

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1961

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 9th March, 1961.

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

PRESENT

His Honour Mr. K. N. R. HUSBANDS, (*Speaker*); 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*); Mr. T. O. BRYAN, (*Chairman of Committees*); Hon. F. E. MILLER, (*Minister of Social Services*) and Hon. L. St.A. THORNE, (*Minister of Education*).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

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

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform the House that I have received from Messrs Browne & Chapman, Solicitors, the following letter:-

Pinfold Street,
Bridgetown,
Barbados, W.I.
8th March, 1961.

His Honour, the Speaker,
House of Assembly.

Your Honour,

We have read with some concern a report in the "Advocate" newspaper of today's date, of a debate in the House of Assembly in connection with a letter written by our firm on the instructions of Mr. L. G. Hough, and addressed to Mr. E. W. Barrow.

We have also noted that some members of the House appeared to be concerned over the matter and more particularly over the fact that a copy of the said letter was sent to you.

We wish to make it quite clear that the reason that a copy of the said letter was forwarded to you, was that we wanted to acquaint you, and through you, the members of

the House, with the fact that our client had not given to Mr. Barrow any permission to read from the letters written by our client to persons in Barbados, nor had he received such permission from anyone in a position legally to grant it.

It was however, our view, and we were so advised, that membership of the House of Assembly does not confer the right to infringe the copyright of individuals in private letters. It was in an attempt to stop the further infringement of such copyright that a copy of the letter addressed to Mr. Barrow was sent to you.

We hope that you will accept this explanation of our reasons for acting as we have done, and that in the light of it you will not ascribe any discourtesy to our action or any attempt to limit or infringe the rights and privileges of the House, neither of which was our intention.

Yours faithfully,
SGD. BROWNE & CHAPMAN.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Customs Duties (Brace Experiment Station) Order, 1961.

Mr. STRAUGHN entered the House and took his seat.

QUESTION

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a question standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John. I observe that the hon. member is not in his seat.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. and gallant member for St. John, I beg to give notice of the following question:-

To enquire of the Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour:-

Is the Minister aware that Casual employees of the Government have not been paid for Federation Day, 1961, although they worked the days before and after that public holiday?

2. If the answer is "Yes", will the Minister instruct that payment for that day be made forthwith to such employees?

LEAVE TO DEAL WITH COUNCIL'S

AMENDMENTS

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, before you call the Orders of the Day, I would like to ask leave of the House to deal with the Amendments of the Other Place to the Bill to amend the Holidays with Pay Act, 1951, returned from the Other Place.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day is to move the consideration of the Amendments of the Other Place to the Bill to amend the Holidays with Pay Act, 1951.

Hon. M. E. COX: As hon. members will see, these Amendments are of a minor nature. The Amendments are as follows: In Clause 2 (a) (ii) the word "his" is deleted and the words "the employer's" are substituted therefor. Then in the same Clause, in (c) (ii) there is the addition of the word "the" after the word "be". Those are the Amendments to the Bill as sent back by the Other Place. I beg to move that these Amendments be now read a first time.

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

The question that these Amendments be now read a first time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On motions of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded in each case by Hon. R. G. MAPP, the Amendments were read a second time and agreed to.

12.25 p.m.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to introduce a Bill entitled an Act to amend the Local Government Act, 1958.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Premier is asking leave to introduce a Bill and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill entitled an Act to amend the Local Government Act, 1958.

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

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: to move the House into Committee of Supply.

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

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. BRYAN being in the Chair.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to postpone the Resolution for \$5,273,878 and also the Resolution to approve the Annual Estimates of the Port Department annexed to the Estimates of the Island for the year 1961-62; and to take the Resolution for \$9,450 as the first item of the Day.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to postpone the Resolution for \$5,273,878 and also the Resolution to approve the Annual Estimates of the Port Department annexed to the Estimates of the Island for the year 1961-62, and to take the Resolution for \$9,450 as the first item of the Day, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1960-61, NO. 39

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, most of these items arise out of circumstances that recur annually so far as this Department is concerned. Item No. 11 - Overtime Pay - is a hardy annual. In recent years the traffic in mail, both from England and other places, has been increasing at a very rapid pace; and in future it will increase at jet speed. In view of the fact that this Department always keeps up with the times, and is most efficient in its operation, we find it necessary always to come down for overtime pay and for these other amounts necessitated through the increased pressure of work around December.

