you cannot lay tiles in one place and do another job somewhere else. I am asking if he means that the man cannot lay tiles at a place in one day and come back on another day.

Mr. MOTTLEY: He cannot leave that job and go somewhere else; he cannot lay tiles here and go somewhere else. I know that this matter was drawn to the notice of the Premier before the hon. senior member for St. George drew it to his notice. As I have said, I am not saying that the Premier is covering up anything, but you cannot lay tiles and leave them so; the workmen can finish his job here and then go somewhere else and do another job. I know about laying tiles; I have had them laid in several places.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Hon. Premier for his information, but it only leads me further to be convinced of the situation. The Premier says that the Financial Secretary scrutinises these things. These are days when we have Ministerial Government; things are done under responsible managers of their Departments and they must know everything about their Departments. The Ministers must not come in here and say, because the Financial Secretary says so, that it is so. I cannot agree with that attitude at all. When it comes to the statement that if the Director says so and so, I must accept it, I will say that if a Director came to me in connection with a man who was on a job for five weeks in laying forty tiles and the Director told me that that man had gone to other places to do other jobs, I would have immediately said to him: "If you send a man to lay tiles in a wall and take him off that job, you should know that cement will perish and he will have to take off the cement. You are wasting the taxpayers' money; I will fire you."

1.45 p.m.

To lay tiles on a wall you have to put on cement, and when you leave that cement there and go and do another job, you are going to ruin the cement. No director could come to me with that nonsense.

I submit to this Hon. House that the situation is this: as far as the taxpayers are concerned, if the Director says so, I must accept it; if the Financial Secretary says so or if the Director of Agriculture says so, I must accept it. We are members of this Hon. House who represent the taxpayers and we should have the facts before us so that we can decide; but this is utter nonsense, foolishness and stupidity. What Director in any part of the world could send a man to lay tiles and take him off....

Hon. D. D. GARNER: On a point of order. On my way in I heard the hon. member say something about the Director of Agriculture. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Look, sit down.) I heard the hon. member say something about the Director of Agriculture, and I want to know what it is all about. I did not understand what he was saying.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the hon. member heard the context so I would not worry with him. I think, Sir, that this is where we are failing in our public duties; we are failing to insist that this is now a responsible Government and that we are the persons who say to the Directors what is to be done - whether it be the Director of Agriculture, the Director of Dodds, or the Director of Glendairy.

I have been watching this expenditure; and I warn you, the members of the House and the public of this Island that, if Barbados continues to throw money down the drain at the rate it is throwing it down as in the case of laying the tiles in the House of Assembly dining room wall, it will not be able to raise old age pensions. Far from that, the present old age pensioners will have to have their standard of living cut down. I am not casting reflections on workers in general, but I am saying that whoever the cap fits let him wear it; and let him realise that the expenditure of this colony is such that we of this Hon. House demand that it be expended to the best of their ability.

I am looking forward to the day when a Committee from this Hon. House can be appointed to investigate these things.

There should be a Committee of this House composed of members from both sides to investigate this particular instance; or even when a note like this comes to the House, to let that Committee find out why we have been treated in this manner. My attitude is purely because the Premier said - he did not use these exact words but I am saying it - that whatever is said we should accept. I am not going to accept any statement without using my ability, my experience and my knowledge of the situation to go into the matter; and, in what I am doing now, I can only show the danger lying ahead.

Mr. Chairman, I continually take these Supplementary Estimates and add them up and bring them to the House to show what they total; they add up to millions of dollars. I can only do that in my position today. When something is sent down, we are responsible for the expenditure; and we in this House will not be so gullible as to accept everything, otherwise there is going to be trouble ahead for this island.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who has just sat down has a virtue of blowing an old theme, but I must reply to his challenge and accusations. I am not a builder; I do not have the experience of some members opposite and some close to me, but it strikes me as logical that if you say that a job like that cannot be left off at some stage or another, then I would say that it is impossible to tile, let us say, the bit of wall opposite us, because to tile a wall like that you can only put a certain number of workmen on it. You could not have a big quota of workmen to finish it in one day; and to put two or three men and expect them to tile it in one day is impossible; they must leave off at some stage or another. Do not tell me that you cannot do one line and leave it off. What is the hon. member saying?

Mr. DOWDING: If the hon. member would give way, the area in the Dining Room, if you worked it out, is only a matter of 8 x 5 six-inch squares. We are not talking about putting tiles on the opposite wall; and, in any case, tiling is done in areas of a certain distance where you can put on so many and leave others off.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, we accept that. That is why I am arguing that he could have left it off at some stage or another. You should not say that the Director is trying to get out of it. Mind you, Mr. Chairman, I am not saying....

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. What I am going to say is this: I suppose the Minister in charge of this Department heard when the Premier said it was previously drawn to his attention and before the member for St. George spoke on it in the House; therefore, some responsible person in this Chamber must have drawn it to the Premier's notice.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I have heard that. I am not saying that the member's contention that it took too long might not be correct, but I am replying to the point that you cannot leave it off without completing the whole thing.

What I should like to say is that, before hon. members castigate Government workers, let them remember that this problem of production does not face the Barbados Government alone but Governments throughout the world. The Trade Union has boards to deal with it and to make a special study of it and so on; so the hon. member cannot tell me that private industry is all this efficient and that the Government is so backward. Every time the hon. member gets up in here he beats out this old tune of Government wasting money, sending money down the drain, and that the workers in the Government Service do not do any work. As far as Barbados is concerned, we have every right to defend workers because it is an exaggeration. There is no responsible member of any Government, the Trinidad Government especially or the Jamaica Government, who does not come and say he really has to give credit to our workers on how they got on with the job at Seawall, the Ministerial Building, the Deep Water Harbour, or some other places.

1.55 p.m.

Do not let the hon. member come down on the workmen without balancing things out. The Transport Authority of New York, the State Board, all Governments have their own problems over the workers of the state. Do not argue that it is confined to Barbados, and that we do nothing about it.

Mr. DOWDING: I rise on a point of order. I have never said that it was confined to Barbados.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Sir, if you listened to the hon. member you will think that Barbados is the worst in this respect. As I have said already, unless you are doing it for political purposes, the hon. member should not separate this problem and make it appear that this is the single problem facing Barbados. I was in my constituency some time ago and a woman complained that in the Sugar Industry certain small jobs which were given them by job work to do were taken away. She complained that they were taken off from doing piece work on certain things and were asked to do those things by day's work because they got more money doing them by piece work. That was a charge made by a worker in St. Thomas. I want to know the facts about that. I would like the hon. member to tell me if that is true. Let him repeat that that is not so; that is a serious charge to make against the Sugar Industry; it will lead to bad relations in the industry.

Sir, I would just like to say that the 8-inch main is now being laid. I have been so informed.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I want to clear up a few things for the record. Instances which I have complained about are: (1) the road which was being done by people at the headquarters of the Scouts; (2) work being done by people at the Seawell Airport; and in reference to that I have said time and time again I have been there and saw many men standing up and doing nothing; and (3) that in this Hon. House in the dining room a workman took five weeks to lay 40 tiles on the wall. The point which I am making is purely the attitude towards the expenditure of money in this island.

#### SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 2.00 p.m. o'clock, the sitting of this House now stands suspended until 2.30 p.m. o'clock.

*On re-assembling,*

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to draw to Your Honour's attention that there is no quorum and ask that the Bell be rung.

*The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.*

#### QUESTION TIME

*Question Time was called.*

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that there are no questions ready for oral answers.

#### PRIVATE MEMBER'S BUSINESS

*Order No. 1 was called. The Hon. senior member for St. Philip who moved the Resolution was not in his place nor the hon. junior member for St. Andrew who was speaking when Government Business resumed on the last occasion.*

#### RESOLUTION re APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO WORKINGS OF

##### LABOUR EXCHANGE

Mr. SPEAKER: The next order stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter: to move the passing of the following Resolution: Resolution re the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry to look into the workings of the Labour Exchange.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is really a continuation of a discussion raised on this matter in the

last Session relative to the recruitment of workers for emigration to St. Kitts. On this occasion, owing to the time factor, I do not believe that I would have to mention that aspect of the matter, so I have dropped the part belonging to the situation in St. Kitts. I am asking that the House agree to the passing of this Resolution which reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call upon the Government to set up a Commission of Enquiry to investigate all aspects of the operation of the Labour Exchange.

During the debate on the last occasion, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture made some submissions relative to the situation in this island, and in those submissions, there was a statement to the effect that some of those people who were recruited through the Labour Exchange went to St. Kitts on the basis that the Trade Union did not represent them, and did not know of their going; so the Trade Union had nothing to do nor say about the agricultural workers.

I like to put these things in their right perspective. The Barbados Workers Trade Union is the accredited representative organisation of Barbados for all sugar workers, and it would be stupid to say that because all of the workers were not members of the Union, therefore it means that it is not the accredited organisation of sugar workers. Even in this House of Assembly the Government says that it speaks on behalf of the people of Barbados, but I do not think that the Government can boast that it represents all of the people in Barbados in that all of the people gave them the right to represent them. You have sometimes far less people going to the polls, thus making it that the minority of the people are the ones making the decision. 2.35 p.m.

The ballot is not taken by the percentage of people who happen to live in the community, but by the percentage of people who exercise their right to go to the poll. If ten people decided to go to the poll and all the rest kept away, then the ballot will be regulated by those who went to the poll.

In Barbados I think that the idea of a Labour Exchange, the idea of recruiting people, has been taken as a sort of controlling institution; the concept which has been given is that people are out of work, and you should set up an organisation to provide employment for them. I am prepared to go and give evidence before a court or before anybody, and call the name of a man who gave a statement that he once gave one of the officers of the Labour Exchange sixty dollars in order to procure employment. It is not for me to decide whether that man was stating the truth or not. I feel, that, as a man in public life, I have absolutely no fear of any individual; and I go further and say that any public officer who expects to be protected against any aspect of corruption or any impropriety is in the wrong service. I know that this question is not an easy one; it seems to me that on two many sides in Barbados, corruption, what is known in local colloquialism as "passing back your hand" is so prevalent that people speak plainly and say that everybody is doing it. It is a fashion and everybody seems to be in the fashion. I feel that this matter is of such importance that it should not be left like that. I do not like to rely on rumour and say "you hear this or that"; but on so many sides you hear this question being raised, that it reaches the stage where you have a peculiar state of affairs in this colony.

Just to give you an idea of what I am saying. We are taking a register of men so as to know who are working on the Port, plus the number of people who will be required. A man came to me and in getting registered, he informed me that he was an old worker, he understood that we were registering these people for some sort of remuneration, and although he was not a member of the Union, he was quite prepared to give a part of what proceeds he expected to get. Well, in a very firm manner, I told him that he had made a mistake by coming to the wrong person. I told him

quite bluntly that he must know to whom to carry these insults; that he was insulting people, whether he meant it or not.

We have set up the Labour Exchange and we have provided work for people who would not have been employed, had it not been for the Labour Exchange. If the persons who are working at the Labour Exchange are no longer in the unemployed ranks and they find themselves in the ranks of the employed, I deplore the slightest suggestion that they should receive gratuities for the services which they have to render to the public. I am aware that this is the sort of thing for which, I believe, lots of people would be in prison; but there is a tendency for smugness in this sort of thing in which you would have "bu-ball" in Trinidad.

In Barbados we are above-board; and none of these things should be taking place. A lady came to me recently and she wanted to go the United Kingdom. She asked me in what way I could assist her. She told me that she understands that in order for someone to get to England you would have to give a gentleman - she called his name - something. I do not believe that there is any member of this House of Assembly who could hold up his hand and say that he has not heard people say quite broadly that something must be given so that people can go out.

