

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1961

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 31st January, 1961.

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

PRESENT

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*); Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, (*Leader of the Opposition*); Hon. M. E. COX, (*Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour*); His Honour Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P., (*Deputy Speaker*); Hon. R. G. MAPP, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Hon. D. D. GARNER, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mr. H. A. DOWDING, M.B.E.; Mr. C. B. SEARLES; Hon. L. St. A. THORNE, (*Minister of Education*) and Mr. J. W. CORBIN.

Prayers were read.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS and Mr. TUDOR entered the House and took their seats.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th January, 1961, have been printed and circulated amongst hon. members and unless there be any objection, these Minutes will now be taken as read and confirmed. (*A pause*)

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:-

The Public Officers' Loan and Travelling Allowances Regulations, 1961;

The Public Officers' Loan and Travelling Allowances (Scheduled Officers) (No.2) Regulations, 1961.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Notices of Government Business were given as follows:-

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Resolution to place the sum of \$32,286 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. 34, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Resolution to place the sums of \$352,512 and \$688,080 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1960-61, Part II - Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1960-61, No. 35, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

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

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. 33 HEAD VI - CUSTOMS

Head VI - Customs - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, Item 14 is Overtime. The amount of \$5,800 is required for additional staff at the Airport. As the Note points out, it is due to the considerable increase in the traffic at Seawell Airport, and to the fact that, frequently, extra officers have to be supplied to help with this traffic.

Item 23 is Drawbacks, Governor. Hon. members know that Drawbacks are required to be paid to the Governor on certain items. This amount of \$300 is required for such purpose.

Item 24 is Drawbacks, General. As the Note points out, the rate of expenditure has risen. This is due to the increase in exports of goods subject to drawback - including an increase in sale of goods to tourists - and the increase in the consumption of fuel used in aircraft. Goods arriving without the required certificate of origin and on which the general rate of duty is charged pending the production of a preferential certificate of origin, have also accounted for the rise in the rate of expenditure under this vote. 12.25 p.m.

This is a refund on sugar bags which were imported last year on behalf of the sugar factories. It is known that bags will no longer be used as from this year, owing to the fact that the means of shipping sugar will be different from what they were before. I understand that there is an opportunity to sell these bags to other islands. Since the bags are not used, we have asked for this drawback on the sale of these bags, and that drawback amounts to \$3,053. I beg to move that Head VI stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking in connection with Item 24 "Drawbacks, General". As the result of recent legislation in this House where drawbacks are now permitted on certain items of goods for tourists, this Head has risen to a very large sum. There is no quarrel about that, but I think the time has come when this item "Drawbacks, General" should be broken down into separate Heads so that we can see how much the drawbacks to tourists are costing the Government. With the recent development of the Deep Water Harbour, fuel, oil and so forth come under this Head; and I think that if the amounts were broken down, it would be clear to us what is going back out of the island and in which category they fall. When you have a Head which is growing as rapidly as this one - it is just like the Head "Miscellaneous" - I repeat that the time has come when we should sub-divide this Head and say that so much is for a drawback on aviation spirit and so much is for general drawbacks. I wonder if the Premier has got any figures to show what I am now asking about.

When we come to vote in the Estimates this year, we will be required to vote something like \$400,000 in respect of this Head. We should know from time to time and from year to year the increases under the various Heads. That is what I am driving at. I think that this Head "Drawbacks" should be broken down and the amounts should come to this House periodically. Once a year in the Estimates the Heads should be sub-divided so that we can see that so much is required for drawbacks to tourists, so much for aviation spirit or in respect of any big Head, and the remainder should be dealt with by way of a lump sum. If the Finance Minister has not got these figures now, I wish he would bear what I have said in mind and have this Head sub-divided for the information of this Hon. House.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, in answer to the hon. member, I would like to say that what he has suggested has not been done so here; but I will promise him to mention his suggestion, in which there may be some substance, so as to facilitate hon. members in seeing at a glance what is happening under each Head. I will refer the matter to the officer concerned, and if the matter can be done in this way in the future, we will do it in this way.

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

HEAD XXIV - BARBADOS REGIMENT

Head XXIV - Barbados Regiment - was called.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Chairman, the first item under this Head is Item 31, "Contributions to Imperial Government Pensions". I think it is known that the Staff Officer and the Instructor of the Barbados Regiment are on secondment from Her Majesty's Army to Barbados, and that Barbados has to make pension contributions to the Army on behalf of these two Officers. Provision is made every year for these amounts to be included in the Estimates. Recently there has been an increase in pensions in the United Kingdom and, naturally, the Barbados Government and all other Governments which follow a similar course are expected to pay these increases. The increases begin as from the 1st October, 1960. The two amounts are set out here - we have the old rates and we have the new rates in the case of both the Staff Officer and the Instructor. Hon. members can see what these items are costing the Government. We have agreed to all this and therefore we have to carry out our side of the agreement.

With regard to the question of "Uniform Allowance for Officers", as the Note sets out, it is generally known that there is a new Commanding Officer; and this amount is required to make provision for the uniform of this Officer. In the case of the Item, "Travelling Expenses", the Staff Officer has to travel more than before, and the amount which was granted in the Estimates for this purpose has been exceeded. This amount of \$100 is therefore required to meet commitments to the end of the financial year. I beg to move that Head XXIV stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, in respect of this vote, the Opposition is not expressing any dissentient note. 12.35 p.m.

I only rise, Mr. Chairman, in view of Note 6 and the reference therein to the appointment of a new Commanding Officer whose new uniform we will be subscribing to, to say that I observed in a newspaper photograph recently the new Commanding Officer, and, presumably that uniform; and I would say that it seems to be well worth the amount which we are proposing to vote for that uniform; and particularly, Mr. Chairman, when you as well as myself must have noticed that he is photographed as assuring the Premier, the Head of the Party opposite, the full support of the Barbados Regiment.

I take it, Sir, that that is an indication of the shape of things to come after the next General Election - a coalition between the two Parties (Hon. M. E. COX: No, no.) represented by the Hon. Premier and the hon. and gallant member for St. George. So far as the appointment is concerned, the feeling of the Official Opposition is that he merits the congratulations of this House on his rise, particularly his spectacular rise, from Captain to Lieutenant-Colonel, Officer-in-Charge of the Barbados Regiment; and it is even more fitting and appropriate now that we continue to refer to him as the hon. and gallant member for St. George. I have no doubt that in the performance of his duties he will be as vehement, as vociferous and as vigorous as he is in the performance of his parliamentary duties - however misguided we at times feel he is in the views and the point of view which he puts forward. (Cheers)

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Chairman, I rise to thank the hon. and learned Leader of the Opposition for the words that he has said which refers to myself in the capacity of Commanding Officer of the Barbados Regiment. I also thank hon. members of the House for the manner in which they received his words. He hopes that I will promise this Hon. House to attack this task without fear or favour; but I would like for the sake of the records to put one little thing right with reference to the Premier and my official visit to him.

As the new Commanding Officer, I considered it my duty to pay a visit to the Premier of the island; but that is no sign of any coalition whatsoever, purely respect to the Premier of this island. I would not like it to go down in the records that I accepted the facetious remarks, though well meant, of the Leader of the Opposition that there was any coalition. It was a mark of courtesy, and I was courteously received by the Premier.