Members will see from the notes, which are set out very simply and clearly, that this amount is to meet expenses incurred in employing people overtime - to clerks and auxiliary postmen. Included are the items: cost of living allowance to additional staff, overseas surface mail, upkeep of transport to Seawell Airport, - again caused through increased air traffic - and supplementary provision for electricity.

There is only one thing I would like to say in connection with Item No. 16 - Auxiliary Postmen - and it is that we carried out a survey last year into the present establishment of postmen; and we have put up a recommendation to the Establishment officer for the employment of additional men. We are simply awaiting the necessary action on the part of the Establishment Officers for whom the Premier is responsible, in order to relieve the situation.

I can assure this Committee that the situation is well in hand. I have no doubt that in the very near future these additional men will be employed. The position is really becoming pretty near intolerable, especially in the rural areas, because of the very heavy strain put on the present staff of postmen through increased volume of work, through migrants overseas sending back mail, increased mail outwards, and mail including parcels and everything else. They are undergoing a big strain; and very soon we hope that the position will be relieved. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the Hon. Minister referred to Item No. 16 - Auxiliary Postmen. I was certainly intrigued to read in the note that it has been found necessary to employ auxiliary postmen continuously on account of the increased volume of work. One wonders for how long auxiliary postmen have been employed continuously before the Department saw fit to recommend additional men to the Establishment; and one equally wonders how long action has been awaited from the Establishment in connection with the obvious necessary increase in the staff. When the Establishment does concur in the proposal of the Department, I would suggest that those auxiliary postmen, who had been for so long continuously employed, should have their term of service in respect of pensionable emoluments dated from the first date that they were so employed and have remained continuously employed from then up to the date that they are put on the permanent service.

12.35 p.m.

Another point arises as to whether Government has yet contemplated assisting in the provision of motor transport for postmen, auxiliary and otherwise, in parishes in which there are hilly areas. You will appreciate the difficulties and the onerousness of postmen having to travel in our somewhat mountainous areas either by walking, by bicycle or by animal-drawn vehicles. It would be interesting to know, now that the Post Office is under consideration, whether the Minister or the Cabinet has given further thought to assisting postmen in the provision for motor transport in the areas which are hilly and over which they have to traverse.

In this age, nothing can be more necessary than a postal service; and I hope that in providing additional postmen that there would be a minimum of at least two ser-

vices per day in every district of this island. There is no reason why we cannot have such a service; and it does not need much resources to make the necessary addition. It just would mean a little more addition to the staff.

In respect of "Upkeep of Transport", it is stated that increased air traffic has necessitated the collection of mail from Seawell Airport twice daily instead of once as formerly. I wonder if it is also to catch the more frequent planes which come to the island, or if it is that they are relieving possible congestion at the Airport only. I am considering that by the same transport, you should take steps to send mail as often as reasonably necessary to Seawell so that when planes come, the Postal Authorities could avail themselves of the opportunity of sending that mail by the earlier plane.

Sir, you know that with an airmail service, if expeditiously carried out, a great deal of saving can be made on cables. You can also increase the number of deliveries from Bridgetown to Seawell; and if the mail is on the spot, and if a plane comes in unexpectedly earlier and can carry that mail, then that plane can be utilised and the mail dispatched as promptly as possible.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, relative to the question asked by the hon. junior member for St. Lucy about motor transport for postmen, I would like to let the Hon. Minister of Communications know, if you are considering less than a motor car for these postmen, especially those in St. Andrew and in St. Joseph, you will not be doing anything; an autocycle or motor cycle will not do the job down under those hills. If the Government is considering helping these postmen, I am asking the Hon. Minister to make a note of it to help the postmen in St. Andrew and in St. Joseph to get a motor car rather than an autocycle or a motor cycle.

The Hon. Minister of Communications knows Bathsheba, down Belleplaine, and up St. Simon's Hill as well as I do, therefore, he will know that if he is considering help of less than a motor car, he will be doing nothing to help postmen in those parishes. St. Thomas is not as hilly as the two parishes which I have just mentioned. I have passed and seen when rain was falling, postmen sheltering beneath canes and their post-bags were all wet. Some of them have bicycles; but they still have to run all about to get a shelter when the rain is falling. When the road is slippery, they find themselves stretched out; and, as a result, letters which they have in their hands at the time get messed up. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to help the postmen in those parishes with motor cars.