During the war years, people went to America and all sorts of corruption was practised. People got blood tests, and some people would put grease in their mouths and appear to have teeth, when in truth and in fact they had no teeth. All sorts of tricks were practised. People were in search of employment and one would be in sympathy with any man who was willing to work; for that reason people would play a fast one pretending that they have teeth when they had none. That shows that they want to do an honest job to provide themselves with a living; that they are quite prepared to use all these trickeries or white lies in order to get through. That is where you can sympathise with a person who is trying to get employment. A man says that his eyesight is good when it isn't good and when he does so, you sympathise with him because he wants to be employed. You do not want people to regard their position in the state as one by which they must extract something from the community. There should not be any setting up of Labour Exchanges and then the Government Officers being openly accused of this sort of conduct.

Mr. Speaker, I said in the course of the last debate that I do not go in for any witch-hunting; I do not go in for scaring people or bringing people's character before the Government. I do not like to say things of people either publicly or privately when there is absolutely no foundation of truth in these things.  
2.45 p.m.

I would be failing in my public duty as a citizen in this community if I refrained from speaking on a matter which, on so many sides, people are speaking about and making these open charges against public servants: if it is no more than to free public servants and bring that Department to the stage in which you will have absolute confidence in it, and where people will feel that they can go to the Labour Exchange and there is absolutely no question of nepotism, favouritism or money being given to any person or anything like that. As a state institution, you have the right to go there and register your name and be given a job when one comes along.

Now Labour Exchanges have been formed in many progressive parts of the world where you have local recruitment and where you had local recruiters, it meant that these recruiters usually extorted large sums of money from innocent men and women to be recruited as payment for getting the job. I think there is an I. L. O. convention against that type of private recruiting. In Africa there was and still is recruitment on some private basis, because, owing to long distances, the Government finds it extremely difficult to do the recruiting in remote parts; and the recruiters are people who go out in caravans and trucks into the villages and tribal areas, pick people from certain tribes and bring them out, and it is their re-

sponsibility to take them back in. There was a convention on migrant labour, and the question of how people should be recruited is one of the I. L. O. conventions. We feel that this type of recruiting should be removed so as to protect these people.

I must also draw to the House's attention that in relation to the recruitment some of these men who went to St. Kitts, they were told that if they went and worked in St. Kitts they would be given preference in recruitment to the United States of America. Some of them have been to St. Kitts and returned; and, because of the difficulty which arose there, they have refused selection for the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I know a lot more that takes place in the Government than I say; sometimes it is unpolitical and sometimes you wait until the most appropriate occasion to say these things. What I am saying now must be made crystal clear. A man told me that he was on the list for going to the United States of America, and suddenly someone came along and said that he was one of the men who had been to St. Kitts. The American recruiter would not have known whether he had been to St. Kitts, Tortola or Barbuda. Then there was the other stupid, atrocious behaviour of telling a man who had been to St. Kitts that he was not to exercise his democratic right by telling the press or anybody what were the conditions in St. Kitts. Some of them were threatened that if they said anything to the Press, they would not be recruited or would not get a chance to go to the U. S. A. There are two sides of it. One is that they were offered recruitment to St. Kitts as a type of bribe to get to the wonderland of the United States of America; then, now that they have gone to St. Kitts, you come back and without any proper investigation being made as to why Mr. Charles Brown should not now go to the U.S.A., you say that he had been to St. Kitts.

Now I read a statement by the Minister of Labour in connection with the behaviour of people on recruitment, in which he implored people on recruitment to do their best to make it possible for others to be recruited. We have reached the stage in which recruitment in Barbados should no longer be left to a small and narrow group of people. It would be better for you to set up a permanent committee to deal with people whom you want to send out of Barbados, not based on any question of favouritism or politics, but on a question of examination, and reliability; recruitment should not be on any individual's idiosyncracies. That is the only way to make sure that the most suitable persons are recruited for employment overseas.

I know for myself, Mr. Speaker, that owing to the type of employment we have in Barbados, we have more or less built up a type of recruited worker; that is to say, there are some people who have gone to the United States and have done some cane-cutting for higher rates of wages than exist in Barbados. They have not acquired any particular trade here; they are not part of the agricultural labour force of Barbados, and they find it very difficult to integrate into this society when they return. They are the ones that can work easier outside and find it very difficult to come back here. Some people are recruited on the basis that they hope if they go to the United States it would be an easy thing in such a vast place to remain there and nobody would catch up with you. That is another mental group which is looking to get somewhere where there are better prosperities.

Those are the problems we have, Mr. Speaker, and I feel that they are problems that would reside in any community. I feel that we have reached a stage in our thinking where, when a problem arises, we have to choose the best means of tackling that problem; and I am of the considered opinion that the Government should carry out these investigations in order that it can solve these difficulties. You should examine the operation of this Department to see what methods have been employed; how a worker is recruited; what chances does a worker get to be recruited; why Mr. A is recruited and not Mr. B; if a worker goes to the United States of America how he gets back.

There are complaints from people to the effect that some people go frequently and others do not get an opportunity of going; then we hear on one side that an employer wants a particular worker as against another worker because he has experience with that worker and he is better. We also hear that the recruiter may want a worker but he is rejected by the local authorities. There should be a commission to examine these complaints; these complaints are so general in character, and involve such seriousness, that I believe you will have to appoint a Commission.  
2.55 p. m.

I am aware, though I do not know the reasons, that over the period of years there have been changes made at the Labour Exchange. I have never investigated why Mr. A or Mr. B was removed and put somewhere else, but there have been changes made. I do not know what are the administrative reasons for the changes but, may be, such an official was not getting on very well there.

Then there is a sort of Public Regulations Department. There is a tendency among people to gather at this Exchange. I also know that large crowds can get out of hand in Barbados. Some get very over-bearing in their attitude to people who have to attend to them; some get very discourteous, rude and provocative; therefore it needs sometimes a person with the patience of Job and the eye of a rhinoceros to appeal to some people. There is also the tendency in Barbados that, when people congregate at places such as the Labour Exchange, the Old Age Pension Office or the General Hospital - institutions where the poor has to use - the people who have to deal with these people feel that these people who go there have no right to come; and, too often, they are treated in a rough and ready manner.

I have passed through Queen's Park where recruitment for labour is done, and the way in which it was done looked to me like a bit of cattle business. I do not see cows being landed here nowadays but it was a frequent thing before; and there was a rough and ready way of hustling the cows down the gang plank which was just off the Market; and I must confess that, at that time, it looked to me very picturesque to see how the cows came hustling down. Of course, the S. P. C. A. in those days may not have been what it is in these days.

Sir, the whole question of recruitment is that you go to Queen's Park to register and you will find lots of men milling around there. I am not approaching the matter from the point of view that you can please anybody, nor am I approaching it from the point of view that everybody can get a job; but the Labour Exchange in this colony serves a purpose other than local purposes although, for local purposes, it operates principally for the Government Departments; the local employers do not use it. I understand that a directive has been given to Heads of Departments that, when they want to recruit certain types of workers, the recruitment must be taken from the Labour Exchange which means that the Labour Exchange has been giving to the Government a number of people for service at the various Government Departments. Therefore, you will see that if large numbers of men are looking for employment like that, they will have to use the Labour Exchange. The Labour Employment Exchange is becoming a powerful medium for getting work.

Sir, wherever there is a race for heavy employment, there is always the temptation for the unemployed to offer things through sources which they can get employment. Some persons to whom rumours are attached seek those things which are offered; but some people think that the best way to get employment is to offer a reward. The average working man and woman who want to go to Canada or to work on the London Transport feel that, if they are going to have the opportunity of working for £8 or £10 a week, if they pay out \$50 or \$60, that is negligible in relation to what they are going to earn.

I believe I am true in saying that this sort of thing is not unawares to members of the Government; they know that people will do this sort of thing. They know it has been

brought to their attention, not necessarily officially, but in a manner similar to how it was brought to my attention. I am sure that they are living in a community and do hear these things.

I feel that, at some stage, it is the correct thing for somebody not to accuse anybody specifically, but to let people in the Government Departments know that those of us who sit in this Chamber are aware of what is being said. Let it be known to them that we are going to institute an investigation into the circumstances for the public to be aware, so that if nothing is wrong, you can exonerate the people who are working at that Department. This is no attempt to bring anybody into disrepute; it is not my intention to damage anybody's character; but where a public institution has had such strong statements made against it to me personally, before this debate and subsequent to it, there should be a public enquiry into the working of that department. I went and saw the man who made this statement to me, and I told him that I made the statement in the House of Assembly; and, if an investigation was to be carried out, that I was going to call his name and the date that he told me. He replied that I may do so. If a man is prepared to say that, and in my position I am not prepared to say what he has told me, then the man who told me would feel that I am condoning something which in the public's interest should be stated.

Sir, I hope what I have said on this matter would be enough to convince hon. members that they should support the Resolution. I think the Hon. Minister who is responsible for the Labour Exchange would agree with me that, Labour Exchanges are so important in small communities like this, the value of the Labour Exchange will be lost if you do not have them functioning in such a way that all sides can have confidence in them. As the General Secretary of the Workers Trade Union, I feel that wherever you have large numbers of people to be employed that you should have a sort of Advisory Board.  
3.05 p. m.

Where you have employers organised, and workers organised, and a Ministerial system of Government, you should have Advisory Committees. Where this matter impinges on a wide area of the people, I believe that the Minister should have a Committee to advise him on emigration matters, and on all aspects of migration. In view of the fact that such large numbers of persons are expected to be recruited, the matter should not be left solely to Civil Servants to be called upon to do this job; but it should be a question of a Committee representative of workers or of such persons in the community who could be regarded as being worthwhile. I say that because if it had not been for this question of the type of favouritism which is going on, you would not have an opportunity of checking these things.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you are aware as much as I am, that we are going towards our rightful place in self-government, but it does not mean that committees are no use. I have served on committees in this island and I can say that there are still some of them existing. I should like to say that if the new Hospital had to be constructed as it is today with the committees on which I have had the privilege of serving, I am sure that some of the people at the Hospital today, both the staff of the Hospital and those who had the opportunity of going into that Hospital, would not have gone in there. I am also sure that, as to the School Boards, if they had to be run as a Department of Education, with members other than Civil Servants, as to the progress which has been made in some of them in matters of human relations bearing on people, many people would be victimised and their claims would not have been vindicated. I know that members of this House know that these Committees carry on an important function.

We should not allow a democracy to work in such a way that it is so centralised that so few people in the democracy are taking part in it. I may say, and I say it broadly, that wherever you start anything new you have to be very, very careful of the abuses which are likely to take place; more so when it comes to people who have no money. The people who go to Queen's Park cannot fight their battles other than in the vociferous and boisterous

manner in which they do. They have not got the means of presenting their own case; some of them are unorganised; and I do not think that anybody has been broad enough to organise the unemployment unit. The unemployed is a vast potential in Barbados but it is difficult to organise; the great difficulty about it is that you do not get anybody to pay any dues. If there is anything to pay, there is no loyalty. This is something which we should examine and not leave to the state and think that there is nothing else required. In my view, people who have nothing to do with any sociological aspect of work, should have some training in social work; or have some knowledge of sociology because sociology in itself is a vast subject. It is a gross mistake to ask people who have no training to undertake this very skilful task, because when they come to the technical and psychological approach to these matters, they break down.

I believe that our social conscience must be concerned in these matters; and I hope that this matter will receive the attention which it deserves. I have no time to meddle with unimportant, frivolous matters. I believe that in this very vital matter affecting Barbados, the normal attitude of the Barbadian is to wait for an explosion before he acts; and after the explosion takes place everybody will tell you that he knew that there would have been an explosion. I remember that after 1937 everybody who went to give evidence before the Royal Commission knew that some trouble would have taken place, but nobody was prepared to stop this trouble from taking place. There is a bit of complacency in life in certain circles; and there is an attitude prevailing among certain sections of the community, that there is some divine dispensation which has decreed that this is the way in which these persons are to live. Somebody feels that that is all right, that the people cannot help; but I feel that we should try and harness these things. I feel that at the Labour Exchange where recruitment is not conducted in a large way, an investigation into all aspects of this Labour Exchange is vital and in the interest of the community as a whole. I have much pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in moving the passing of this Resolution.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I would not like to say that it gives me great pleasure in seconding the Resolution, the passing of which has been moved by the hon. senior member for St. Peter. When I rise to second the motion for the passing of a Resolution of this nature, it is with a great deal of distress. Public morality in Barbados has deteriorated under the leadership of the present Government Party to such an extent that corruption and political immorality appear to be the order of the day. 3.15 p.m.