The question that Head XXIV - Barbados Regiment - stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS, seconded by Hon. L. St.A. THORNE, the Resolution for \$139,597 was passed.

On the motion of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded by Hon. L. St.A. THORNE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded in each case by Hon. L. St.A. THORNE, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEASE OF LAND
TO GOVERNING BODY OF
QUEEN'S COLLEGE**

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Education: To move the passing of a 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. L. St.A. THORNE: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks the permission of this House to lease a spot of land near the site occupied by Queen's College. It is very straightforward. I do not think that there is anything which I need say more than to ask that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise not indeed to offer any criticism to what is proposed in this Resolution, but to draw to the Minister's attention the problem of playing fields for schools. It is becoming increasingly clear now, Mr. Speaker, that we shall very soon in this island have to carry out a very agonising reappraisal of the siting of schools and the amenities which schools should offer.

The population, particularly the school population, has increased out of all expectation within the last decade - an increase which is made evident by the additions which have been rendered necessary to schools so far as accommodation for pupils is concerned. But above and beyond that problem and its solution, there is the other even more pressing one of the sheer lack of space especially now in the City area for school children to have their recreation in; therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is fast becoming a question of whether a determined attempt should not soon be made to consider the problem of resiting certain schools with a view to providing playing fields.
12.45 p.m.

With the increase in population and the vast housing programmes which though not as adequate as they should be, it will soon become necessary, even to a larger extent than has hitherto been done, to build new schools in the most thickly populated of the new housing areas. Where such schools so already exist, it will also have to be accompanied by the policy of carrying schools to the people where playing fields are immediately available. I believe that any future Government of this country, and even the present Government as long as it lasts, must pay attention to this problem more seriously.

With the matter now under review, we are unfortunate in that the school is a grant-aided secondary school, and that there is land almost adjacent which it can use as an extension of its grounds for playing fields. There are other secondary schools which are not always so fortunate. One school that immediately springs to my mind is the Alleyne School and, to a certain extent, the Alexandra School. One wonders so far as the vast majority of old primary schools are concerned, what is going to happen when the sheer pressure of numbers obliterate the small proportion of playing fields which exist. I have in memory, when I think of Primary Schools in this respect, the old Moravian School. We know when that school was established that its numbers were relatively small, and that the yard enclosed by its walls was big enough to accommodate that then small number; but if that school should increase in numbers more rapidly, there will be literally nowhere for recreational facilities, except they go into the very busy, crowded and dangerous Roebuck Street.

Almost in every parish of this island, particularly in the metropolitan area, wherever there are old established schools, this problem of space for recreation is becoming most peculiar. The emphasis which I want to make on the Hon. Minister is that since the time has come when new primary schools will have to be built in greater numbers, it will be as well to site the schools in places where the maximum amount of playing fields spaces for recreation

purposes are available. We should not want to leave to the next generation the problem of finding playing fields when, with a little foresight and judgment, we can attend to that problem and find a solution.

I know, of course, that with the limited land space available the problem does not admit of the easiest solution. There are not dozens of acres of land where schools can be built and each school surrounded by its own spacious park, but since that is not so, you have to be even more careful over the proper utilization of the space available; and that is why I always think that there is not sufficient co-ordination of these matters so far as community development is concerned. Where a new housing scheme is being established, provision for a school should also of course be established. But it is not in the interest of the new developing community to set a school down in the middle of the scheme and then to have it surrounded by houses. Plan it with the space available in such a way that the school occupies a corner which is near enough for the pupils to get to and from, and, at the same time, a corner which enables the school to spread itself out so as to provide other facilities along with the classroom facilities.

Sir, I do not think that we can sleep on this matter. I believe the Hon. Minister of Education is well aware of the problem involved. I believe when he replies he will have something very interesting to tell us of the future plans of the Ministry so far as this problem is concerned. The training which the pupils receive immediately outside of the schools is equally as important as the training and instruction which they receive inside, so that brain and body might receive their nourishment in due season without much inconvenience. That is why I think, while giving my support to this matter, that proper attention should be paid to the vaster problem of the provision of playing fields in any new primary schools that are going to be established in the next few months or years.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, on this question of Queen's College, I would like to draw to the Hon. Minister a very simple matter. Queen's College was erected in the last century and it served a population which was much lower than the present population. It is nothing short of a disgrace to hear the Principal of the U.C.W.I. which was erected 13 years ago making a demand for an expansion of the U.C.W.I., while, in Barbados, the wisdom has not yet been shown by the authorities that the one first grade school is inadequate to suit present day needs. We still have the scandalous idea here of girls getting transferred from another second grade school to this school to have an education.
12.55 p.m.

I believe that just as you think it is necessary to acquire more grounds for Queen's College, the time has come, and it is more than ripe that, with a growing population as it is in Barbados, the Minister should have the statistics before him as to the big growth of our population which is higher among the females than among the males - one should realise that the pressure for more female education is greater comparatively speaking than that for males. I think that it is nothing short of a disgrace that Barbados has not yet demanded another First Grade School.

The idea of more education has grown up around us and people are yearning so much for schools that, if I were to open a school tomorrow and employ a teacher, I could get the school filled in a matter of weeks. I think that the Government owes a duty to the people of Barbados, and if we are prepared to pay for it, to establish another First Grade School in order to cope with the needs of the population. I hope that the Minister will not tell us that he will add another class-room by way of accommodation. That is all right for one own's home, but in this matter of school accommodation it is a question of going beyond the addition of classrooms. It is a matter of the demands of the community.

There is no point in referring to what the Conservatives did, because there is one thing which the Conservatives have done, and that is to educate those of us who

are now in a position to criticise Conservatism. We should now create an atmosphere in which people can talk about Socialism as something which we should have. (ASIDES). I am talking about education and the impact of it; the impact of any society or Government is evidenced by way of its education. The hon. member does not have the time to read. (Hon. D. D. GARNER: You are talking about the Church.) I am not a Pentecostal idiot. If the hon. member who says that I am talking about the Church is some Pentecostal idiot, we are not defending the Church; because a man can give you a Pentecostal sermon which has no foundational basis. I am not talking about the Church in relation to education; I am talking about the State in relation to education.

Do not let us just call people Conservatives; where is the demarkation between the Church and State one hundred years ago? The State supported the Church and the Church supported the State. If that is so, why do you want a break in the Church. I am talking about the impact of a society or a government which is shown by its education. The Government is changing its outlook because you have the educational policy coming out.

The Americans believe that the masses should be educated and therefore they built a University on the basis of educating everybody. The idea of the Europeans was to educate the elite; and today, there is a famous University in France where only Frenchmen can go. When you come to Barbados, Queen's College, similarly, was not meant to be the school which it has come to be today; neither is that so in the case of Harrison College. It was the Conservatives who saw the need for these Schools; and we, Socialists, today must also leave landmarks in education.