Mr. STRAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, I must add my commendation to the statement made by the Hon. Minister relative to the fact that there would be increased staff in the Postal Department of the Island. And indeed, Sir, there are a number of us who are concerned and alarmed over the phrasing of the note to the Item which says that we were employing auxiliary postmen continuously on account of the increased volume of work. My colleague has just spoken about transportation, and I am quite certain that that is what the Government must have had in mind when, not long ago, we amended the Public Officers Travelling Loans Act to allow other officers, such as postmen, to make loans for the purchase of vehicles.

There is a matter which I can make known to the Hon. Minister, and it is coming up in the postal department very soon. It is the result of a meeting which took place only yesterday afternoon, when members of the Establishment Committee of the Northern District Council complained of the inordinate delay in the delivery of mail in the Northern area. Members of that Council are saying that they cannot get their letters and notices for a meeting in a reasonable time; and the biggest concern of all was mentioned, not only by the Councillors themselves, but by the Local Government Commissioner, who said that people have stated that their tax bills had not reached them yet - although it was alleged that these bills were posted long ago.

I believe if the Government, especially the Hon. Minister who has to deal with it, was made aware of it now, he

will be forewarned, therefore, forearmed; and will be able to settle what may be just an administrative problem. The addition of staff to the Post Office would somewhat help in this problem; but even though we believe that it would be a help, I think it is right for the Hon. Minister to know that this complaint exists, and should be taken up officially with the Postal Authority of the island.
12.45 p.m.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, speaking from my knowledge of the matter, and from various consultations which I have had, I am aware that auxiliary postmen are appointed from year to year; and it goes on in many cases over a period of seven years that these men are utilised in this way. In other words, they are there at the convenience of the Government and they are called out to assist at the busy season.

From the note here, it would seem as if a clear case has been made out for an increase in the number of postmen who are permanently employed. I would like the Minister to give some explanation as to the number of auxiliary postmen who are at present employed, and how many have been employed continuously over the last three, five or seven years. The Minister will probably tell me that this should be put in the form of a question, but he should have his file handy so as to be able to tell us how many auxiliary postmen were employed last year, and how many does he propose to employ over the coming financial year.

I am sure that there are dozens of auxiliary postmen who have been employed continuously over the past five years, many of whom have got disgusted and disillusioned and have gone to the United Kingdom in search of permanent employment and of better security. I am aware that the question of increasing the travelling allowance for postmen is being considered; I support the remarks of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and those of His Honour the Deputy Speaker on that particular point.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the last speaker, I would just like to say that I have already given an assurance that very soon from now a decision will be made and that these permanent additions to the staff will be carried into effect. I do not think that the hon. member wants a double assurance. We hope that very soon steps will be finalised as to the greater number of these persons on the Establishment.

I am sorry that I cannot give the hon. member the exact number of postmen employed; I will have to get the information for the hon. member. However, I can tell him that the reason for this extra assistance continuously is due to the fact that mail despatches are being sent to the District Post Offices twice instead of once; it is not only because of the increase in the mail, but also because of the increased service to the public. That, too, should take care of the point which has been raised by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. We have increased the service and we are opening for longer hours so as to facilitate the public. We need these additions; we will continue to read them. With increased air traffic we will keep in step.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if it is appreciated in Barbados generally, but this is the only unit in the West Indies which provides a house to house delivery of mail. You do not have that today in Jamaica, especially in the country areas, or in Trinidad. You only get that service here, which is readily appreciated by those who enjoy it.

Another point was raised by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. I do not know if the hon. member was in the House at the time, but we made it clear that we have taken a step to make provision for increased travelling loans to postmen. The intention is that they should enjoy these facilities in order to cope with the burdens which travelling up hill and down dale will place upon them. Therefore, the postmen of St. Joseph will be well taken care of. (*Cheers!*) I cannot assure the hon. member that motor cars will be involved; motor cars call for recurrent expenditure such as gasoline, repairs, and so on. As far as the provision of motor cycles is concerned, that is

what we had in mind when we changed the law in order to afford these facilities.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph has said that there is some delay in the delivery of the tax bills in the Northern area. I know that people do not like to receive tax bills; I wonder if the hon. member has investigated that question. Sometimes a postman is blamed when the tax bills are due to be paid. We have had complaints about income tax from the people who could pay, and when we investigated those complaints, we found that the tax bills were sent out early. People like to receive anything but a tax bill. Personally, I have not had any complaints; otherwise I would have to ask the Postmaster General about this matter.