It is because of certain matters which have been brought to the attention of the hon. member who has just sat down, that the occasion was chosen by him, I gathered, to move a Resolution of this kind; but I do not think that anyone should accuse the hon. member or myself of witch-hunting or of trying to find scape-goats; or, as the late Senator Marryshow used to say, in West Indian parlance "scrape-goats"; it is not through a desire to put any Government official on the pillory of public disdain; it is not I am sure through a desire to embarrass a Minister or any Government official; but to ensure that the stream of public morality should not only be kept pure, but to ensure that it is not poisoned at the source.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter on several occasions has regretted that there did not exist in the British territories in the Caribbean that kind of machinery for political and administrative introspection which is afforded by the Senate Investigating Committees under the constitution of the United States of America. Had there been in existence a similar or an analogous institution in the island of Barbados, I am sure that we would not have to examine matters of this nature, such as malfeasance and breach of trust by public officers. The very existence of such a Committee, whether it be a Committee of the two Houses of Parliament, an independent Committee, that is, independent of political membership, or whether it be a Committee of this House alone, would have acted as a deterrent against those who would seek to abuse the powers of their offices.

The Labour Department in particular has been the target of public suspicion almost from the dawn of its establishment. The Labour Exchange has been the happy hunting ground of those people who did not regard it as the right of any citizen to have a job when he is of working age on the basis of merit and ability. I do not intend that everything I say here should be a reflection on any particular individual or public employee, but the Labour Exchange has often and frequently been used as the instrument of the personal political policy of the Government members.

When I make a statement like that it will arouse the ire and the scorn of members of the Government; and I do not want to say anything further at this stage on that. If the Government is sure of itself, it will not heap even scorn on the member for St. Peter, but will take its chances in the light of public investigation secure in the knowledge that no individual Minister over there could ever be accused of political patronage, or of using the Civil Servants to get jobs for selectees of their own, or to keep out other deserving members of the community from remunerative employment. So there is no need for any Minister, whether it be the Minister of Labour himself or any other Minister, to get up and abuse the hon. senior member for St. Peter or myself. If they are satisfied in their consciences that such has never been done although we know that there have been rumours and complaints, then a public investigation would be the best method that they themselves should establish in order to clear their names and their consciences and put their consciences at rest. I say that at an early part of my remarks because I do not want the Minister to think that I am accusing him of anything; but there are certain things in Barbados which will have to be cleared up. We are only warning the Minister that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction in the Labour Exchange over the manner in which people are selected for employment.

Mr. Speaker, there is a certain amount of patronage, we understand, exercised by Civil Servants, whether on the authority of Ministers or higher officials I am not prepared to say at this stage, because that would be begging the whole question, and it is that we want investigated. For me to get up here and pontificate that so and so is the case, that I know that a certain gentleman was refused a job some weeks ago and told by one of the Ministers that he does not belong to their side as the grounds for refusal, that other people have been knocked off from other jobs like in the Public Works Department because they did not have the same political persuasion as members of the Government Party - for me to get up and categorise on these matters at this stage - would be out of place. (Hon. M. E. COX: Who is the Minister?) I am not saying it. That is what I want the investigating Committee to find out. For me to get up and say that would be short-circuiting the matter. (Hon. M. E. COX: Who are the people who have been refused employment?)

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is stating no facts; he said that "for him to do so and so", which means that he is not now doing so and so.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of order. I understood the member to say only a short time ago that some Minister refused to employ somebody because the individual was not on the side of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member said "for him to do so and so".

Hon. M. E. COX: Am I to understand that it never happened? When I asked who is the Minister, the hon. member said he was not saying who it is.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member misunderstood me. He is getting all ruffled. I personally excuplated him from responsibility at this stage. I was merely pointing out that since we are asking for an investigation, it would be invidious either for me or any other hon. member at this stage to get up and make accusations against a Civil Servant, that if we had said certain things it would have been damaging to the reasons

for the inquiry. That is all I am saying in the most polite Parliamentary language, as you would no doubt have stopped me, Mr. Speaker, if I had transgressed the boundaries of legitimate debate.  
3.25 p.m.

Now the Labour Department, in particular the one we are referring to - the Employment Exchange - should be a department which has a finger on, not only the full unemployment statistics in Barbados, but should be in close contact with employers in order to have at its disposal information relating to all employment opportunities which may be in existence in the island from one day to another. That I regard as primarily the function of a Labour Employment Exchange; that is the function which is performed by the Labour Exchanges in the United Kingdom which, I believe, had the first Labour Exchanges in the democratic countries.

What do we get at the Labour Exchange in Barbados - The Labour Exchange in Barbados provides His Excellency the Governor with figures stating that there are something like 1,100 or 1,200 persons registered for employment in Barbados - I am speaking *ex tempore*; I do not have the figures in front of me. That in itself is an indication of the kind of immaturity and lack of confidence in their position as Civil Servants. In providing figures like that, the impression which members of the public would get is that there are only 1,100 or 1,200 persons in Barbados who are unemployed; whereas, we know from a scientific survey carried out by Mr. George Cumper in 1946 -

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member is misleading the House. I remember correctly the Employment Exchange in its report stated the number of people registered as unemployed; that is completely different from the number of persons unemployed in the island. Their report always states the persons registered as unemployed. If the majority of persons unemployed are not registered, it is not the fault of the Labour Exchange.

Mr. SPEAKER: I very well understand that.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a further point of order. I do not think the hon. junior member for St. John would mind my saying this because it is just a slight correction of his statement. He said that the number of people registered was rather less than 2,000. In the report which I have here, it says that 5,000 persons were registered as unemployed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member said that he did not exactly remember the number.

Mr. BARROW: If hon. members would only listen, they would understand what I was pointing out is that in the Governor's Speech, he gave certain figures. I made it clear that, in speaking extempore in this place and without typewritten speeches, I could only give a sort of general impression of what the Governor said.

I happen, as Your Honour knows, to be a practising member of the legal profession for a certain time, and therefore I would be expected to bring certain analytical powers while listening to the Governor's Speech which a member of the general public would not be able to bring. What I was saying was that one would get the impression, with so many people registered, that that was the unemployment situation in Barbados. I am reading directly from His Excellency's Speech in 1961. He said: "On the 30th September, 1960, 5,200 persons were registered as unemployed at the Employment Exchange. Between October, 1959 and September, 1960, 470 persons were placed by the Exchange in employment locally." I apologise to the hon. member if I said 1,100 or 1,200; it was 5,200.

What is significant is that His Excellency the Governor did not state that the position of Labour in Barbados - and only four lines of his speech was devoted to labour - was that between 26,000 and 29,000 people were unemployed, no matter what the registration statistics were.

Your Honour would know that you can get an intensification of registration at the Labour Exchange or the Employment Exchange when there is a possibility of emigration to the U.S.A.; so much so, that the policy of the Exchange is that only those people who have been coming for registration month by month get the first consideration. The people who only rush in when there is a team being picked, their names go to the bottom of the list, and the persons who sustained their registration are supposed to have priority. That is the position.

Before this intensification of recruitment for the London Transport and for employment in the U.S.A., the average registration was just beyond the 1,000 mark - that can be checked - although there were perhaps above 25,000 people unemployed. It was so because the unemployed had worn out shoe leather and the soles of their bare feet trudging month after month to the Employment Exchange to find that the Government had no policy; and therefore, they got a little bit apathetic about registration. The fact that you only get 5,000 out of 29,000 unemployed being registered is merely that the people do not have any confidence in the Labour Exchange anymore. Even in the United Kingdom one finds that, apart from the time of moving, the average number of job opportunities registered with the Employment Exchange would be in the vicinity of 350,000 or 450,000. In many instances the number of people unemployed registered would be below the 200,000 mark. Even in the United Kingdom what is regarded as an accurate index would be an *ipso facto* position and for two reasons.  
3.35 p.m.

Let us examine the position of the employer. There is a chronic lack of workers in certain industries, and that lack of workers is due to factors like the high degree of skill which is required in the particular industry or, alternatively, the relative unfitness for the type of work which has to be done at the other end of the scale. Certain employers in these industries know that even if they registered vacancies with the exchange in the district, there is little or no hope of getting workers to apply for those jobs; or of getting the right kind of worker in the skilled jobs or in the unskilled jobs. You will find that an organisation like the London Transport Executive would send to the Barbados Labour Department before they would even register at the English Labour Exchange, because it is a waste of time to do so. Do you honestly think, no matter how beneficent or altruistic or lacking in prejudice one may consider the English people or English officials to be, that if they could get Englishmen to do the jobs in the London Transport Executive, they would send out to Barbados or to any other colony in the West Indies for that matter, and ask that colony to provide workers, or they would send out their trained executive to recruit people in the West Indies? Do you think that the British Trade Unions, as a matter of general policy, no matter how Socialist they may be, would allow the British Transport Executive to recruit people out here if they could get people to do it there?

Mr. Speaker, I think we ought to call these things Employment Exchanges and not Unemployment Exchanges. The term "Unemployment Exchanges" may make you feel that you are concentrating on employment. However, you will find that even large-scale employers like the London Transport Executive may have thousands of job vacancies and they will not register with the Employment Exchange because the workers will not be forthcoming. On the other hand, in Barbados, the position is entirely different.

Before I deal with the local set-up, I may mention that a lot of unemployed workers do not register immediately; they register only if they themselves have failed to secure the kind of work in the kind of place they want to secure it. There is no compulsion about registration even in England, except that you may want to draw unemployment benefits under the National Insurance Acts of 1946 and 1948. When a worker is changing from one job to another, even if there is a technological displacement or for private reasons - the workers disputing with the employers - you do not get registration automatically with an Employment Exchange, because the worker will first seek his own avenues before

falling back on the Employment Exchange. That is a matter of commonsense and it will continue to be so.

The position in Barbados, however, is the reverse. The employers in Barbados, generally speaking, do not worry to inform the Labour Exchange here that they have vacancies except, I suppose, in places like the Deep Water Harbour where, I understand, there was a directive from the Ministry. I have not seen that directive myself. The hon. senior member for St. Peter can say whether that directive means that people should be given priority, those who are registered, to work at the Deep Water Harbour site. Let us take any of the big stores in Bridgetown, the sugar plantations and what-not. They do not register vacancies with the Employment Exchange because every time that a man is dismissed, or there is a new job to be filled, almost anywhere in Barbados, without even advertising, these employers can get fifty or one hundred applicants on the next morning. I do not know if it is a question of the grape-vine, or if it is a question of the terrific pressure of the reserved army of the unemployed persons to do these jobs. Perhaps that is another reason why, when the workers have a legitimate cause for withholding work from an employer, they have to think twice about going on strike; there is always a hungry army knocking at the door to take over from the people who are organised and who are trying to get better conditions from their employers. You want to see that there is the fullest possible employment because you can only get better conditions when you do not have somebody waiting to take over from you. I think it can be safely accepted that the employers, who are aware of this agricultural and industrial army of the unemployed, tend to treat workers with less respect than if they were in the position of English employers who actually have to send as far away as Barbados in order to get people to come and do jobs for them. Not only have they got to send for these workers, but they have to give social and other amenities so as to make the work congenial in order that people will remain in the jobs to which they have been appointed.

In Barbados, you get people registered at the Employment Exchange who naturally think that there is overseas employment in the offing; you hardly get employers using the Exchange at all. This Exchange was set up about 20 years or so ago. I remember Mr. Guy Perrin being the first Labour Commissioner who came down here, and I remember the first Exchange being opened in one of the small huts in Queen's Park. What has the Labour Exchange done since then? Of course it must be circumscribed by the limitations imposed upon it by the policy of the Government. If the Government has no policy, then the Employment Exchange must regard itself as a glorified agency for emigration and overseas work. That is what it has degenerated to.  
3.45 p.m.