What I am saying is this: If the hon. member is talking about the Church, then let us emulate anybody who is good; but why go on talking about who did this or who did not do it? You should do something now. Are you satisfied that Queen's College is adequate for the needs of the education of girls today? I say: let us have another First Grade School of the quality of Queen's College. If Queen's College is a school for the purpose of educating our girls, then let us see to it that another school like Queen's College is built in our time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am supporting this Resolution which seeks to give the Governing Body of Queen's College the right to buy this land; but I must agree with the hon. member who has just sat down, and I also anticipate what the Hon. Minister of Agriculture will say. The Minister of Education himself knows well enough that if you were to look at the inside or the root of these supposedly private Secondary Schools which are springing up in this island, you will find that more than 75% of the children attending these schools are girls. The reasons are quite clear and obvious. Most parents would like to see their daughters during the ordinary part of their school life, and as long as they possibly can, attend a school although they may not get the necessary academic training.

1.05 p.m.

It is significant that we have heard in the Speech from the Throne, in the Press, and in their organ, that they propose to give secondary education; yet up to this time, in all the years they were in power, they have not built one additional secondary school. I am not ashamed to say this because I think I should be very proud of it. I do not agree with the hon. member when he said that the Conservatives provided such schools as they thought necessary for the education of their children. I want to draw to their attention that a predominantly conservative Vestry of sixteen members, Mr. John Beckles and Mr. Christopher Brathwaite influenced the passing of the Resolution. It took two members to influence the Brydens, the Wilkinsons, the Yearwoods and the Bowrings to erect the St. Michael's Girls' School; and I remember how Mr. John Beckles was criticised by the *Advocate* for using what they considered bad English. The school was however good enough for the girls to attend and learn good English.

School, so the hon. member is talking nonsense. For his information I should like to let the hon. member know that of a predominantly conservative Vestry of sixteen members, Mr. John Beckles and Mr. Christopher Brathwaite influenced the passing of the Resolution. It took two members to influence the Brydens, the Wilkinsons, the Yearwoods and the Bowrings to erect the St. Michael's Girls' School; and I remember how Mr. John Beckles was criticised by the *Advocate* for using what they considered bad English. The school was however good enough for the girls to attend and learn good English.

All of us know well enough, Mr. Speaker, the perpetuation of snobbery which existed at Queen's College among coloured people who found themselves with a few dollars to send their children to that school. As a matter of fact, I think it is universally known that the idea of a few coloured girls going to Queen's College was for the purpose of coming back out and learning to play the piano until St. Michael was opened and girls came out and went into the teaching service. I say therefore that, when the Minister of Education comes with a Resolution like this, we welcome it, but what we say is not by way of criticism. We want to let him know that we feel that as a matter of policy the Government cannot only say that they are going to give free secondary education to all as they seem to say, when, as yet, they have not provided a single secondary school for girls since they have come into power.

Mr. Speaker, I feel justifiably proud to see that the party with which I am associated did that. (Hon. R. G. MAPP: There was no Party then.) The hon. member says there was no Party then, but we are glad to hear that there is a Party now. However, Mr. Speaker, the elections are near so it is a very good thing to see that they are going to give free secondary education to all; but we are going to pick that to pieces.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Resolution which the Hon. Minister of Education has brought. I am sure that the Minister, unlike possibly most Ministers, appreciates our criticism which we make in good faith.

We realise that you can have the right to purchase and acquire land for playing fields at Queen's College, but we should certainly like to see other schools similar to St. Michael erected in the island. Finally, I say that if you look into these secondary schools springing up, you will see that there is a greater demand for girls' schools on such lines as St. Michael's than there is for the boys' schools.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, I really did not intend to get into this argument, but the hon. senior member for St. Peter made certain statements and I was attempting to put him right through a *sotto voce* remark to which he took exception. I think the hon. member should understand that every human being is entitled to his opinion. If somebody differs from him he should not get up and call the person an evangelistic idiot or something like that. I do not think this is the place for that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Peter said that he was not one.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: If that is what he said, I did not hear him clearly. I am glad to hear you put it that way.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not put it that way; that is what the hon. member said.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I apologise to Your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER: He did not even use the word "evangelistic"; he used the word "pentecostal".

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Perhaps I was not paying enough attention. I was saying, Sir, however, that the hon. member must learn to argue without trying to insult other people.

Mr. WALCOTT: I rise on a point of order. I do not think the hon. member should rise and accuse any person of insulting him when he himself has not spoken. If he

is going to draw the conclusion that he was the person who could have been insulted for bad manners, then he can draw that conclusion. This is the first time he is speaking, so if or when he gets over there and uses these *sotto voce* remarks, he will get what he truly deserves.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: To carry the argument to its logical conclusion, the hon. member said that the conservative people had done so much for education in this colony.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. If he is advised by his advisers, what I said was that criticism had been made about the Conservatives in the past, and that when it comes to education what they did reflected in their era, and we must do something in education to reflect our period.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: After I heard him propounding that argument, I said that it was not so and that it was the Church. Was that being rude or nasty? All I said was that it was the Church. I still maintain that it was the Church who started the education movement in Barbados, especially among the Negro people. I am not void of any intelligence when it comes to these things; I have taken time out to read them. We owe it to the Methodist and Moravian people. It was the motive of christianity within these people. 1.15 p.m.

Not only that, if you were to trace the history of the Conservatives in this island, you will see that the children could not go to school. The children had no opportunities at all and none was made for them. I cannot stand here, knowing the facts as I do, and let him glorify something which is not a historical fact.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am not going to let that pass like that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let it be a point of order.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture says that the Conservatives of the past have done nothing for education.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Sir, everybody who knows anything of the educational history of this island will know that not only the children but even those who qualify as priests -

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has been allowed, or at any rate, has attempted to make some correction which he intended to do; and I wish to warn him that that cannot be the brunt of the speech on this Resolution. We must get back to the Resolution. Let everything historical whether good or bad pertaining to that subject matter, remain history.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: Mr. Speaker, I accept your ruling but this is a big question. I would just say that as soon as members on that side started the debate on this line, I turned to my colleague and said that what they were speaking on was far from what was contained in the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. members who spoke on that matter only made reference to it, but the Hon. Minister got up to refute something and he is now making that the brunt of his speech.

Hon. D. D. GARNER: I am going to abide by Your Honour's ruling.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I heartily endorse and support the passing of this Resolution. I agree with the terms and conditions of the proposed lease. I am glad to see, as was the policy laid down in 1954 affecting land matters which concerns education, that the appropriate Minister to deal with them is the Minister of Education.

I commend the Hon. Minister on his granting a lease for 99 years, but I was wondering whether he did not consider

granting this lease as it is done on modern lines for 999 years instead of 99 years. If the Hon. Minister can add another 9 to make it 999 he will be acting in the right way. That is by the way.

Sir, I feel very happy to see that at long last a greater space is being provided for playing fields for this school. I am not concerned about the question which was just being debated about who was the author of education, or who provided education for children in the past. What I am concerned about is the fact that the present Socialist Government has not seen fit to construct and erect additional secondary schools and has persisted in the policy of the former Premier - the Federal Prime Minister - who was once Minister of Education. As a result of that, we have dozens of private secondary schools surrounding us with that standard of accommodation, spacing, and facilities, which leave much to be desired for the poor children who cannot attend the public secondary schools. This is to be regretted, especially when we consider that these children are Barbadian citizens and of parents who have to pay taxes for the education at the Government Secondary Schools. It is not good enough. Their children are being deprived of facilities which normally they should enjoy.