Mr. BRANCKER: The Hon. Minister has said that this is the only island with a house to house delivery of mails. That is absolutely necessary because there is no system of post-boxes in the country districts; Post Office boxes are reserved for the metropolitan area. Just as some years ago the Police Band never played but in St. Michael, up to now Post Office boxes have not been set up outside Bridgetown; and therefore, there must be this house to house delivery.

12.55 p.m.

I know that people in the rural areas are seeking and desiring to know - whether deliveries will or will not include tax bill - that deliveries twice a day.....

Hon. R. G. MAPP: I will not let the hon. member get away with that. Does the hon. member prefer Post Office boxes to a house to house delivery? It is very easy to put up Post Office boxes, but when people have to walk to these boxes that would be a backward step. We can put up more Post Office boxes, but it certainly would be taking a backward step to do that instead of having a house to house delivery.

Mr. BRANCKER: The hon. member who has just spoken always seem to find it more difficult than the backbenchers to understand what is said in this House. He referred to what he said was a fact: that only in this island do we have a house to house delivery. I said it is imperative that we have a house to house delivery in this island; in fact we should have it in the rural parishes at least twice a day instead of once, because there is no alternative provided in Barbados.

You do not have Post Office boxes in the rural areas or outside of Bridgetown; and therefore not having these, it is absolutely imperative and indispensable that there be a house to house delivery; and I suggest not once, but twice; and to make provision for recruiting of additional postmen to have a house to house delivery twice and not once per day as is the case in the rural parishes of this island.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Again I am not going to let the hon. member get away with that. I understood him perfectly clear. I asked a simple question. He said that there is no alternative, and he is suggesting the production of more Post Office boxes. He has repeated it and presumably he is..

Mr. BRANCKER: Hon. members may be misquoted in journals, but the Minister will not be allowed to misquote any member of this Chamber in here, even though something may appear in permanent form with which he may well not be unconnected, Mr. Chairman, and which is distinguished for its 100 percent inaccuracies.

In reply to the point made about the delivery of mails in this island, the hon. member said, as if with great pride, that Barbados is the only place with a house to house delivery. That is something to which we are accustomed, and which we regard as part of the daily routine; that is nothing to raise a flag about. The whole of Barbados has a house to house delivery.

What I am saying is that he is holding that fact up - that we have a house to house delivery of mails - as

something that we accept as a matter of daily routine. I do not know if the people of St. Thomas do not want more than one delivery of mail, but in the other rural parishes of this island - I am sure I speak for Christ Church, St. Andrew and St. Lucy - the people would like at least two daily deliveries of mail at their homes even if that mail, as I said before, includes income tax bills or more excessive bills from the Northern District Council.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I understood the Minister to say that these postmen will be considered by way of transport; I also understood him to say that it may not be a motor car, but a smaller means of transport. What I am going to throw out to him now is that autocycles will not be of any use to postmen under the hills.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I hope the hon. member has not misunderstood me. I do not want him to misinterpret me. What I said was that it would be left to the particular individual. If a postman lives in an area that necessitates a motor car, he can acquire one under the provision we have brought down. We are not dictating to him - but, of course, the funds may dictate to him what he can do. He can have a "tin lissey" or a modern motorcycle, but obviously he is limited, as other civil servants are, by certain factors.

Mr. SMITH: An autocycle may be for \$300, and a motorcycle may be for \$600, while the loan to any particular postman may not exceed \$600. If the limitation is up to \$600, then a postman would not be able to get a car.

Hon. R. G. MAPP: On a point of order. Does the hon. member mean that there are no \$600 cars available, even from his garage?

Mr. SMITH: Not good ones. There are some available for less. If a postman from St. Joseph came to me to buy a car for \$600, I would not sell him because it may cause me to lose his vote! (Laughter). What I would like the Minister to consider when the times comes is not to make the limit as such that the postman would not be able to get a car. If the Government is going to lend \$600, a postman may already have \$400, and he can then get a £300 car. If the limit is only £100 he would not be able to acquire one.

I am asking the Minister to make the limitation of such an amount as to help these postmen who have to work under the hills. The ones who work on top of the hills may not want a car. A motorcycle for \$600 is not going to do the work under the hills; and these little "pucka-puckas" that go along the streets, which are only glorified bicycles, would not be of any use at all. If they buy a motorcycle for \$600 they still have to shelter from the rain. Sometimes people have to lift both postmen and the motorcycles out of the water or drain; so that you might just as well add a few more dollars and let postmen be better protected.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, what struck me was the phrase used by the Minister about the legal provision for increased loans. Unless that provision is substantial - or to use a more neutral word "adequate" - the postmen would not be able to get adequate transport for the hills. I am bearing in mind that we do have rainy seasons; and, as His Honour the Deputy Speaker has pointed out, in rain neither a motorcycle nor an autocycle is of any use.