Carpenters and masons are at a premium, and you would expect a person could telephone the Exchange and say he wants a carpenter or a mason; but when a workman registers there he registers to get a pick on the overseas side. Although Government is shipping people out to Canada and England and other places as domestic workers and laying great stress on what they have done in making people hewers of wood and drawers of water, I look forward to the day when we will be able to do without domestic servants at all; and to the day when all the women who are now employed in domestic service would be producing something tangible for the community in the manufacture of yarns or something like that. I can do my own cooking and, under stress, I can use a washing machine or a *jooking* board, so there would be no hardship imposed on me. There are a lot of people it would do a lot of good to, too.

We have 23,000 people who are under-employed. The standard of living of the community can be assessed by the number of domestic servants that you find in the community, in proportion to the population of the country. That is a theorem which I would like to enunciate. The higher the living standard in the community, the less domestic servants you have; the more factory workers, the higher the standard of living. Everybody will have a domestic servant paying them \$2 or \$3 a week and giving them half pint of rice, two wings of salt fish, and all that; but people

have to resort to that as a safety valve to prevent them from starving to death; and it is no credit to a Government that they have a deliberate policy of training domestic servants to go abroad.

*Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.*

The situation even there with domestic servants at the Employment Exchange is that you cannot, except with the greatest difficulty, get a domestic servant unless you ask a domestic servant if she has a friend who would want a job. Lots of Government officials and other visitors come to the island who tend to pay better wages than Barbadians themselves to domestic servants, because they usually come from a higher income bracket, and are at their wits end to find somebody to assist them with nursing children or cooking in their flats or households as the case may be.

The Employment Exchange is not of much assistance in this respect at all; and it is an avenue of employment which is the largest in Barbados, even larger than agriculture. I think the investigation made by Mr. Cumper would disclose this. If it is not larger, it certainly is around 23,000 people who are employed as domestics as against 23,000 employed in agriculture; so it is either the largest or the second largest; and neither in agriculture nor domestic service will you find that the Employment Exchange has made any impact at all in shuttling people into jobs and keeping employer's in touch with people who want to work. Therefore, out of a working population of 110,000 people, you would have in agriculture and as domestics 45,000, 46,000 or 47,000 people employed. Those are the two largest avenues of employment in this island; and another indication of our low standard of living is that these are the two largest factors contributing to employment in this island.

When you come to the sugar factories, the foundries and to skilled occupations, I fail to see any figures published by the Labour Department which would indicate that in these avenues of employment the Labour Exchange has really made its presence felt during the past ten or fifteen years. You will find that when you analyse the Reports of the Labour Department, and when you analyse the speeches made from time to time about what they have done, and what they have not done, that all the emphasis is on emigration; and that this particular Department is being used, after we have spent all our time and money therein educating people here in Barbados, to get rid of the social and financial investment which the community has made in people by shuttling them into canning factories, tanneries, tomato factories, packing plants in the United States of America and in the cane fields and apple fields as well. So the Employment Exchange has become really the vehicle for getting people out of this island.

We produce babies in Barbados; that is one of our biggest industries. The children grow up and we spend money on their education, spend money at the technical schools training them, and then we let people, who have not invested one penny in the factor of production which dignified human labour constitute, reap the benefits of the years of social and financial investment that we have put into the training and rearing of these citizens. It is not strange, if what the hon. member for St. Peter who moved this Resolution has said is true, that there are corrupt practices going on. I understand that corrupt practices have been going on for a very long time. I feel that a Department like that should not try to concentrate on the kind of activity where workers can best be blackmailed into disbursing money which they can ill-afford for a job which is a God-given right.

If any member of the Government gets up and say here today that there is no corruption or inefficiency in the Labour Department and a lot of jobbery going on, that person has not been living in Barbados. If he gets up and says that, he is doing no service to the community by trying to suppress something which is cancerous in the body politic, and which ought to be rejected and got rid of forever. The best way of testing the accuracy of the hon. member's information - I would go so far, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as to say the only way - is to have a public investigation so as to set

the minds not only of us on this side of the House at rest that the Civil Service is without taint, but to set the minds of the workers who trudge up to Queen's Park day after day, or the seamen who flock down to the Waterfront. Their minds must be set at rest that they are getting a fair and square deal, untainted by financial considerations, because when the workers get over to the other side, or when the seamen get on Norwegian ships like the "T.S. Baume" or ships like that, very often, the picture which has been presented to them here is entirely different from the conditions which they have to meet.

3.55 p.m.

I remember about four or five years ago when I made some remarks about certain officials in Florida deporting Barbadian workers from that region because they had made complaints about the treatment which they had been getting - and I even suggested at that time that they should be an investigation at a very high level of those complaints - that the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour suggested that it was not perhaps the best thing for me to make those criticisms, because we had to be grateful to the Americans for employing these people at all. I do not pretend that I have quoted him correctly. If the Hon. Minister gives me until after 4.30 o'clock I would seek up that debate and hand it over to him. Of course, the whole atmosphere of the West Indies has changed since then; and I do hope that the wind of change has swept over him and blown the cobwebs from his brains.

When the Labour Department suppresses complaints the only way in which these can be got rid of is to have them ventilated. I know that workers are sent back here on the most frivolous complaints. I can give you an example; and a witness in no less a person than a retired magistrate for District B. A worker within the past eight or ten weeks fell off a ladder while he was employed by one of those big companies in Florida; he was hospitalised for a short time, and then he went and put in a claim for compensation. Believe it or not, that man was put on a 'plane as being mentally unwell and sent back to Barbados. Mr. J. R. Edwards had to go and wait several hours at the Airport until the 'plane arrived so as to hold a Board of Lunacy over that man; and then they discovered that none of the documents could supply the slightest title of evidence that this man was suffering from any mental deficiency whatsoever. Mr. Edwards commented and said that he hoped it would be brought to the attention of the authorities that workers were being treated unsympathetically and deported because they asked for Workmen's Compensation. I quote the case, and if the Hon. Minister wants me to give him the name of other workers, I have another worker from my constituency, Coach Hill, St. John, who was sent back from the U. S. A. His wife came to me in tears and said that her husband wrote letters to her telling her that they wanted to deport him and he did not want to come back. He was brought back here to the District "B" Police Station; as the Seawell Airport is within that jurisdiction, all cases go there. He was remanded pending papers. No official of the Labour Department came into Court and gave evidence in support of the application; nor was a member of the Attorney General Chambers present there to say whether this matter was one in which the person involved could be justly committed to the Mental Asylum. Mr. Edwards said that he saw absolutely nothing wrong with the man; he happened to know that the man had made a complaint to his employers, and the next thing was that, because he had complained, he had been sent back here. This man's wife lives at No. 7 house in the Colleton Housing Scheme. The man is now in England because, shortly before Christmas, he went away. He was accepted as being fit to work in the London Transport by the same Labour Department. Before that, he had a job with BABCO and within four weeks of his working with that company he was put in charge of men.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do not follow the hon. member's argument.

Mr. BARROW: Is that a point of order?

Hon. M. E. COX: The hon. member said "by the same Labour Department" as if the Labour Department had turned down the man. Whatever happened, if it did happen, it

happened from the other end. It was nothing to do with us. When the hon. member said "the same Labour Department" he is insinuating that the Labour Department in Barbados had regarded the person as a lunatic, and now the same Labour Department is saying that the same person can go to England.

Mr. BARROW: If the hon. member knew the meaning of the word "inference" he would know that it is something which you have drawn from a statement. I do not have to explain everything in monosyllables. I know that the Hon. Minister has a certain amount of intelligence, and he is just trying to interrupt me.

If the Hon. Minister would make notes and investigate instead of getting up and attacking people, he would do a better job as Minister of Trade. He would understand that we are trying to assist him in the interest of the workers. We can keep quiet in here and talk about it on a political platform, but it is not fair to the workers. Another thing they have done. They prosecuted a workman down at Holatown who was getting less wages than his fellow workers, for not paying the other workmen with him holidays with pay.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I cannot allow that to go unchallenged because, if I do have the opportunity to reply, many listeners may not be present. He said that the Labour Department prosecuted a workman. Workman in the strict sense of the word is incorrect and misleading.

Mr. BARROW: Since the Hon. Minister knew about it, then it was done with his sanction and permission. 4.05 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of order. Not with my sanction. I am sure that the hon. member knows that it was a question of a contractor and not a workman.

Mr. BARROW: The court ruled that the man was a workman, and the hon. member is now overruling the Magistrate; the man has not appealed. It was a big contract; somebody inside was the real person and they lodged the complaint about the big contractor. I am not referring to his race or complexion or politics, but he was in charge of a big contract being carried out in this island.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of order. What the hon. member is telling this House is misleading. However I will have the opportunity of explaining the facts to the House.

Mr. BARROW: The hon. member cannot explain any facts because he was not present; he could only explain hearsay. The hon. junior member for St. Lucy and myself were in the court throughout the proceedings, and I know what the ruling was. There has not been any appeal. The ruling was that the man was not an employer but he was a workman. They wasted time in prosecuting somebody instead of the right person.

On this question of emigration and mental deficiency, there is nobody there in court to present any documents from the Regional Labour Board in Washington or anywhere else; the only person you have at Boarded Hall is a Police Sergeant who says that the men arrived at Seawell and the Labour Department says that they were sent back here as being mentally deficient under the Act. I have told the hon. member where these things take place and all; all of the cases are held up there. There is no official from the Labour Department there, and that is an unsatisfactory state of affairs. It is a good thing that Magistrates are not identified with any Government Department and therefore do not care what is said; they hold an impartial enquiry even sometimes when the doctors are prepared to sign statements to the effect that the persons are mentally deficient. The Magistrate therefore exercises his discretion and discharges the persons. That is the position today.

Furthermore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Labour Department has not been vigilant in the case of factories in trying to make people fence dangerous machinery

and quarries; these things have been left practically untouched since we passed legislation some years ago about the fencing of these quarries and of dangerous machines. The people in that Department regard themselves as a kind of agent for the American employers who take the migrant workers to reap their crops. That could never be the main functions of a Labour Department. One can only suspect that they engage in and concentrate on emigration and migration schemes because they find it more rewarding. That is all I can say.

Some people come to the House of Assembly because they find it more rewarding than doing nothing. Some people join the Church because they get satisfaction out of assisting their fellowmen, that is other than the Anglican Church. (Hon. M. E. COX: Some people go to the war.) Some people go to the war because they get satisfaction out of it. Some people stay at home and pimp because they get rewards. And you can go all down the scale.

I do not think that the Minister is any Hercules; but I imagine that most of them want to do herculean tasks; but the Minister should start right away by cleaning out the Augean stables. That is one of the labours which Hercules had to perform. If there is one Department in Barbados where there is a need to be eternally vigilant, or to make sure that the workers are not blackmailed and suppressed, that Department is the Labour Exchange. People are struggling not only for a living but for a place under the sun, and we are struggling against privation. That is where we have to start this investigation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I, like the hon. senior member for St. Peter, deplore the fact that we have not got the equivalent of a Senate Investigation Committee in Barbados; none of the evils we have heard rumoured about as existing in certain Departments would have flourished to the extent which they now do, if there was somebody in Barbados or some organisation or Committee charged with keeping a watchful eye on the malpractices, or on the slightest suggestion of corruption arising in the Civil Service, in the discharge of the duties which Civil Servants owe to the public. It is very unfortunate, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that every time a suggestion is made on this side of the House, whether it be from the Official Opposition, the minority opposition or from any independent member, Ministers feel themselves constrained to ridicule such a suggestion. No matter what officer is being encouraged in the body politic, they feel it incumbent on them to go on the defensive right away and say: "There is no need for this because so and so does not happen." How do you know that it does not happen on the mere "say so" of the Ministers themselves? It does not mean that because a Minister says that a thing is not necessary, it is not necessary.