The population of Queen's College is now twice as big as it was twenty years ago, so too that of Harrison College, and that of Combermere School; and the population at the Christ Church Boys' and Girls' Foundation Schools is bigger than that. (ASIDES) I know what I am talking about. Your answer can be that each of these schools has now been extended, and instead of a school being only able to carry a population of 400, it is extended to carry a population of 800.

Hon. M. E. COX: I rise on a point of order. I think we have to nail these things in the head as soon as they are said. The hon. member is misleading the House. The Boys' and Girls' Foundation Schools are newly built structures. The Christ Church Boys' Foundation School was built by this Government to carry 780 students, as against the old wooden shed belonging to the Church at which those children used to attend. The hon. member has taken credit for having caused this new Foundation School to be built; now he is talking some nonsense of that school being extended. That is cheap propaganda.

Mr. TALMA: The Minister has misunderstood me. I said accommodation for so many children. I have not said that the Boys' Foundation School is not a new building. Surely, I have claimed credit for the erection of that school. What I am saying now is that the money which built that school did not come from the Barbados Government but from C.D. & W.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. That statement is also incorrect. That school has been partly financed by C.D. & W. funds and by funds from the taxpayers of Barbados.

Mr. WALCOTT: I rise on a point of explanation. I made this point and the hon. member got up to correct it. I do not think that anybody can get up and say that you have built a new Combermere School when you had one at Weymouth and, because of conditions there, you had cause to erect a new one at Waterford. You cannot say that you have built a new school for Queen's College when you have extended it to the Old Combermere School at Constitution.

Hon. M. E. COX: I have never mentioned Combermere School or Queen's College. I was dealing with the Foundation School.

Mr. WALCOTT: The Hon. Minister misses the logic of his own argument. The Foundation School was there before, but it was not as large as it is now. There is no point in your saying that you have built a new Foundation School by erecting a new building. 1.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is drawing an analogy. He is saying that there is a distinction between a school and

a school building. That is what he is trying his best to make us understand; a school and a school building are two different things.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I was at the point where I was explaining that, no new state-aided secondary schools as such, have been built by the Government within recent years. I do say that more accommodation at these schools has been made and, in the case of the Foundation School, a new school has been built; but instead of having places for four or five hundred children, you have places for about eight hundred in these schools. It was a result of the Government not building any new schools separate and distinct from what we have already, that we have these private secondary schools all over the place.

As a result of that state of affairs, I tabled a Resolution by way of making suggestions to the Government that certain buildings around the Garrison Savannah should be converted into schools; that we should have one Secondary State-aided School for boys up there, another for girls and yet another, a preparatory one for children under ten years. By so doing you would have not only school buildings, but you would also have established playing fields which you are now trying to establish (Hon. M. E. COX: Why at the Garrison?) The Garrison is not in St. Michael; you would not be doing anything for St. Michael if you put the schools there, because the Garrison is in Christ Church! (Laughter) I am saying that it is a question of the whole island being deprived of Secondary Schools because the Ministers feel that the Garrison is in Christ Church and if you build a school there, that would help the representatives of Christ Church.

Mr. Speaker, I am in entire agreement with this lease, but I feel that it should be a lease for a longer period. I want the Government to realise that the population of Barbados in 1929 and 1930 was about 160,000, but today the population is about 250,000. We only have nine secondary schools now as against ten which we had then, because the Coleridge and Parry Schools have been amalgamated. If the policy of the Government is against granting secondary education to one and all, well then, let the Government say so in the Speech from the Throne. I am suggesting that even although this is Election year, you have an opportunity of making use of the regimental buildings around the Garrison Savannah, which are merely utilised by expatriates and certain other specially hand-picked Government employees. If some of those barracks at the Garrison were converted, reconstructed and put into shape by being repaired and renovated, they could be used as school buildings.

If you want to get ahead and do something lasting for the benefit of the Government Party and show something to the electorate, you have the buildings in the Garrison already there, which are only in need of renovation. Whether the Garrison is in Christ Church or in St. Michael, the fact remains that it is in Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member is referring to the subject-matter of a question tabled in his name, I do not think he should make it the matter of discussion on this Resolution.

Mr. TALMA: I am referring to playing fields.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has made mention of establishing some schools at the Garrison. I understand that there is a question (A VOICE: A Resolution) or a Resolution on the Order Paper which purports to deal with this very matter, and I do not think that this is the time to introduce that.

Mr. TALMA: I am not introducing it; I am complimenting the Government in trying to have playing fields for Queen's College. In trying to do so, what is more natural and obvious than that I should think of the Resolution which I tabled and which would provide, if the suggestion is acted upon, not only classrooms but also playing fields?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is against the Rules of the House.

Mr. TALMA: Anyhow, Sir, I think I have said enough on the matter. I would suggest that the time has come when not only the question of playing fields for Queen's College should be considered, but something should also be done so as to provide school buildings and adequate playing fields for private, secondary and elementary schools island wide.

1.35 p.m.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I have sat and listened to the various speeches on this Resolution which has been brought here for the lease of land for the purpose of extending the playing field at Queen's College. I think, Sir, that if we are going to deal with playgrounds we should not now be debating buildings, because I do not see one on this. If the Government has lands to lease they may lease them, so this argument which I am hearing is unnecessary on the Resolution since I understand that every member is willing to see the Resolution passed. Why should members get up and criticise and argue about buildings in this or that part of the island? From the moment each member gets up and says that he agrees with the Resolution, it needs no more argument.

Mr. Speaker, when we come to deal with building of schools, that will be another debate; but it does not suit us to come and waste such precious time. I think that Your Honour has given great latitude to hon. members because you should have stopped them ever since. I think that the Minister should hold his peace when he rises to speak and let it be his wisdom. He should not be in a position to reason with unprofitable words. Every member agrees with the Resolution, so when the Minister who introduced this Resolution rises to speak, there will be nothing for him to say. As a matter of fact, I do not think that there need be any reply at all. I agree 100% to the passing of this Resolution.

Mr. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I think that as the hon. junior member for St. Andrew has said, we are all agreed on the principle of play-grounds for school children, whether they be in Government-aided first grade, second grade or elementary schools. I am not really concerned with whether the Governing Body of Queen's College should be leased this land at this stage, because the hon. member has said that no one would deny the right of the children of Queen's College or any other school to adequate playground facilities; but there are one or two things which disturb me about the Resolution, and it is this in the first instance.

We have made reference in the Addendum to a plan. In the Schedule it states "all that certain piece or parcel of land situate at Bridgetown in the parish of St. Michael by admeasurement 96,024 square feet or thereabouts abutting and bounding on lands of Queen's College." These lands could not be bounding on the lands of Queen's College as you would know, Sir, being a member of the Governing Body... (Mr. SPEAKER: I am not.) I am sorry, Sir; I thought you were — but on lands of the Governing Body of Queen's College. You are not leasing land to Queen's College but to the Governing Body, so you could not have land butting and bounding on the lands of Queen's College. That is a subtlety which would escape even the Minister of Education; Anyhow I do not want to quibble over that; but if you are paying Permanent Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries these salaries which transcend the amount even that legally qualified practitioners, who unfortunately go on the Bench, are unable to earn, you would expect them at least not to be guilty of such a violation of the niceties of the English language.