What I would suggest is that consideration be given, in the first instance, to a provision which will enable postmen to buy such motor transport as will adequately traverse the hilly areas. There are some cars which can only operate on level ground; there are others which will operate well going downhill; but we have to consider the question of going uphill in certain areas. It may well be that the answer to this problem would be an increased number of post office vans, whereby the vans may take the postmen into the hilly areas, and they may perform their duties by means of vans. If there are not enough at present, by the addition to the fleet they may be able to perform their duties if they are permitted to use these vans when they are going into these areas.

1.05 p.m.

Mr. CORBIN: I think, Sir, that this Resolution is a good one, but there are some difficulties in it that need to be regulated. If a postman has a desire for a motor car, he should have it. If any other officer in the Service desires to have a motor car, he should have it according to the regulations. If either one of them wants a bicycle, he should have it. Why is it that each officer or postman should not have the facility to choose what he wants?

A postman has to go through wind, rain and water in order to carry out his work; and, when we do not get our mails in time, we complain. A postman should be one of the most independent officers in this island. There are some officers in other departments of the Service that, the only time they meet with rain or unpleasant weather, is when they come from home.

If a postman were to get into any difficulties and he could not reach you or anyone with the letter that afternoon which he brought it out, he will have to bring it to you at the earliest opportunity after that in order to execute his duty; therefore, if he needs a motor car in order that he may be able to execute his duty we should give him the facilities of purchasing a motor car. Of course, some may want a bicycle, and some a motor cycle, but some may want a motor car. Why not give them the wide scope of getting what they want? They are all Civil Servants, therefore, all should have the same facilities - from the bottom to the top. Let a man choose what kind of vehicle he wants. If we allow him to choose we would be able to help him execute his duties efficiently.

Ministers are getting travelling allowances whether the rain falls or whether it does not fall; whether they travel or do not travel. The poor postmen have to be travelling morning, noon and night, therefore, they should have the same facilities as the Ministers or even better facilities, because the Ministers need not travel at all.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1960-61, No. 40

RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE SEDGEPOUND ESTATE

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask leave to deal with this Resolution which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is pretty simple. It is to purchase the estate known as Sedgepond which has an acreage of 222 acres, 3 roods, 17 perches for the sum of \$120,000.

As you know, Sir, soil conservation work is being carried on in St. Andrew and it includes work on Sedgepond Estate. It has been recommended to Government that Government should purchase this plantation. The Crown Solicitor has gone into the matter quite carefully, and it has been represented to Government that the price is a reasonable one.

One of the most important factors in this intended purchase is that in that area there is a considerable large amount of water. There are springs which would supply the whole of St. Andrew, St. Peter and part of the St. Joseph area with water; and that, no doubt, would reduce to some extent the cost of pumping water from Golden Ridge to that area. The Government feels that, in the interest of the Community, it will be well to purchase this area of land. Houses in the area would have to be removed and resited on part of the same land, and so forth. I do not think it is necessary to say much on this Resolution. I understand that hon. members on the opposite side are in favour of it. With those few remarks, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, we have to accept the explanation given by the Hon. Minister of Trade, who is merely deputising for the Minister of Agriculture, who is absent. Although we are grateful for the information which the Minister has given, yet I am not clear as to the object of the acquisition of this plantation. The Resolution states this:

"The estate comprises 222 acres, 3 roods, 17 perches of land, and its acquisition has been advised by the Soil Conservation Board primarily as a conservancy area and for demonstrating correct land usage in the Scotland District."

I take it that the primary object of the acquisition of this plantation is for this plantation to be used for the purposes set out in the Addendum to this Resolution; that is to say, for demonstrating correct land usage in this soil conservation scheme. The Minister almost led us to believe that the object of the purchase of this plantation was to secure the water rights which the plantation affords.

Hon. M. E. COX: On a point of order. I said that that was one of the most important points. If we wanted only to deal with the question of water, as we have done at the Belle and at Hampton, we would buy an area of land.