I have asked the Government to set up a Standing Public Accounts Committee. My motion has been on the Order Paper for nearly a year. We cannot get the Government to say anything about setting up such a Committee up to now. I have asked the Premier to give the figures showing the purchasing power of the West Indian dollar in Barbados from 1938 to the year 1959, taking the year 1938 as 100. It is a considerable amount of time which has elapsed since the question was asked. I have asked the Premier about the machinations of the Barbados Light and Power Company Limited and of an imaginary engineering concern. These questions were given notice of many, many months ago and up to now we have not had any replies to them.

4.15 p. m.

Now Sir, if we had a Committee charged with investigating matters like that which concerned the expenditure of the taxpayers' money, there would be no need to come here with questions at all; you would present your evidence to the Committee and let the other people answer it. It is far better for a member to do what the hon. member for St. Peter has done, that is, to ask for an investigation, than to get up here and present facts

which would be damaging not only to individuals, but to the whole Civil Service in Barbados. I commend the hon. member for St. Peter for taking the line which he has taken because, at least, it will give those officers of Government - officers of Her Majesty in the right of Government in this island, to be more accurate - a chance to state their side of the case. What hon. members on the opposite side of the Table do is to get up and make all kind of slanderous remarks about people inside and outside of the House, from the Lord Bishop of Barbados all the way back down to the Joe Blow on Bay Street, and people cannot defend themselves.

The hon. member is a Trade Union Leader, and the hon. member knows that his case can be presented to the right kind of tribunal at the right time. If they do not want it done, or if the hon. senior member for St. Michael wants to stifle this kind of incipient conflagration which may consume them in turn, then I am going to invite the hon. member for St. Peter to do the only thing which would be left open to him. Let us all get it on the record of the House, and say that Mr. So-and-so has done so and so. Which is the most decent approach? That would be the only recourse left open if the Hon. Minister suppresses - and I hope he is not going to suppress - the investigation. (Hon. M. E. COX: You can go to the Courts.) You cannot go to the Court unless you have people to prosecute. You would be appealing from Caesar to Caesar, from a Civil Servant to a Civil Servant. You cannot get the Attorney General's Department to prosecute people who should be prosecuted far less Civil Servants. The very symbol of patronage has extended itself and tainted the fountain of justice at its source before it has begun to flow. (Hon. M. E. COX: You are all lawyers.) If I were a doctor and knew that another doctor wiped out all his patients in the cause of euphorium, I would report it to the Medical Association.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no free masonry among lawyers as there is among members of the Government Party. From the very nature of our calling one cannot suppress things which one knows to be against the public interest. The hon. member by his religion cannot be a doctor. (Hon. M. E. COX: What?) That shows how ignorant you are. There is no loyalty to a lawyer as a lawyer as you find among doctors. No group of people quarrel more among themselves inside the Court than lawyers, by the very nature of their calling; and half of the Bar in Barbados does not speak to the other half, and the people in the Attorney General's Department do not speak to anybody; so I do not know where you got the idea of being all Lawyers together. (Hon. M. E. COX: The public understands better.) The public does not know.

There are two Law Societies here, and the members of the Attorney General's Department attend both meetings. I do not go to either one. That is the position in Barbados; and certain members of the Bar do not go to the houses of other members of the Bar, while others do not get invited. So do not talk about all lawyers. If there is one profession where you cannot say that birds of feathers flock together, it is the legal profession because the lawyers in Barbados have not learned how to live together in unity better than anybody else. From the nature of your calling you have to assume an independent attitude on every problem; you cannot start off with a prejudice either for or against a particular person, because in my experience the people you work against today you may work for tomorrow. It has never been my experience to work for anybody today and against them tomorrow; but it has frequently been my experience to work against a person today and have him as my client tomorrow. The only exception is with regard to the Minister; he did not want me after a certain stage but I do not blame him. I hope he forgets that little episode.

We also need in Barbados a recognised body of independent persons to head Commissions of Inquiry; and we usually have to have recourse to a Judge of the High Court because that is the kind of occupation where one would expect impartiality. We usually have to approach either an active or a retired High Court Judge and ask him to preside

over Commissions of Investigation such as the one which the hon. member for St. Peter is advocating. But the time has come now when we should have some kind of Tribunal in Barbados apart from a Public Accounts Committee which would look after the financial side. You have a kind of Public Accounts Committee in the Local Government set-up, because the Local Government Commissioner, with or without the recommendations of the Inland Revenue Department, can surcharge any officer where he finds monies misappropriated; and it has happened since 1958.

In Central Government where you have a large sum of money playing around with, for instance, where you have \$25 million to dispose of within the period of twelve months, it is all the more reason why you should have some "vigilantes" — I am sure that is a term which the hon. senior member for Christ Church would approve of — charged with the duties of inspecting and reporting and when necessary holding inquiries over malpractices in the Government Service. Since, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we do not have a Committee and we do not have any provision in our Constitution for the establishment of a permanent Committee of that kind at the present moment, every time that a responsible member of the House — and I hope that we are all responsible — brings something to the attention of the Government which if not investigated may leave people either with a sense of grievance or may cause people who are offended by these practices to take the Law into their hands, it is the duty of the Government to do everything possible so that the public will not get the impression that they are part and parcel of the same mal-practices, to show that they stand above it, and that they are willing and eager to bring these things under the full glare of publicity in order that the innocent may be cleared and the guilty may be punished.

4.25 p.m.

I know from my experience in this Chamber, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the Hon. Minister in particular regards every suggestion of this nature as a personal attack on his economic security as a citizen of Barbados. Every time something wrong is brought to his attention the hon. member goes like a weasel; you know that weasels have glands which cause them to rear up! You see that with fowl cocks when they smell danger or something like that. You see the lizard getting into a particular shape when he senses danger or when something is going wrong. The same thing happens with the Minister. Instead of joining on the assault against corruption and immorality with hon. members on this side, members of the Government go on the defence and give the impression that they are trying to conceal something. I know that they are not trying to conceal anything, but that they regard such a suggestion as you may make as a personal attack on their economic life; because, somewhere or the other, they feel that their popularity as a Minister, may whittle down and that you may want them to starve when you throw them out. I am asking the Hon. Minister not to regard this Resolution in such a light, but to give it favourable consideration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It now being 4.30 o'clock, the House reverts to Government Business.

#### HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, when Government Business was suspended, I was just summing up my remarks in the light of putting the records straight. I want to make it clear that a note such as this is a definite reflection on this House. I will always be a firm believer in the fact that the best natural resource which this island has is its people. No one should by any means whatsoever allow these people to be led along a line which they can individually or collectively damage the reputation which we have for this great natural resource; and when it is damaged to such a degree that we can no longer draw out of this great natural resource, I foresee the great danger which is before us. We have the given right to remark on any individual or department as the case may be which is not adding up or pulling its weight.

I, Sir, would continue to deprecate notes of this sort which are brought in here and put before us. I am positively certain that they are written in this manner purely because of the idea that they think that the mentality of this Honourable House does not deserve anything more accurate and more straight-forward. I want, Sir, to be very clear that I am undertaking this commission and will continue with it in the interest of what I feel is the greatest and best natural resource which this island has; and that anyone regardless of whom he may be, whether he be the individual who laid the tiles on the walls of this House of Assembly, the individuals who are working repairing the roads, or the Director who is making statements like these, doing such things, these things will be debated by me because I feel that the majority of people in this island have the propensity to produce; and that is why this island has for these numerous years existed as well as it has. If the day comes when those who are running the affairs of this country think that they can let matters slide, and that there is no control over them from this Honourable House, I, Sir, will constantly be on my feet and see that every person produce as far as the taxpayers' money demands.

Sir, I have a two-fold mission: (1) as a member of this hon. place to watch every cent which is being spent; and (2) where anyone does not give a proper day's work for a proper day's pay, to speak openly on that matter and say that he is damaging the one reputation which we have and which is our greatest natural resource.

Hon. M. E. COX: I shall be very brief. I do not think I should allow this opportunity to pass without saying a few words in reply to the speech or speeches made by the hon. member who has just sat down. From the outset I want to say that, as far as we are concerned, we support the view that a man must give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. That is the principle which we support very strongly. But, time and time again, the hon. member has been criticising very severely workers in various Government Departments for what he calls idling, wasting time and drawing the taxpayers' money without working for it. Last year, when the Estimates were under consideration, the hon. member referred to workers of the Highways and Transport Department and said that they were just standing up and doing nothing for the taxpayers' money; and, no doubt, when he refers to the taxpayers, I am fully conscious of what he means by that term. He does not mean that the ordinary man in the street is a taxpayer; he means those people who are in the top brackets, such as owners of plantations, merchants and people like those.

I would like to tell him here and now that, while we support the view that people should have an honest day's work for an honest day's pay, we do not feel that any form of slavery should be reintroduced into this country.

4.35 p.m.

The hon. member occupies a position where he can choose whatever he wants whenever he wants it. If he wanted to rest for one half of the day it is purely a matter for him; he is sheltered from the sun and the rain, and he has the means of doing whatever he wants to do so as to make himself comfortable. He has the means of providing himself with food, clothing and everything else; he has the means to live as happily as is humanly possible with the financial resources at his command. On the other hand, when a poor worker toils for a small wage or salary which can hardly allow him to keep body and soul together, the hon. member will drive the life out of that individual who is incapable of performing better than he who is well provided for. Let the hon. member take an axe or a hoe and see how much work he would do in a day as against these poor cantonniers and workers in the Government Department, in the fields and so on. I would like the hon. member to take a peck for a few minutes and bend his back and stand up again and see if he would not try and hide from the hot sun.

It is not fair to these people to say what the hon. member has said; they do a useful service in the community and they do a hard job. I am satisfied that they have never been adequately rewarded for the services which they perform.

(Laughter). That is largely due to the fact that this Government has always found it difficult, from a financial point of view, to pay workers what they rightly deserve. That is a fact.

I just rose to say that I do not subscribe to the view which has been expressed by the hon. member: that these workers do not work and that they are just robbing the taxpayers out of their money. As the Minister of Communications and works said earlier today, we have been praised by people who come to this island. When people heard that the Ministerial Buildings were built for under half of a million dollars, they told us that it would have cost a million or a million and a half dollars in some other places to erect these buildings. We have people who are highly praised for their industry by people in the outside world, and I do not think it is fair to these people to say that they are robbing the taxpayers and they do not work for their money.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, this is such an important matter, we cannot leave it at this point of the slave mentality. This type of castigation has been thrown at me for years and years now but it has never done me any harm at all.

What has the hon. member who has just sat down admitted? He has admitted that he is making these people slave for a wage which cannot hold body and soul together. I have never advocated that in my life; I have advocated that a man should be paid proper wages and let him do a proper day's work. The Hon. Minister has said that the Government of today is carrying out slave programmes; he is telling me something about taking up a peck or using a cane bill.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, what I said is that the Government was not in a position to pay these people as much as they deserve. That is what I said. I did not say anything about any slave wages. If I wanted to talk about slave wages I would say that clerks are paid \$12 or \$15 a week by people like the hon. member.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I cannot talk personalities in this House; as soon as I enter this Chamber, while I have been elected by the people of St. George, I represent the people of this island. If I, personally, were the slave driver of which the hon. member was talking, I would not be in here.

Mr. Chairman, when you go to the Overseer at the Highways and Transport Department and you ask what is happening that the work is not going through, you are told: "This fellow is the worst in the gang, but I cannot dismiss him because the Minister stops me from dismissing him" — if the Hon. Minister wants the facts, then I will give him — "and that is what I am afraid of." That one man is known to be cowing down all the others and giving them a bad reputation. I do not mind what people say about this or that job can be done for under half of a million dollars; I am talking about the actual things which I have seen. That this Government could never help people by paying a wage which can keep body and soul together, is the worst admission I have ever heard made in this Hon. House.

I believe that this is a part of the situation, where they are not paying a man a proper day's pay so that he cannot only keep body and soul together, but that he can live up to a decent standard and give a better day's work. If you take less people to do the amount of work needed, and put others to do other things in this island and save money for better results, then you would be doing something. I have been knocking about here since 1946 and up to today things have been cast at me about slave mentality, but they have never done me anything. Little does the Hon. Minister realise that the efforts I am making here are to assist his own Government and the Minister himself in the position which they occupy.  
4.45 p.m.