The other thing is that in the Schedule it is stated — and I am quoting now — that it is more particularly delineated and shown on a plan thereto made and certified by C. K. Nichols, Sworn Surveyor. Whenever any land is being negotiated by the Executive or when any improvement is being made to any district or to any highway, the normal procedure is to bring the plan into the House and inform members that the plan is available on the Clerk's Table, or pass the plan around to members so that it can be seen. The reason for that is very simple. It is a public Bill and not a Private Member's Bill; but even in a Public Bill the electorate and the people of the district more immediately concerned have to know whether any encroachment or development is taking place which would in any way interfere with their property rights. I therefore suggest to the Hon. Minister that the

proper thing to do is to inform members that the plan is here and can be seen. (*The plan was sent to the hon. member.*) I thank the Hon. Minister very much for sending the plan, but this is something which all the members of the House should have seen some time ago.

The other matter which I want to draw to Your Honour's attention is that a considerable amount of land has been purchased by the Executive for the purpose of erecting a new Hospital partly on the lands of Stockton and partly on the land known as the Deanery, formerly vested in the Chaplain and Dean of St. Michael. There is adjoining the land which is now owned by the Crown in Executive, which includes an area of the old railway workshops and the adjoining lands of the railway workshops, a portion of land known as Delemere Land which notoriously is subject in time of torrential rain to flooding. It eventually costs the Government some money to rehabilitate the people in Delemere Land who lose their houses and who suffer damage as a result of the flooding of the area known as the Constitution swamp area. It is also the duty of the Director of Public Works by a local Statute which defines the area of the Constitution swamp, to keep that area in a sanitary condition. Anyone who has driven up River Road around twilight or later would be confronted by the noisome odour and the effluvia which come from that Constitution swamp.

1.45 p.m.

I would have thought that the Government would have some plans for developing the area into some kind of National Park with pleasure boats on the river for the school children and workers of Bridgetown to enjoy themselves. What in truth we have done is to cause a gigantic sewerage floating from the Careenage passing the School upwards to Halls Road....

Mr. SPEAKER Is the hon. member relating this to the Resolution?

Mr. BARROW: Sir, this plan appears to be the land adjacent to the site of the Constitution River which is partly an open sewer and, as I have said before, I do not think that the development of this area should take place in a piecemeal manner. I suggest (1) that flood control should be affected starting from St. Thomas; (2) that bridging should be done to the Constitution River; (3) that the Government should consider the feasibility of allowing fishing boats to go right up inside there; (4) that the whole area should be floodlit every night and that it be made free from odours and noxious fumes; and (5) that the Government should negotiate the sale of Delemere Land which is now taking place by the trustees of Mr. Howell and one or two other businessmen, because, right there, you have an area which is subject to flooding. That area is now to be sold out to the tenants and people who have not been tenants of the estate. The Government should consider taking in the whole area from what is known as the Gully House and all that area to the right of Halls Road and on the right side of Martindales to the premises of the Barbados General Hospital in order to carry out a development, making proper playing fields and parks of the whole area. The tenants and householders who would be displaced could be re-sited on some of the land which Government says that they want to acquire in Black Rock or otherwise.

The whole of that area which I have mentioned is a dangerous area. It is infested by crabs. The proper thing to be done with that area is to make a proper park of it so that you will have playing fields not only for the pupils of Queen's College, but for the pupils of the surrounding private secondary schools and the elementary schools nearby which, up to now, do not have even a half-acre of land for the children to play upon.

Here is a Government which says that it is interested in the interest of the under-privileged and it is now giving more consideration to the children of middle-class parentage who go to a secondary school which has many playing fields already. It has a playing field immediately adjacent to the Constitution River; it has the playing fields of the Old Comb, mere first and second eleven cricket and football teams in which they play netball and other games. It has its

own tennis courts, and now it is going to have a big playing field aback of Queen's College. The Government is giving this to Queen's College and you get St. Giles' Girls', Wesley Hall and all of those primary schools without playing fields.

If there is any land suitable for a playing field in St. Michael, that playing field should be made available to the pupils of elementary schools as a whole, in as much as the pupils of Queen's College have, in my humble opinion, an ample supply considering the needs of pupils of the other schools. If the Government followed my suggestion, you will have playing fields for all the schools within reasonable distance of their area.

In passing, I would just say that so great is the habit of snobbery in this island that I remember when I was at Harrison College pupils of that school could not play with pupils of elementary schools. I have heard members of the Government get up and praise the late headmaster of Harrison College. You got it from people who should know better, because when we, the then pupils of Harrison College arranged a match with an elementary school, the idea of pupils of elementary schools playing at Harrison College was an anathema. Here you are giving Queen's College additional playing field facilities, and I have never heard of the pupils of Queen's College playing a netball match with the Carrington's Village Girls'.

Sir, you cannot find one girl on any of the playing fields which they have at Queen's College after 4.30 o'clock. At Harrison College you find boys playing on the playing fields there until the sun goes down. There is not a single member of Queen's College whom you will find playing on the fields there after 4.30 o'clock be they be members of the academic staff, ground staff or otherwise. (Mr. STRAUGHN: That is not true) The hon. junior member for St. Joseph says that is not true. I have caught crabs in that area and played cricket. I have boated in that area.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Sir, I rise on a point of order. The remark which the hon. member was making about Queen's College grounds not being used after 4.30 o'clock are completely untrue.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order at all. The hon. member will have an opportunity to speak on this Resolution and the hon. junior member for St. John can say whatever he likes on this.

Mr. BARROW: I will ask the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to go and check with the time table of Queen's College and see if after 4.30 o'clock he can find anybody at Queen's College playing games with or without supervision on the grounds. You will find that under the aegis of the Sports Officer of Barbados, the boys of St. Giles, the girls of Carrington's Village School and other pupils of schools playing Road Tennis in the streets right up to 6.00 o'clock. 1.55 p.m.

You go to the school in Baxters Road; it has a yard such as that you can hang out clothes. You go to "Deeside" which has been taken over from the Wesleyan Synod, and how much playing field have the children got there? They have a backyard which is suitable for the purpose of washing clothes and you have about five hundred of six hundred children at that school. Imagine putting Youth Town in a stony yard at the old Wesley Hall in Baxters Road where I used to attend along with the hon. senior member for St. Peter? You have about six hundred boys there. None of the Elementary Schools in this island has any adequate playing field facilities.

I invite the Hon. Minister of Education to investigate this business about children at Secondary Schools not being able to play matches with children from the Elementary Schools and that sort of thing, except in the case of the Barbados Cricket League or the Football Association. You are condemning the children of the Elementary Schools to playing road tennis with lorries passing along; they have to be playing road tennis in the streets, whereas you are providing an additional area for playing fields for Queen's College which school is already provided for so that they

can finish games at 3.30 o'clock p.m. Games are a part of their curriculum; they have to be regimented for that. (ASIDES)

What does the hon. junior member for St. Joseph know about that? In Goodland he had to play in a gully. The hon. member is now talking about Queen's College. (ASIDES) I would ask the hon. member not to interrupt for the sake of interruption, but I would invite him to visit Queen's College and see for himself what utilisation is being made of the grounds which they have up there.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see this Resolution and I, too, commend it; but I would also be very pleased to see....