Mr. TALMA: The purchase of this plantation is not primarily for the acquisition of water rights but for the Soil Conservation Scheme. If that is so, I fully support the passing of this Resolution, and I regard it as a step in the right direction. Especially if this area is to be used as a demonstration area, and more especially if the land has been conserved and brought back into cultivation, the Government will have to continue cultivating that land on a co-operative basis. In other words, the peasants in the area will form a co-operative society and together see after the running of the plantation. In other words, the plantation will be worked on a co-operative basis for the benefit of the peasants. If that is so, we will agree to the Scheme; but if the Scheme is to be tied up with old land under the regular plantation system, then we could hardly agree with it.

I have many questions which I would like to ask the Minister. It may be that I will ask the questions, but I do not expect many answers from the Minister who is merely holding on for the appropriate Minister. Anyhow, there are questions which will have to be answered sooner or later. For the purpose of the record, I would like to know, if not now at some subsequent time, how many of these 222 acres, 3 roods, 17 perches are arable, how many acres can be regarded as marginal lands, how many acres are in pasture and how many are gully lands and entirely out of cultivation?

The great volume of the springs in that area have already succeeded in washing away the soil. Is it the fact that there are so many springs in the area, that the soil has been washed away over the years so that the plantation is almost going out of cultivation and the Government is, so to speak, going to the rescue of the plantation? It may appear to be a small sum being paid now, but later on it will be a big sum for a plantation which will not be valuable, it having been washed away by the springs. Those are questions which the Minister of Trade may not be able to answer today, but there are questions which should be investigated. How many acres of this land have already slipped away and gone out of cultivation? From the Title Deeds, the plantation may show 222 acres, 3 roods, 17 perches, but hon. members of this House have the right to ask these questions.

The object of conservation is to prevent the soil from slipping away. I hope that when this plantation is bought it will facilitate the Soil Conservation Scheme and will serve as a good demonstration, or in order to demonstrate to peasants in the area the various methods which should be adopted for the area in order to conserve the soil in that particular area. I am hoping that the peasants in the area will be given all facilities and all assistance in protecting their respective plots; and that, in case there is any land

in that area owned by the peasants and which is required for a similar purpose, a similar price will be paid for such land.

I hope that after this land or the greater part of it has been brought back into cultivation, the Government will see fit to continue working the land on a co-operative basis and thereby assist the peasants in the area to form a co-operative society in order that the benefits and profits of the land may go to the peasants mainly and to the people who work the land.

We need a plantation in each parish at least, to be worked on a co-operative basis for the benefit of peasants, and the Government has the correct figures as to what these plantations make. These should be acquired by way of negotiations between the Government and the owners. I am in favour of the acquisition of this plantation.
1.25 p.m.

From time to time various plantations are put up for sale - two plantations were sold recently in Solicitors' offices one of which was Ashton Hall - and when Government sees an opportunity of acquiring a suitable plantation, at least a good money making one which has good arable land and which has produced good returns over the last five years, they should purchase it; not necessarily compulsorily, but when available, to be used on a co-operative basis for the benefit of the peasants and workers on the plantation.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Chairman, before the Hon. Minister attempts to answer the questionnaire of my colleague, the hon. senior member for Christ Church - although I have no intention of trying to embarrass him because I know it is not his portfolio - I wonder whether the files might assist him in supplying me with this information which he could pass on to us in this Committee.

The Addendum would suggest that the Soil Conservation Board recommended the acquisition of the entire estate. I wonder if that is so. The penultimate paragraph of the Addendum reads as follows:-

"The estate comprises 222 acres, 3 roods, 17 perches of land, and its acquisition has been advised by the Soil Conservation Board as a conservancy area and for demonstrating correct land usage in the Scotland District."

I would like to know, Mr. Chairman, whether the Board did in fact advise the acquisition of the entire estate; and if not, whether it advised the acquisition only of a portion. I would like to know, too, if the proprietors of the estate refused to sell except, compulsorily, a part and therefore Government decided to purchase the whole estate. The price works out at \$540 an acre which normally speaking is not too expensive these days even for land in St. Andrew.