It is nonsense, coming from the Hon. Leader of the House, to take one single individual or to use me as an example to compare with the whole of the island's business. What am I in my small way as a private indi-

vidual to do with that? Let the hon. member get a cane bill and let the two of us see what we both can do; I will take him on on that. (Laughter) Does he suggest that I should go and take up a cane bill or peck? I would not suggest that to him; but the mentality of some of those people in the Departments, is that that is exactly what he should be doing! (Laughter)

*The question that XL - Waterworks - 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 the sum of \$19,300 do now pass.

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

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

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1960-61, No. 32 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, the Addendum to this Resolution is very simple, as hon. members will see. As a result of more work being done by the Highways and Transport Department, a greater number of casual workers has been regularly and continuously employed. We want more money for leave pay, and this Resolution is asking to supplement the vote by \$4,000.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I had to ask my leader's permission to ask this question because it is really his portfolio. I have received complaints from our constituents that in a lot of cases there is great difficulty experienced in receiving this leave pay, and that this difficulty appears to arise from some administrative confusion at headquarters. They say that very frequently they are told that they have not put in the number of days when they themselves know that they have done so, and that quite frequently no proper check seems to be made of their work, so that when they claim leave pay it is not always forthcoming; and when forthcoming, after some long debate and some lengthy investigation.

I would like to ask the Minister if he can say anything about that; not about a particular instance but what is responsible for it when it does happen; and why a proper administrative check cannot always be kept concerning the number of days people work and whether or not they are entitled to this money.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the Minister if it is a fact that a number of persons in this Department are working on Sundays; and I do not mean on any emergency job. I am led to understand that work is being done on Sundays. I would be grateful to have any information on that.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: In answer to the last speaker, I am only aware of work being done on Sundays in cases where urgent work is required, that is, in an emergency. Sometimes it may not be exactly an emergency, but it may be highly necessary that the job be completed as early as possible in the public's interest; but, ordinarily, I am not aware that workers are engaged on Sundays.

Mr. DOWDING: Would a cantonnier be employed on Sundays, for instance?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: If cantonniers were working on a job during the week and the job was urgent, they would work on Sundays in order to complete it; but, ordinarily, they do not as far as I know work on Sundays. Working on Sundays involves over-time, and we do not ordinarily calculate for over-time since the vote may be expended, in which case we would come back down to receive the wrath of the hon. member who is always questioning these supplementary votes.

So far as the question posed by the hon. member for St. Lucy is concerned, I must admit that I myself have had one or two complaints of the same nature and I have them under investigation. I am sorry that the hon. member did not himself get in touch with me and bring this to my attention; it would have indicated that it was more widespread than I thought it was. I for one am not covering up any administrative defects in any Department which I might control; I can assure him that I do not think it has occurred in the past and it will not occur in the future.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I really am thankful to the Hon. Minister for saying that if I had brought the matter to his attention he would have had it investigated.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: On a point of order. I do not want to give the impression that I meant an individual case. What I would like to say is that it would have indicated to me that this practice was more widespread than I thought. I certainly would have a wider investigation.

Mr. TUDOR: What I would like to know from the Minister is this: If cases of this nature are brought to his attention, I want the assurance from him that people in the Department itself will not feel, that we are complaining above their heads and therefore creating bad for them; by that I mean your subordinates.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I assure the hon. member that so far as I am concerned, I personally know that is not done on a personal basis anyhow; but all cases are investigated and in a case of this sort, obviously if it is widespread, or if indications are that many workers have worked and have not received their pay, it would indicate some administrative lapse and I would have it investigated. There would be no need to go into the names of individuals.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know how many casual workers are employed at present and how many qualify for this leave with pay on an average each year, or at least how many have qualified so far for this financial year?  
4.45 p.m.

I would also like to know how many days' work a casual worker must put in before he is entitled to this leave with pay, and how many weeks leave with pay are granted. As far as I know, Sir, with this question of casual workers there are many grievances, not so much with respect to leave with pay, but as to the ones who actually qualify for this leave.

I want to know as regards the weekly wage, which as I understand it is still \$13.20 per week for these workers, if the Hon. Minister has in mind any increase for them now that a salary revision is being considered. I want to know whether the Minister has in mind some sort of minimum wage for this kind of workers. On the last occasion, the Hon. Minister of Trade referred to the small wages which these people were getting. I want to know if the Cabinet has in mind any increase for these casual workers. It is well known that the casual workers with the small weekly wage of \$13.20 find it difficult to keep body and soul together.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Sir, I better take one member at a time. Is the hon. member serious when he asks how many days these workers must work to qualify for leave with pay? I thought that all that information was known to him. It is 150 days, and 250 days for 10 consecutive years to qualify for gratuity.

As regards the number of workers who qualify, I do not have it here in the file; but I can tell him that the number employed during the out-of-crop period exceeds 2,000 and at other times it is 1,600. I have a note that last year a record number of people was employed by that Department. Some were employed at the Deep Water Harbour, others in various public works schemes, some at the Seawall Airport, and so on. If the hon. member wants the figures for the months over which holidays with pay will spread, I will have to get that for him. I do not think that there is any other question for me to answer.

Mr. TALMA: I also asked whether the Hon. Minister contemplates any increase in pay for these workers now that there is to be a Salary Revision.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Well, Sir, when we talk of a Salary Revision we mean a revision upwards, not downwards. I hope the hon. member will accept that because I cannot at this stage tell him what increase is contemplated.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for \$4,000 to give leave pay to casual workers. The Addendum says that the volume of work being done by the Department of Highways and Transport has increased. I do not think that anyone here should resist this Resolution because I, as one of the representatives for the parish of St. Andrew, know that in St. Andrew when we have heavy rains we have plenty of landslides and wash on the highway, and workers are called out to repair the damage. Even on Sundays I myself have seen the cantonniers out on the job and clearing the streets. I do not think that there should be any opposition to the granting of this supplementary vote of \$4,000.

What I would like to tell the Hon. Minister is that there is a road near Walkers, St. Andrew, which is causing a hardship to the people to get their canes transported. I am sure that there are about 3,500 tons of canes in that district to be reaped. I left my home after my people came to me and gave me a report, and went to the Department of Highways and Transport to the Director and asked him to send labourers immediately to remove the landslide there because the crop will soon be reaped. He said alright. I turned and asked him why he does not repair the tenantry roads in St. Andrew. He replied that he is building up the rural areas first before he thinks of St. Andrew.

What struck me, Sir, is that the Director has told me some time ago that St. Andrew should be hemmed in with wire with lots of stock in it.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Sir, I rise on a point of order. Did he say the rural areas first?

Mr. CORBIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if there is any place which needs building up, it is St. Andrew because that parish is going to the dogs. You should save a falling or dying man first; you should not wait until he is dead and try to bring him back alive.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Sir, I rise on a point of order. What phrase the hon. member said that the Director used? Did he say that he would deal first with the rural areas? What would you call rural areas?

Mr. CORBIN: The country, Sir, when I heard these words from the Director, I asked him to refer back to his file and see how many roads he had done in St. Andrew. When he referred back to his file he saw that all he had done was 300 feet of tenantry road - a road by the name of Brimstone Road - but the thirteen roads which that department had to do measured about 7 1/2 miles.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Sir, I rise on a point of order. Will the hon. member call those thirteen roads.

Mr. CORBIN: I have submitted them to you already in writing.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: If the hon. member submitted them to me already it makes it easier for him to call them.  
5.05 p.m.

Mr. CORBIN: There are: Work Hall Road, the existing road to St. Thomas, Harewoods Road, Friendship Road, Cane Garden Tenantry Road, Spring Road, Corbin's Village, Rock Hall Tenantry Road, Brimstone Road, Walkers Road and various other roads which I cannot remember now; but I wrote them down and gave them to the hon. member. The Minister has told me that if he does the roads in St. Andrew I will get the honour; I told him that if he does the roads I will get the honour, and if he did not do them, he will get the licks! (Laughter) As representatives of the constituency we have to go around and see the distressing conditions and bring the grievances of the people to the

notice of the Minister. When we bring our suggestions to the Minister he ignores them.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: On a point of order. I should like to ask the hon. member two questions.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. The Hon. Minister cannot rise on a point of order to ask any questions. That is not a point of order; this is not a Tea Meeting.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two hon. members are on the floor.

Mr. WALCOTT: What has the hon. member risen on? You cannot ask any questions on a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Two hon. members are on their feet. Will both of them take their seats? If the Hon. Minister rises on a point of order, I take it that an hon. member has misquoted him. I would therefore suggest to the Minister that a point of order is only made in order to correct an hon. member who has said something and who has misquoted the speaker. To ask a question on a point of order is, I think, out of order. The Hon. Minister can do that afterwards.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I will abide by your ruling, Mr. Chairman. However, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew has made that accusation twice in this House already, and twice I have told him that it is untrue. Furthermore, I have disproved it by facts and the hon. member still repeats that accusation.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Hon. Minister has a conscience. If he forgets anything, then he should say that he has forgotten it. There is a God which rules over Heaven and Earth; I stand before God and men; I told the Hon. Minister that if he does the roads I will have the honour, but if he does not repair the roads then he will have the licks. I have often gone to the Minister and asked him to go through the roads with me. On one occasion he went through the roads and he said that he had to go into Bridgetown because there were some delegates coming to Barbados that day and he had to take lunch with them. I have visited him dozens of times and begged him to come and see the condition of the roads in St. Andrew, but he refused to do so. Politics should not be mixed with business; the Minister has failed to do justice to my people. I asked him to give my people the benefit of having these roads done; they are people who pay taxes.

Mr. Chairman, I went to the Director of Highways and Transport asking him to send out people to repair the roads. I asked him how many roads he had done within twelve months. I submitted to him the names of thirteen roads and I asked him: "How much have you done?" He looked at the file and it showed that three hundred feet of roads were done in twelve months. He told me to leave his office; and, if I could not control myself, there would have been a fight when he flew from behind a table and asked me to leave his office. If that man had any qualifications he would not have done that. I am sorry to think that a man like him.....

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: On a point of order. I want to remind the hon. member that he cannot refer to any member of this House as "that man."

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is not referring to any member of this House.

Mr. CORBIN: I am referring to the Director of Highways and Transport. The Director shocked my modesty to think how a man of his type could get on; his voice could have been heard all down the street as he said: "Leave my Office", because I asked him to assist my people. I am sorry to think that the Minister could allow such things to happen; what has the people put him in here for?

On many occasions I have been to the Minister asking him to send down a bulldozer and cut the roads so that my people could get out their canes, and he has failed to do so. I begged him to do that as if I was begging for my life. I hope that the time will come when the hon. member will be

out of that position and somebody else will fill it and do justice to my people.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, there is one part of this matter which should be made clear. I do not care who is the Head of the Department. If what the hon. member has said is true, and is what took place in the manner in which he has related it, then it is an extremely serious matter. I know that there has been a great deal of diminution in respect for members of this Chamber, aided and abetted by members of the Government. Members of the Government have given the impression that members other than the Ministers or some of the members of the Government Party, should not be respected by some of the Heads of Departments; and some of the Heads of Departments think that members of this Assembly are people whom they should treat with that sort of discourtesy which has been mentioned by the hon. junior member for St. Andrew. Somebody may soon come up against his Waterloo; he may meet somebody who is of a different nature from the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, and apart from complaining to the House, he may be complaining to the Courts.

Mr. Chairman, we have a perfect right to call on the Governor, but you have a case here in which the hon. junior member for St. Andrew goes to the Director of Highways and Transport, queries something and because the hon. member says that he is going to take up the matter in this House of Assembly, which he has the right to do anyhow, the Director tells him: "Get out of my office." If that had happened to me, he would have to bring the police to get me out of the office.  
5.15 p.m.

This is rudeness in the extreme. In this country there is all this bowing and scraping to Ministers on the basis of getting something for myself, but that does not create respect. When a man can reach the stage of treating a member of Parliament that way, he has no respect for the Ministers either. He could only have done that because he sees the way Ministers try to treat other members of Parliament - as if they were begging for something.