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 2 p.m. of the clock, and unless this Resolution has any chance of being passed in ten minutes' time, I will have to suspend the sitting of the House.

Hon. M. E. COX: It will not be passed in ten minutes.

Mr. DOWDING: I have nothing more to say. (ASIDES)

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that this Resolution will not be passed within another ten minutes. It now being 2 p.m. of the clock, this sitting stands suspended until 2.30 p.m. of the clock.
2.00 p.m.

On re-assembling,

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, there is no quorum present and I ask that the Bell be rung.

On the bell being rung a quorum was obtained.

PROPOSAL FOR ADJOURNMENT

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, before you call Question Time, may I be permitted to inform you that it has been decided between the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and myself to have an adjournment of this House very soon from now. In other words, we will not be carrying on with any Private Members' Business or Government Business this afternoon, as you will appreciate, Sir, due to the regrettable death of the wife of the Hon. Minister of Social Services. I have also agreed with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that we will meet on Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Further to that agreement, we have agreed that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition will not press for the discussion of any Private Members' Business on that day but will allow the Government to have that time to do its Business. In other words, on Thursday afternoon, we will proceed immediately to the consideration of Government Business. I hope that that proposal will be acceptable to the Hon. Leader of the Independents!

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member may not describe any hon. member like that.

Hon. M. E. COX: I hope that that proposal will meet with the approval of the House. Another matter is that the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing desires to make a Statement before I formally move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the hon. member does that, I will have to call Question Time and Private Members' Business.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. (Pause). There being no Questions ready to be dealt with, the House will proceed to Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now time for Private Members' Business (Pause). There being no hon. member ready to

proceed with any item under this Head, the House will proceed to the consideration of Government Business.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the House is very prone to make facetious remarks in so far as my membership of this House is concerned. He is of the opinion, and I believe it is something new to the members on that side, that members of this Chamber who are not members of any political Parties in this House are not members of this Chamber. I should like to say that the process has not yet taken place in Barbados whereby the only way in which you can be elected to Parliament is if you are elected through Parties. Courtesy is to be extended to all members of the House and facetious remarks should not be made in respect of them. I should like to say that the first Order under Private Members' Business does not stand in the name of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, but it stands in my name. I have the right to speak on the first Order of the Day; and if the hon. member believes that he can get up in this Chamber and say that we will not proceed with this Order and when we meet again we will not proceed with it, he is mistaken. The circumstances which will require the adjournment of the House today are circumstances which we are all agreed will merit the suspension or adjournment of the House. If the hon. member talks about me as the Leader of the Independents, I would like to tell him that I am a leader of thought.
2.35 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of order. May I offer the hon. member my apologies? I am sorry for that.

Mr. WALCOTT: I just want to make it clear because too frequently have remarks been made in here that members of this Chamber as distinct from any political affiliations can be ignored. I say that because, since the opening of this Session, the Leader of the House has consistently and persistently prolonged debates through the Session in this House by not meeting in conformity with the Rules, and by asking us to adjourn and then come back another day. The hon. member is now asking us to come back on Thursday, which means that irrespective of the provisions one has made already before coming here, knowing that the Agenda is going to be short or the previous arrangements which you have, you will have to cancel all that.

I say that, Mr. Speaker, because there is absolutely nothing to prevent members of this House adjourning today or suspending the Sitting during the period in which we have to attend the hon. member's wife's funeral. We do not have to remain at the funeral until 9 o'clock tonight; and there is nothing to prevent us from coming back here. If we cannot approach our business in a business-like manner, I am very sorry because the hon. member would come at a subsequent Sitting and say that he is going through the night. Members sit down at home and prepare to come here and work, then, when they reach here, there is a short Sitting; and this is the third consecutive Sitting of the House and I can see what is going on. You try to wear people down by going through to midnight and the early hours of the morning passing legislation.

The Estimates will soon come to this House and Government will be asking us to meet every day in order to do them so that the Other Place can get them. I want to say very strongly that I do not want anything done for me; I do not want any privileges. All I want, Mr. Speaker, is for the Government to make up its mind once and for all how we are going to meet and not have this *ad hoc*, ragged business of coming to a meeting on Tuesday, meeting for a couple of hours and then being told like some small boy that they are going to meet on Thursday, with the idea that as long as you are not in the Government it does not matter. Let us have a proper legislative session. Do not let us meet on Tuesdays and then ask us to come back on Fridays or to be turned about all the time.

I want to make it clear that I was not elected here to sit about the street and wait until the House of Assembly meets; I have something else to do. With regard to the remarks of the Leader of the House to me, I am proud that I am an Independent, and I would not be associated with

members over there again in my life. I have no yearning to be associated with anybody, so do not make any facetious remarks about that. There is absolutely no reason for me to be associated with anybody; I have had enough of that.

Mr. DOWDING: Mr. Speaker, I crave Your Honour's indulgence to say a few words on a matter of privilege. As Your Honour knows, I am very quick on my feet to criticise if there is any possible pretention of a breach of our privilege. I would also like to be just as quick when our privileges are brought up-to-date to commend those concerned.

Last Tuesday there was laid on the Table of this House the debates of the first two meetings of this Hon. House. It is an effort for which I would like to commend Your Honour, your staff and all concerned, I sincerely hope that that effort which has brought about this near miracle for many a year will continue and we will be able to get our debates. I understand that even the last debate is ready for being posted tomorrow. I consider it a very commendable achievement by all concerned right throughout the organisation by whomsoever has helped the Printery, the Staff and last of all but not least, Your Honour. I am indeed grateful to see that Your Honour is taking notice of our privileges in this Hon. House. *(Cheers)*.

Mr. SPEAKER: I acknowledge the comments and observation of the hon. member especially on behalf of the Staff of this Chamber. I thank the hon. member and I appreciate all he has said. I do hope that the pattern set will be continued.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Speaker, may I ask leave of the House to make a statement which I promised the House last Tuesday?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to make a statement, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted.

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

**"STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY THE MINISTER OF
COMMUNICATIONS, WORKS AND HOUSING IN
THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN CONNECTION
WITH AN INCIDENT INVOLVING MR. J. W.
CORBIN, M.C.P. AND THE DIRECTOR
OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

On the 24th January, 1961, it was alleged in this House that the Director of Highways and Transport has been discourteous to the Junior Member for St. Andrew, and I have undertaken to investigate and make a statement on the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I ask the hon. member whether that is a written statement to be laid or just reporting a Minute or an observation?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: It is a formal statement like previous statements I have laid.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will it be laid?

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Yes, Sir. I will continue to read.

"2. My investigations have disclosed that on the date of the incident the Member visited the Department of Highways and Transport without prior notice and sought an interview with the Director.

3. The Director reports as follows on what occurred:-

"Although no appointment had been made, I was able to receive Mr. Corbin. On his, Mr. Corbin's, entry into my office I rose, shook his hand and wished him a Happy New Year as it was the first time that I had seen Mr. Corbin in the new year. He then told me about some minor work he would like to have done, and he made mention of "Benjamin" Road. He said that he had mentioned these items to Mr. Downes, the Highways Superintendent in St. Andrew. At this

juncture I called in Mr. H. D. Bannister, the Acting District Engineer. During the discussion Mr. Corbin, in an extremely loud tone of voice, said - "so much money voted for Tenantry Roads and all you have done in St. Andrew is 300 feet of road? What all you done with all the money?"