The other point which struck me is that, in connection with the price, I wonder if this figure of roughly £25,000 was arrived at as a result of the prospective purchaser and the vendor meeting each other halfway; or whether this was the original price asked by the owners of the plantation and they refused to budge from that price, or refused to sell less than the whole estate, and that is why we are now asked to buy the whole estate. I would like to know if in buying the whole estate it is felt that the entire estate is needed for the purposes which are mentioned in the Addendum; that is, as a conservancy area and for demonstrating correct land usage in the Scotland District.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I could not let this Resolution pass without saying something on it, because it is in my district. Mr. Chairman, I know Sedgepond better than anyone else in this Chamber; I was born and raised there. It is a place where, tonight, you go to bed, and tomorrow you wake up and do not see your home. I understood from my parents that in 1938 there was a landslide, and the very stones which had been put down under the earth had peeped above the surface. It is a district that is not lying on a solid foundation, but the Government is now asking us through this Resolution to agree to its acquisition for

\$120,000. I knew when Fitz Gill who is dead and gone, bought the place for £3,000; I knew when it was sold for £7,000 in 1946; and today, after this Government has spent \$150,000 on that very estate, they intend to give the owner \$120,000 for the estate. I would not be against the Government purchasing the estate if they foresee any benefit in it for the future.

Mr. Chairman, I have been there myself a few years ago with the first Soil Conservation Officer who came to this island. I remember that Mr. Scott-Bushe who was once the Director of the Road Board, said that it would take more money to erect a bridge from the St. Joseph area to Sedgepond than would buy the whole estate. I have lived to see that, since the Soil Conservation Scheme has been put into operation, we do not have to put a bridge there anymore; therefore, the Soil Conservation Officer has done a good job. What I am surprised over today is that the Government is paying \$120,000 for this estate. It seems to me that that is a gift to the owners because I knew when it was sold in 1946 for £7,000.

If the Barbados Labour Government is going to purchase an estate, they should purchase one which has proper residential areas where they can house people. Sedgepond is not a place with proper residential areas. Today you may erect a home, whether it be a wooden structure or a wall structure, and tomorrow you do not know where you are; it is a place that does not have a proper foundation. It has a movable foundation. If Government spends that money, it should be spent on an estate with residential areas in some other part of the island, because there are people who would buy that land and put up their homes and make a living there; and they would be able to work that land and repay the Government. The Government is taking the Labour Welfare money, which is money belonging to the poor people who have worked in this island, and spending it on Sedgepond.
1.35 p.m.

I am quite certain, Sir, that the Minister who has brought this Resolution here is opposed to it. If this money was coming out of his pocket, he would not spend it in the purchase of this plantation; he would not give £25,000 for it if he knew what he was doing. He said that he was advised by the Soil Conservation Officer to purchase it. I say that this is a gift to the owner; and I am sorry that I have to use those words.

Mr. Chairman, when I reflect that the people of Barbados have selected members of the Government and have put them in power to look after the welfare of the people, and have seen that the members of the Government are dodging their responsibility, it shocks my modesty. The Government has been to Boscobelle and repaired roads and has done all sorts of things; they have been to Burnt House, Greenland, and Sedgepond and they have done the same thing. This Government is doing a good job by soil conservation, but if they would take my humble advice, they would pay attention first to all of the land which is sliding away and put it in proper condition and let the owners pay the tribute which they have to pay to the Government.

The very owners of Sedgepond Estate failed to work it. Boscobelle was in a dilapidated state; Sedgepond was also in a dilapidated state; and the owners of this estate are negotiating now to sell the land to Government now that the Government has given them the best facilities in the world to work it properly. I believe that it is not that the Soil Conservation Officer has asked the Government to purchase that land; I think it is that he has amalgamated with the owners to do such a deed. Why should we sit and allow such a thing to be done? Let us look after the interest of the poor people in the island of Barbados first.

There are two sides of this House, but we are all sent here for the particular reason of giving justification and doing the best that we can for the inhabitants of Barbados. Do not let us fool the people. The district of St. Simon is one of the most dilapidated places in Barbados. People cannot get from Hillaby to St. Simons because the land

is always sliding away. Why not take this same sum of \$120,000 and spend it on doing work in that area? Let the inhabitants of that district be peaceable and have a good pathway. Why take this money and purchase Sedgepond Estate after you have spent so many thousand dollars in that area? Let the owners of Sedgepond continue to work it. The owner of Sedgepond has one of the best properties in the island.