The hon. member for St. Andrew may not be aware of certain things, but I will give him some advice for the cheap. We are representing people in this Assembly and unless there are issues in which something has occurred and we are bound to go to a Head of Department, members must stop this parochial idea of going to see a Minister or Head of Department on these public issues. These issues should be raised in the House of Assembly. This idea of going to Ministers and Heads of Department savours that you are asking for favours; and that is why they can treat you this way. I do not believe that I have called on the Ministers since Ministerial Government, other than when a Minister asked me to come and see him. I would not want to call on a Minister because I am too busy a man, and I have enough work to do. Calling on Ministers is for people who want pipes in their yards or want to get a favour done.

Too many members have this idea of going to see a Minister; it makes people believe that you can get something done when another member cannot get it done. When you want to see a Head of Department on issues which are not issues like going to the Post Office because a letter was not addressed properly or mail went astray, - not that the hon. member should not have gone on that matter - always write him officially or come into the House of Assembly and air it. I remember that a former Director of Highways and Transport had a very rough time in this island, but in those days there was no Ministerial Government, and eventually he left Barbados.

I find that if anything is said about a Head of Department, the Government's defence of him is always on the basis of what you are saying is not true. They do not feel that the matter should be investigated; so, I say that a hint to the wise is enough. The Ministers of Government are very touchy. I know a lot of the idiosyncracies of the Ministers over there; I know some of the things that they do not like, and they regard it as being disrespectful. The Ministers have created an air in Barbados which is not for the

defence of all members; and there is this idea that as long as the Ministers are respected nothing else is needed. We see that even in the Public Buildings Yard spaced is roped off for the Ministers' motor cars, but other members of the House of Assembly must put their motor cars by the Wharf. At Government House, Ministers must have garages but other members of the House of Assembly can park anywhere. If you go to a function the Ministers are put in the front seats while other members of the House find themselves in the back. This gives the impression that when you become a Minister, being an ordinary member of Parliament is not as important; and because you are a Minister you become an Archbishop or Pope and you have to be treated differently.

I say all these things, Mr. Chairman, because of what they are creating in the minds of the local Civil Servants. But this is going to rebound, in as much as you are asking for West Indians to be put into certain positions. Some of them have now been taken into the Banks and when you go to the Bank, they ask if you want something. We have put our people in these positions, and they feel they have the right to disrespect you more than an Englishman or expatriate. They are looking for the Ministers, and stooping and bowing down when they see them. There is a man whom I know very well and he knows me better than he knows the Minister. I was driving about four cars behind a Minister and could see him through the rear window of his car; and when this man spoke to the Minister, he finished up doing a jack-knife - but when he spoke to me he gave me a slight 'hello'. When I was an athlete I found it difficult to make a jack-knife.

Mr. Chairman, I do not like subservience because you do not get any respect through it. I like people to be firm, to tell me they do not agree with me if they don't; but I do not like all these things when underneath them you do not have the respect. I feel very strongly on this matter. If the Governor does not know how to respect a Minister, although I do not believe in this Governor business and all that, I would express my view on that. If the Queen does not know how to respect a Minister, I would say "Your Gracious Majesty" and in very polite terms put my case.

When it comes to a Head of Department telling you to get out of his Office, I think it demands an immediate investigation by the Minister in charge; and he should be made, through the Minister, to make an apology for telling the hon. member to get out of his office because the member said he was going to raise the matter in the House of Assembly. If that was a remark he did not like, there was nothing in it offensive to demand him to leave his office for saying it. If a member goes to a Head of Department and does not like the reply he gets and says he will raise the matter in the House of Assembly, what is wrong with that? Would the Minister say that if he went to Government House and the Governor rejected something they had decided in Cabinet that he would not bring it to the people?

Mr. Chairman, the officer must have been very discourteous for the hon. member to raise his voice. I speak with reservation because I do not know what took place between the hon. member and the Head of the Department. I do not believe that any member has a right to disrespect another member, nor do I believe that, because someone is a Civil Servant and works for the public, he should be treated like dirt by members in the guise that they are members of the House of Assembly. I believe that every Civil Servant is entitled to the maximum respect from every member of the public from the Governor back down. Similarly, I believe that no member of any Parliament at all when he has the confidence of the people to be elected to a position like this, and goes in search of information relating to his representation, should be treated discourteously by any public servant whatever; and I think it is the Minister's bounden duty to have a proper enquiry of that taken up.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the matter of the behaviour of Government servants has been raised on the occasion of the insult levelled against the hon. junior member for St. Andrew. I am sure that you would not want to stifle debate on this point as it relates so closely to the privileges of members of this House.

5.25 p.m.

I am perfectly aware that it is not entirely a matter which is directly under discussion, but it has been raised and I will not overtax your patience speaking on it; I will be brief. I agree with the hon. member for St. Peter when he says that no member of the House of Assembly should in the normal course of events - those words are interpolated by myself - has any right to approach any head of a department and ask any favours. As a matter of pride, I do not do it. I agree that the more appropriate method is to raise the matter on the floor of the House.

The hon. junior member for St. Andrew has not been in this Chamber as long as the rest of us, and in all humility if he approaches a Head of a Department, I think he is paying him a certain amount of respect which perhaps that Head does not deserve. I should remind the hon. senior member for St. Peter that when he was a member of the Executive the then leader of the Government, now the Federal Prime Minister, on more than one occasion said that members should not come in here and ask questions; they should get in touch with the Head of the Department so as to get his particular question answered. If you consult the Hansard of the Debates of the House of Commons, you will see that on frequent occasions, a Minister has told a member of the House: "I will ask the Head of the Department for the reply to the hon. member." By that, if the matter is of particular local interest and is concerning an individual, if the matter is under survey concerning a national front, then it is treated with the dignity of a reply on the floor of the House.

Mr. Turner, who was a former Chief Secretary of Barbados, wrote me a letter and said when I said something about the Comptroller of Customs, "I would be only too glad to give you the facts, and only after I give you the facts if you feel it still necessary, you should ventilate the matter on the floor of the House." I did not entirely agree with him, but on many occasions that I had a question to put on the floor of the House, I crave Your Honour's indulgence and admitted I got the facts from Mr. Turner first, then put the question in here; and when I got the wrong answer I then gave them the right answer.

I may say that since Mr. Turner left these shores, I have never approached a Head of a Department. I think it is slightly undignified, not only for members of the House to approach Heads of Departments, but for them to be insulted and treated in this way. I do not know generally the Heads of Departments today. I know those whom I have sat down in school with. I am not interested in them. If they do their duty, they get paid for it; and if they do not, I will have questions to ask in this House.

Why should members of the House of Assembly be subjected to this kind of treatment by Civil Servants who believe that they are working for a particular Minister, and that the Minister is going to his personal Bank thus making sure that they get their increments, leave passages and that kind of thing? Maybe the Ministers like people to get the impression that the money comes out of their pockets. Let me say that Civil Servants are subject to the criticisms of this House, and if they do not want to be attacked, I suggest that they learn to behave before they land in Barbados. We have not gone to the extent that the Chief Minister in Antigua has gone, but we have the same authority.

Mrs. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I am glad of this opportunity just to say a few words as regards these tenantry roads. I am sorry that I was not in my place to hear all my hon. colleague had to say on this matter; but I was told that the hon. member said that the Hon. Minister of Communications had only visited St. Andrew on one occasion to see those roads. If that is so, just for the purpose of putting the records straight, I wish to say that that is not a true and correct statement. I do not know if he is referring to before or since he was a member of this Chamber, because I know that the hon. member came in here at a bye-election. On several occasions I have seen the Hon. Minister of Communications and the Director of Highways and Transport in the parish, and I also believe that they have visited it out of my presence. Just a few weeks before Christmas I saw the Minister pass by with the Director of Highways and Transport and they stopped and then went to visit several roads in St. Andrew.

As regards these tenantry roads, I am also accused of not having these roads done, but that is the job of the Director of Highways and Transport and the Ministry of Communications as a whole. The hon. junior member for St. Andrew was on a Committee which was appointed to recommend those tenantry roads to be put in order; that Committee comprised of the hon. member, another member of the Northern District Council by the name of Mr. Sobers and myself. We had a meeting but I happened to be indisposed on that occasion. However, I was told the roads which were recommended to be done and in priority. The first recommended in priority was Corbin's Road and not Cane Garden Road. I see on the list, Whitehall Road. If the hon. member would tell me where is that road, I may be able to throw some light on it. I wonder if he means that road at Cambridge. As regards Harewood's Road, I wonder if the hon. member means that road which was done in part by the Department of Highways and Transport recently. I do know that there is a little bit of that road which was already done; but there is some part of it to a gully behind through which the hon. member knows that the Director of Highways and Transport says.....

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. Has the Director a right to abuse and insult her colleague? Let the hon. member take a stand one way or the other.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must remember how the question of the Director of Highways and Transport came up. The hon. member should read the opening paragraph of the Addendum. You will recall that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew said that he went to the Director about that matter. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew is speaking on the Resolution, not on what took place between the Director and the hon. junior member for St. Andrew.

5.35 p.m.

Mr. CORBIN: On a point of order. The hon. senior member for St. Peter was referring to Harewood's Road. That road is the one leading to the back of Hillaby across to the district which has the most canes. The road leading from St. Thomas from west to east of the Harewood's Road is over half a mile. I have taken the Director and the Executive Engineer to see the road.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is that in answer to the question which the hon. senior member for St. Andrew has asked? The hon. senior member for St. Andrew asked a question about the White Hall Road; but the hon. member should not make a speech on that.

Mrs. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry that the hon. junior member for St. John has left the Committee because the day in which I have to take directions from him as to the way in which I should make a speech, I would find myself in the Lunatic Asylum. As soon as an hon. member gets up in here to clear up a point the hon. junior member for St. John tells him how to make a speech. That is rudeness on his part and towards you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hope that the hon. member will recall that I told the hon. junior member for St. John that you were speaking on the Resolution proper.

Mrs. BOURNE: I am saying that it is pure rudeness for him to tell me how to make a speech. I am a representative of the parish of St. Andrew just as my colleague is. The hon. member will remember that the Cambridge Land was owned by Mr. "Josh" Haynes before it was owned by Mrs. Rock; he will remember that Mr. Haynes tried to get the Directors to make that road into a proper road. That is in reference to the Work Hall Road. There is only one wall building down there owned by Mr. Bayley. The snag in this whole matter now is, whether this road is a plantation road or a tenantry road; that question cannot be ironed out and, as a result that road has not been touched. It goes through a part of Cambridge Land, but there is land at the back owned by peasants. I have been there on several occasions and the hon. member knows the snag where this road is concerned.

Mr. CORBIN: On a point of order. As regards Work Hall Road, Mrs. Rock says that the land belongs to the Government.

Mrs. BOURNE: If that matter needs investigation then I would suggest to the hon. member to find out whether it is a private road or not. There is a section of Harewood's Road which has been fixed; the front part of it has been fixed, but the back part of it is just a sort of gully. As the hon. member says, the Director went there and the matter was explained to him and the tenants around there. As regards Mount All Road, that also is a section which is somewhat of a gully. I am sure the Minister will tell you that he has had a petition sent to him asking him to come down and see what can be done to the road. My colleague and I have visited that road in order to see what can be done for the benefit of the people; it is only a question of the peasants getting out their canes.

As regards the Rock Hall Tenantry Road, I might say that all roads cannot be done at the same time. My colleague knows that he could not be more anxious than I am to have these roads fixed. If he were to check the records, he would see how many roads have been done since I was down there. The parish of St. Andrew is subject to soil erosion and it is difficult to keep the roads in order. We have been very fortunate since the Director was here along with Mr. Collett, the Soil Conservationist, to have the Spring Vale Road attended to.

I should like to explain this matter to hon. members. Just a few weeks ago a gentleman came to me from St. Simons with a list of names. No Petition was signed; the gentleman told me that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew had sent him to me for me to sign my name. I said that for me to do so I would have to see the Petition. The gentleman has not yet brought back the Petition.