I then explained to Mr. Corbin that although the Tenantry Road Vote may appear to him to be large it had to cover the expenditure on work on Tenantry Roads all over the island and I actually sent and obtained the list of Tenantry Roads approved (by the Ministry) in the 1960/61 programme for construction and showed it to him. He then shouted at me again - "only 300 feet of road done in St. Andrew this year. What all you done with the money?"

Then I told Mr. Corbin that in view of his attitude, the interview, as far as I was concerned, was at an end. He still continued to sit in the chair and with increasing loudness to shout at me, saying, among other things, - "we put you there and we going to move you". I then asked him please to leave the office. He got up and, thinking he was about to leave, I got up too. But Mr. Corbin stood in the office shouting at me in tones that could be heard all over the building. Then I told him - "Mr. Corbin, get out of this office; this is not the place for you to launch your political platform". On my telling him this Mr. Corbin shouted at me again, left the office and continued his extremely high shouting all the way out along the gallery of the building adjacent to the main office.

I have not seen Mr. Corbin since then, and I have not heard him."

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, in view of that last statement, I give notice of my intention at the next meeting of the House to move the discussion of the contents of the subject matter of that statement. I shall hand in the Resolution to the Clerk before the next meeting.

2.45 p.m.

QUESTION

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleague, the hon. junior member for St. John, I am asking leave to give notice of the following question:-

To enquire of the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:-

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member should obtain leave first and then give notice of the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave on behalf of the hon. junior member for St. John to give notice of a question and unless there be any objection, leave is granted the hon. member.

(A pause). There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. member.

Mr. TUDOR: Sir, I apologise for having anticipated the House.

The question is as follows:-

To enquire of the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:-

1. Is the Minister aware of the great dissatisfaction which exists among the small taxi owners who cater to the tourist trade?
2. Is he further aware of the inability of these people to make their living under such conditions as now exist, particularly with respect to the Pier Head?
3. Will he take what steps are necessary to investigate and immediately remove such grievances as they have?

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. M. E. COX fixed the Order Paper.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Speaker, I will like to draw to the Clerk's attention that a Resolution which I tabled and which has been printed is not yet on the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: That has been drawn to my attention.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, I will also like to draw to your attention that looking at the Order Paper for today, I see Orders Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7. There is no No. 6.

Hon. M. E. COX: That is childish. Leave that for somebody else. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Thursday, 2nd February, 1961, at 3 o'clock p.m.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Before that Resolution is put, I want to make it clear that unless the Standing Orders are changed, when they agree to meet at 3 o'clock on Thursday, next, that that cannot be regarded as any acceptance that they can proceed with Government Business at that time. Even if it was accepted by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I would still have the right to ask Your Honour to call the Orders of Private Members' Business. What transpired between the Hon. Leader of the House and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition as regards meeting on Thursday is a private agreement as far as I am concerned.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate and re-emphasise that as long as we accept the constitutional system which we have today, which is the system which operates in Great Britain and elsewhere, we can only as a Government recognise the Opposition through the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir, I rise on a point of order. There is an Order under Private Members' Business standing in my name. It is for Your Honour to protect that Order. That has nothing to do with any recognition of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I am the person to give way. No one can give way for me.

Hon. M. E. COX: You cannot have it both ways. It is recognised and appreciated in the majority of developed constitutions that there is the Government and the Opposition; and we have tried to follow Great Britain in that respect as closely as possible. Anyone who is not on the Government side must be recognised as the Opposition to the Government.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am opposed to the Government. That is so. I am a member of this House. I have been elected by the constituents of St. Peter to come here. Under the Rules of this House, no member can agree with any person in this House to remove from the Order Paper or have a matter standing in my name put in a different order. Your Honour is the only person to do that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Peter is quite correct. No Government can give way his place to any member.

Hon. M. E. COX: Sir, I have been a member of this House since 1944 and I have been following the Rules of this House and not only of this House, but I have read extensively on what obtains in other places; and I think that I am capable of interpreting what is written on the procedure adopted in other places which have constitutions similar to ours and even further in advance of ours.

All that I am saying is that we have accepted the principle that as long as there is a Government there is an Opposition. We have recognised that, and, as such, an individual has been appointed as leader and regarded as the Leader of the Opposition and is paid as Leader of the Opposition. I am not saying that the pay to our Leader of the Opposition is princely. Having recognised and appreciated the constitutional position as it stands as far as Barbados is concerned, if there is anything for discussion, we, the Government, have got to get together with the Leader of the Opposition or anybody whom the Leader of the Opposition might appoint in his absence or otherwise. I want to apprise the House of the fact that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and I had discussed this question, and I have told the House exactly what we have discussed and what we have agreed to.
2.55 p.m.

I am not saying that that agreement is binding on the hon. senior member for St. Peter. The hon. member's motion can be discussed when the time comes for it; it is within Your Honour's power to say that the hon. member's item is Item No. 1 under Private Members' Business and therefore the hon. member can discuss it. On the other hand, a motion may be moved for the suspension of the Standing Orders and then the hon. member may not be able to carry on with his motion if the motion for the suspension of the Standing Orders is agreed to by the House. I have no objection to what the hon. member has said; but, at the same time, I would like him to appreciate that, if the Government and the Opposition agree to something, the only way in which the hon. member can get done what he wants done is if either the Government or the Opposition or both decide that we will surrender to the hon. member.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand that arrogance. What the hon. member is now saying is that we do not have any Order Paper in this House; however, he was at pains to say just now that we have an Order Paper in respect of Private Members' Business. Very soon he and the Opposition will decide that other hon. members are not members of this House. Really, the next thing the hon. member will say is that I have an Order on the Order Paper and it will not be discussed. If we have that dictatorship in here, the next thing we will have to do is to come in here with guns.

Hon. M. E. COX: Twenty-three members of this House are saying that we will do so and so, while one is saying that he will do so and so.....

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. That is not so; the whole House agree that time is set aside for the consideration of Private Members' Business and for the consideration of Government Business. Now you have a cloven foot dictatorship which has the smell of power on the part of the hon. member.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, that is not a point of order. I was addressing the House and the hon. member is making a speech.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. members of this House on Government and on other benches usually get up and make points of order and invariably they stray. If the hon. senior member for St. Peter has strayed from the point, he has done nothing more nor less than what other hon. members have done. What is the question before us now?

Hon. M. E. COX: I was speaking. The argument which the hon. member used just now about this House agreeing to something is the height of nonsense.

Mr. WALCOTT: I have never said so. These fabrications is what I cannot understand. I said that what hon. members decide to do as an Order Paper stands. We have Standing Orders; we cannot play any game without rules. The hon. member insists that as long as two sides agree on any matter in here, it does not matter what anybody else agrees on. In other words, the hon. member can say that the Government and the Opposition decide that we cannot deal with anything in here.

Hon. M. E. COX: What are you putting before this House?

Mr. SPEAKER: Nothing. This is only a waste of time. I will not listen any more to what may be a treatise on a matter which is not before us. I am not interested in what any hon. member thinks about the Standing Orders, procedure or anything like that. I think that hon. members are anticipating what may happen next Thursday, but I am not anticipating anything. As soon as the next meeting comes, I will act according to what the circumstances of the case show me to do. I do not think that we should listen to what may be an interesting treatise on the Standing Orders of this House. I would like the Hon. Leader of the House to get on with the adjournment otherwise I will say that there is disorder and I will adjourn the House myself.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, ...

Hon. M. E. COX: I should like to say that the motion for the adjournment has already been moved and seconded. The hon. senior member for St. Peter was allowed to speak and I have replied to him. No other hon. member would be in order to speak now.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Except me. (*ASIDES*).

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Philip, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas and the hon. senior member for the City should contain themselves so that the House might be able to hear me. The Hon. Leader of the House has said that the motion for the adjournment has been moved and seconded and he has suggested that any other hon. member would be out of order to speak now. I interpret that Standing Order in this way; if in my opinion, any hon. member has not had the opportunity to speak I can allow him to speak. That is what the Standing Order says.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I did not have the opportunity to speak; I was not here.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you speaking on the motion for the adjournment? (*ASIDES*).

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am very good at speaking, blackguarding or anything that the Government can do. I meet them on their own ground.
3.05 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Just speak on the motion.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I was not here when the hon. member made the motion, but I am the first to agree that if there is any urgent Government Business to be done, Private Members' Business should be set aside; and I have always adopted that attitude in this House. As I understand it, Sir, the Hon. Leader of the House has suggested.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is being interrupted.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Nobody interrupts me from speaking, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am interrupted from listening.

Mr. MOTTLEY: As I understand it, Sir, the Hon. Leader of the House in moving the Adjournment said that he had agreed with the Leader of the Opposition that no Private Members' Business would be done on Thursday next again. So as far as I am concerned, I am entirely in agreement with the hon. senior member for St. Peter that if the feeling is that you can only agree with the Leader of the Opposition, that would negative all the Rules and Orders of the House to the effect that the Hon. Leader of the House can say that, as far as they are concerned, they will agree to come on Thursday next or Tuesday next and do no Private Members' Business. Those of us who are not in the Party which forms the Official Opposition would therefore have no opportunity for the entire Session of doing any Private Members' Business.

I have not heard Your Honour's ruling, but I hope that Your Honour will rule when the time comes. What is the difference between the Opposition and the Official Opposition anyway? I am quite serious, and I hope the Hon. Leader of the House does not take what I am saying as any laughing matter. There are five members over here who form the Official Opposition, but out of courtesy the Leader of the House could have informed the members of my Party that he had spoken to the Leader of the Official Opposition and he had decided that no Private Members' Business would be done this afternoon; that Government Business would be continued so that they could adjourn because of a matter which most of us regret; and also that they would come back on Thursday and again no Private Members' Business would be done. That could have been said to the member of my Party and also to the Independent member. As a matter of fact, I want to say that I am not just merely joining with the hon. member for St. Peter, but I would have raised the same question.

When a request like this is made, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition in nearly all cases passes on the word to other members of the Opposition and we usually agree. No one can stand up here in that dictatorial manner and be so dogmatic as to suggest that he has seen the Leader of the Opposition and therefore all the Rules and Regulations of the House are negated. Even the Speaker cannot do that. I hope that when the time comes Your Honour will rule on that. Sufficient unto the day. I will throw out this warning, not to the Speaker,....

Mr. SPEAKER: Just take me out of the debate.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I throw it out as a warning to the House that, if anything like that happens and I am in the House, there will be a full-dress debate on it and it will not end like that. I am absolutely certain that with your impartiality, Mr. Speaker, you will not allow any such thing. It is true that the Government must do the business of the people; and it is the Opposition that keeps the Government doing the business of the people.

I do not agree, Sir, that when there is pressing business by Government the Opposition, Official or otherwise, should take up the time doing some trivial matter. I got elected like any other member and I suppose by more votes than any other hon. member; and I am sure the hon. junior member for St. James will tell you that.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, at the risk of prolonging the debate, I think I ought to say on behalf of the Official Opposition how much we regret the turn which this debate has taken; and to say also that our agreeing with the Hon. Leader of the House with respect to not taking Private Members' Business was an arrangement between Government and ourselves. It was not meant to be in any way binding on other members of the Opposition.

We do not want it to appear as if from the tenor of the remarks of the Leader of the House, Government can inveigle us into stamping out the privileges of hon. members. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we are not so convinced that their actions even to the Official Opposition are so good and clear that we can join them blindfoldedly in stamping out the privileges of other members.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of order. I do not know how the hon. member interprets what I was saying as trying to stamp out the privileges of hon. members. I would like to tell him that I know they are all one and the same thing. All I was saying is that the Leader of the Opposition which the Government and everybody recognises in this Island as the Leader of the Opposition has discussed the question with me, and I have agreed as far as the Adjournment is concerned, when we come back we will do so and so. I am well aware, and have made my position quite clear, that when it comes to an individual doing his private business, it would have to be done on a decision of this House. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Oh!) I have made it clear on each occasion that as far as the House is concerned, it will decide by a vote whether or not Mr. X can carry on with Private Members' Business or whether Government should do its business.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Oh, no. That is already decided.

Hon. M. E. COX: The Rules of this House say that at 8.30 p.m. all controversial discussion must be ceased. What do we do? We come here and make a motion that that Rule be suspended. The House therefore on a majority vote or unanimously, agrees that that should be done, and it is done. That is the only way it can be done.
3.15 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to move a motion on the Order Paper out of its position to any other position, you ask leave, and if there is any objection to it, a vote is taken by the House and the House decides that it is either removed from its position or that it remains the same place. All that is done by a vote of the majority or a unanimous vote of the House.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That is not so.

Mr. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, it is just as well that the Hon. Minister has spoken. He has more than confused the issue. The House cannot take away the right of Private Members' Business. If the Leader feels that he wants to carry on, you ask that such and such an order be exempted from Standing Order No. so and so.

Hon. M. E. COX: You can ask that all the orders be exempted.

Mr. TUDOR: Sir, I want the position of the Official Opposition made clear. The agreement made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition not to do Private Members' Business on Thursday next is an undertaking which binds only us. My colleague consulted such of us who were here on that matter. There should be courtesy on the part of the Government to recognise that there is a minority party and that there is an hon. member who belongs to no party at all; and therefore, the same courtesy extended to us of the Official Opposition should be extended to all sides of the House.

We must make it clear that we are not joining anybody to take away the privileges of hon. members; and, as a matter of fact, it is strange to hear the Hon. Leader of the

House now discovers the virtues of the constitutional system. We have not found members of the Government hitherto recognising that, because we often have trouble with them in getting the party system to work.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that either in the House or in your Chambers we will be able to get a precise interpretation as to the difference between Private Members' Time and Government Members' Time. As far as I understand it, the whole House did agree to these Standing Orders, and there is a specific time in which Government Members' Business is to be done and a specific time for Private Members' Business. There are certain times when the Government does ask to suspend Private Members' Business and that is decided by a motion. I think that it is essential that we have a clarification on that.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Thursday, next, 2nd February, 1961, at 3 o'clock p.m., was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

3.23 p.m.