Mr. CORBIN: On a point of order. The road in question is King Street Road, which is under construction. That does not belong to the Soil Conservation area.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, are you presiding over the Northern District Council or this House of Assembly? It is all right to have a pastime, but do not let us reduce this House to any Tea Meeting. Why should we be inflicted with this type of debate?

5.45 p.m.

Mr. SEARLES: On a point of order. I want the hon. member for St. Peter to understand...

Mr. WALCOTT: Man, sit down! What is the meaning of your getting up on a point of order?

Mr. SEARLES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order...

Mr. WALCOTT: What are you jumping up for?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member rose on a point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Can he rise on a point of order when somebody is speaking on a point of order? What stupidity are you talking? Somebody is speaking on a point of order and you are allowing another member to jump up on a point of order. Do you think this is a Tea Meeting?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid two hon. members are on the floor.

Mr. WALCOTT: What I am trying to do is to bring this thing back to the debate on the Highways and Transport Department. I do not see why we should have this duel between the two members of St. Andrew, because both are members of the Northern District Council.

Mr. SEARLES: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for St. Peter is speaking on a point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: It is a pity when members come in here too old. *(Laughter)*.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like to inform the hon. senior member for St. Peter that, as he will see from the Addendum, this includes work being done by the Department of Highways and Transport; and if the members want to air their views in so far as the roads in St. Andrew are concerned, I do not see my way to stifle them.

Mr. SEARLES: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The hon. senior member has hinted that this is a parochialism, but there is nothing parochial about this. The Northern District Council operates three parishes so far as roads are concerned. The roads in St. Andrew do not belong to the Northern District Council; they belong to the Highways and Transport Department. Keep the Northern District Council out of this debate.

Mrs. BOURNE: Mr. Chairman, having allowed my colleague to carry on, I was just trying for the sake of the records to clear up a few points. This Friendship road had been done by the Highways and Transport Department to the section where I am told it abutts and abounds on a privately owned plantation. With regards to the Brimstone Road, this would create another question as to whether when the land at Walkers was sold if in truth and in fact a Section of the Act was complied with under public health. Perhaps there are some loopholes which should be rectified, because this Brimstone Road used to be owned by a private plantation owner who has recently sold the land to peasants and they have now made it a tenantry.

As regards the member saying that the Minister only came to St. Andrew on one or two occasions, that is very untrue; and it is not in the interest of the member or his constituents in St. Andrew to say that the Minister and the Director only visited the parish on one or two occasions. We now have better roads in St. Andrew than we have had in the past through the work of the Soil Conservation Officer and the present Director; not that the previous Director did not take an interest in the roads, but the remedy was not found whereby roads in St. Andrew could stand up as they are standing up today.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I was in this House for two years and I am sure that the Minister has visited St. Andrew once in my presence; and he has refused to come...

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. It is extremely difficult to sit here and hear the hon. member repeat such a fabrication. I have taken the Director and Mrs. Bourne through the parish on three or four occasions to look at the roads.

Anyway, Mr. Chairman, I have a report on what he told the Director in his office; but he comes in here and repeats this fabrication. He is a bare-faced man.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I am saying that the Minister of Communications and Works visited St. Andrew once in my presence within two years, and he failed to come any other time. He has a grievance against me and I believe it is because I did not come around to his method. They wanted me to join their Party and I failed to do so. *(Cheers from Opposition)*

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, I will be very short. I do not think after this the hon. member deserves to be taken notice of, because the records are clear. I only got up because the incident to which he drew attention as having taken place in the office of the Director of Highways and Transport, was taken up by other members; and quite rightly, because when one member complains about an insult meted out to him by an officer, it concerns the House as a whole; it is not the concern of one member.

I think the hon. member for St. Peter will know that I do not defend or would not defend an officer who has done wrong, or tried to justify any wrong action of his.

I will give a written formal report on the particular incident since an hon. member of the House is involved; but the Head of Department has referred to me about this incident and what he has told me differs from what the hon. member has said. In fact, the hon. member went very far and made some very insulting allegations against the particular officer. I will make a formal report to the Chamber because I do not hold lightly any rudeness by any member of the Civil Service not only to members of this House but to members of the public. It is reported to me often by members of the public that officials in Departments are not always polite.

I repeat, Mr. Chairman, what I have already told this House on a point of order as regards the member's accusations. At times when the hon. senior member for St. Andrew wrote me about roads and invited me to see them, I invited him as well; and I do that in every constituency; but I would not be inviting him after now. If I receive petitions from the parish and want to go and investigate the roads and take along a Head of Department, I promise that the hon. junior member for St. Andrew will not be there; and he can get up and abuse me or do anything he likes. I have on more than one occasion in this House denied having told him about my getting some praise or something like that.  
5.55 p.m.

Personally, what does that matter to me about your getting the praise. The fact that the Government is there shows that the Government is taking interest. I invited him to come, and I know that he came with me on more than one occasion. The hon. senior member for St. Andrew knows how many times I have been up there. There was a time when I went with the hon. junior member for St. Andrew and I was accompanied by the Director. We talked over the repairing of that road and it would take almost \$1/2 million to repair that one road. The hon. member would remember my asking him if he is going to bring the U.S.A. schedule for this purpose and put it at our disposal. On another occasion when I was up there, I had to leave him because I had another appointment in town. That was about the third occasion, and yet the hon. member says that I have been up there only on one occasion and I refused to come back. Perhaps, he was present in the flesh but absent in the spirit.

Some members have the idea that this is old vestry politics where you are going to take me to some road, which may be a road leading to one man's plantation, and ask me to spend the taxpayers' money on it. The hon. member is mistaken if he thinks so. That road must be a public road. It must be a genuine road wherever it is.

I had to stop the Department repairing a road in my parish because it was not a public road. We have never made the mistake and repaired any kind of road simply on the pretext of bringing out somebody's canes. One of the roads to which the hon. member referred is like that. It is owned by one person. Although the Northern District Council is not responsible for repairing these tenantry roads, they forward a list of the roads to be done and they put down in priority the roads to be repaired. We work by that list. In fact, the Council is responsible for telling us which roads are to be done. In spite of the fact that we follow the list, at the response of a member, we visit the roads which he says are in urgent need of repair, and if we see that the conditions are pressing and that such a road demands a little priority, we give it priority.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, it is a pity that the Minister cannot be more truthful.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am speaking to the hon. junior member for St. Andrew. That is not a parliamentary remark.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I will have to say again -

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Just withdraw that remark first.

Mr. CORBIN: I withdraw it, but I still have it within my bosom. The Hon. Minister came one time in my presence to look after the condition of the roads in St. Andrew,

and when I was about to take him to the important roads which needed reconstruction, he said that he had to go back to town to meet delegates to have lunch at some hotel. He failed to go around with me; and, from that time until now, I have never received a notice from him or from anyone else stating that he would visit these roads with me. I simply wanted to show him the deplorable conditions of the roads. If we can get more roads and better roads, we can produce more canes. The Minister goes around when it is election time, because I see him regularly then; but when it comes to his duty as a Minister, I do not see him. Why not do your duty? You will be reinstated if you do your duty.

There are many roads which my colleague knows too that want doing. People are suffering materially because of those roads. If we ever get those roads done, St. Andrew would be like a little paradise. There is not a parish in the island like St. Andrew; none of them have material like St. Andrew. We have oil, gas, tar sand, sand and all kinds of material to build any magnificent building. We only need proper roads for transportation. The day that the roads of St. Andrew are properly constructed, I am sure we will be able to bear our strain.

I do not mind the Ministers. They do not know what they are doing. We know that, so we forgive them. Our suggestions are to help them but they fail to take our suggestions. I am sure that every one of us who bring in these suggestions do so to help the Ministers, and they should be more willing to receive our suggestions.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, there is just one remark which has been made by the Minister which I think should not go unnoticed. In his observations he said in reference to the hon. junior member for St. Andrew and his visits in the future to that parish: "I promise him that he will not be there." I have no doubt when the members of the Cabinet meet in solemn conclave that the senior and more enlightened of them would tell the Hon. Minister that that is the most inappropriate remark to make, and that it suggests prejudice.  
6.05 p.m.

I only got up because I do not think that a remark like that should go unnoticed. By that the Minister means that that representative would not have the opportunity of seeing certain roads which the people of the parish want done; that that representative — who does not belong to the same Party as the Minister — will be precluded from performing that aspect of his duty as a representative of the people along with the members of this House who constitute the Official Opposition. That is not democracy; that is not statesman-like.

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

*On the motion of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded by Hon. R. G. MAPP, the Chairman reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee.*

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

*On the motions of Hon. M. E. COX; seconded in each case by Hon. R. G. MAPP, the Resolutions passed in Committee were read a first and second time and agreed to.*

#### NOTICE OF AN ADDRESS

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am asking the leave of the House to give notice of an Address in reply to His Excellency's Speech delivered at the re-opening of the Legislative Session 1961.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking permission to give notice of an Address in reply to His Excellency's Speech delivered at the re-opening of the Legislative Session 1961. If there is no objection.....

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, before I could say whether I object to that or not, I would have to hear from the

Hon. Leader of the House whether he wants to deal with that Address today. Is he giving notice of it to be dealt with now or on another occasion? We would, of course, naturally be making the usual amendment on behalf of the Official Opposition.

I have intimated to the Hon. Leader of the House that we were suggesting, as is done in England, that some time be allocated, other than Private Members' time which is limited to two hours a week, for the discussion of this very important matter — the Reply to the Governor's Speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought that that matter had been agreed to by all the Parties in the House.

Mr. BRANCKER: The Hon. Leader of the House had intimated to me that he was disposed to agree to that, but it was not done formally.

Hon. M. E. COX: I must apologise to the hon. member. I am sorry that I did not intimate that I would allow this matter to be debated during Government's time.

*There being no objection, leave was granted the Hon. Leader of the House to give notice of the Address.*

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, the Address reads as follows:-

#### THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

The House of Assembly desire to thank Your Excellency for the Speech delivered on the occasion of the re-opening of the Legislature for the Legislative Session 1961.

The House note with satisfaction the financial stability and economical advancement of the Island and the many Constitutional changes and other matters referred to in Your Excellency's Address and beg to assure Your Excellency that all these and other matters submitted to them will be given their careful consideration and support, during the Session.

#### GOVERNMENT BUSINESS CONCLUDED

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for this afternoon. As to this other item on the Order Paper, the hon. senior member for St. Peter and I want to discuss this matter a little further. (Mr. WALCOTT: This is the first time I have heard that.)

#### ADJOURNMENT

*The Order Paper having been fixed,*

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 31st January, 1961 at 12 o'clock (noon).

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I have no serious objection to the adjournment, but this is purely a matter of business. If the hon. member really intends to adjourn the House, I should like to say that we had two Sessions already in two days. When you take an analysis of this matter, we meet on Tuesdays at 12 o'clock and finish our business at 6 o'clock. I do not want to sit late just for the sake of sitting late, but it is a waste of time to sit from 12 o'clock noon until 6 o'clock p.m. Let us learn to utilise time. There is one other item on the Order Paper and I think it is a waste of time for us to come here just to deal with two Resolutions. Let us decide that we are doing something and do not let it be said that the House of Assembly has met, there is unnecessary debate, there is nothing to do and therefore let us have a little chat.  
6.15 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that as members would appreciate, we will at a later stage have to do Estimates, and it is Government's inten-

tion to keep the Order Paper as clear as possible. There are three Bills on the Order Paper which we introduced today and which will be ready for next Tuesday as well as a Resolution. There is a Bill to regulate the hours of domestic servants, and there is a Bill with considerable amendments and improvement to the Holiday with Pay Act, and I would like to get these Bills through as quickly as possible. There is also an amendment to the Housing Act which provides for the removal of the limit to help aged

people to get houses at peppercorn rent. Those are three important Bills, and I believe we will have to spend the whole day and part of the night next Tuesday on those Bills.

*The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 31st January, at 12 noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.*  
6.19 p.m.