The Minister has said that by Government purchasing it, they would be able to develop the water resources of it. The people of St. Andrew are getting water already; and, as a matter of fact, some of them are already irrigating their land. Let the owner of Sedgepond make his own irrigation after we have given him the facilities of conserving his land. Let him plant his cane wherever he is told to plant cane; let him plant his vegetables or whatever he likes. We have given him more than he can expect. Let the Minister go and see the danger in my area. The people of the district of St. Simon cannot attend Church services because the area of Hillaby is in a dilapidated state. I would advise Government to take this \$120,000 and appropriate it to the district of St. Simons so as to make roads and to do such things. That would be a better job than what you are doing now in purchasing this estate.

Sir, I hope that such a case like this would never arise again; because when the people of my parish look at members of this Government, they would say that they are the most foolish people which we have. They are going to say: "Do you mean that they are going to purchase Sedgepond and we cannot get in and out?" The people of my district do not have roads to bring out their produce. As I have said already in this Chamber, they cannot get their canes headed out.

Mr. Chairman, I am not against the Government purchasing estates and places like that, but why do they not purchase an estate which they can make into a proper residential area that would be able to house people? You cannot house people at Sedgepond; that is a place which is always moving. You put down the best concrete structure in the world there today and the next morning you will find that it is 24 miles under the earth. By the purchase of that estate, you are pleasing and trying to help one man, but you are not caring about the other people in the district.

Sir, I would be glad if we postpone this Resolution. It is not right; it is detrimental to the people of St. Andrew. There is no man in St. Andrew who would agree with this Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be too long on this Resolution. I will begin by saying first things first; and that you should put right first things first. I am very pleased today to see that the Soil Conservation Board is making such a rapid progress that they are asking us today to buy a plantation.

Now, Sir, there are some places in St. Andrew and St. Joseph which need immediate attention. In St. Bernard's Village, St. Joseph, a place where I was born and bred - as the old people say, there was a pasture there where we used to play bat and ball; and if you go there now today all of that is gone.
1.45, p.m.

St. Bernard's School is threatened; the houses in that area are threatened; and my home is also threatened. All the trees have slidden and gone. There is only one thing which remains to happen - I am looking for it by the next rainfall - and that is that everybody's house will go. I began by saying that first things should come first; and what I have just mentioned should come first. I would not say that the Government should not buy this property, because they have to be guided by the expert; but after they have bought this plantation, I am asking the Minister to convey to the appropriate Minister the fact that I am not satisfied about this matter inasmuch as we are being left out in St. Bernards.

There is a particular place known as "Break Away". It has been so called because it is always breaking away; but if they would conserve the soil at once, everybody will be able to live happily. As I said just now, at the next rainfall, all the houses will go; my regret is that my house is not a wall house. In the year 1938 we had to go and move away the people's houses from this particular area. Some of the people have gone back to the area, but if the Soil Conservationist would give priority to this area, I am sure that these people will be able to save their homes, and, I would add, their lives.

If the rain sets in during the night, you do not know how many people will lose their lives by the morning. I would not say anything more on this matter because the appropriate Minister is not here; however, I am asking the Minister who is now in charge of the matter, to ask the appropriate Minister that, as soon as possible after buying Sedgepond Estate, to go and conserve the soil in St. Bernard's Village.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure the hon. member, although this has nothing to do with the Resolution under discussion, that I will convey to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture his opinions and questions. I should just like to say that I would dismiss the argument of the hon. junior member for St. Andrew. When rum and syntax are mixed, then confusion of thought and expression is obvious, I am sorry that the hon. member is not in his seat.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. member try and avoid any personal reference; let us keep to the Resolution.

Hon. M. E. COX: This is no child's play; this Government is charged on Tuesday after Tuesday with dishonesty, and we have to nail these things hard as soon as they come up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister can nail them without making any reference to other hon. members.

Hon. M. E. COX: I am afraid that I cannot.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You will have to nail them without making any personal references.

Hon. M. E. COX: That is what was put to us by the Expert:

"The Sedgepond land is suitable on the escarpment of the Scotland District and extends from the coral rock area at the top down to a valley with an established and suitable water channel. The area includes a zone which is reputed to be more liable to soil slippage than any other on the escarpment. There are a number of strong water springs in the area and information already collected indicates a tall flow of water in the vicinity of one million gallons per day. Sedgepond can be a most valuable water conservancy area, apart from the fact that it can provide the Government with a valuable piece of land for demonstrating correct land usage in the Scotland District. It could form the first stage of a national afforestation policy which is necessary for protecting precipitous slopes and providing strategic wind breaks."

This is one of the important aspects of it.

"The Water Board has shown great interest in the vast quantities of water emerging from the Sedgepond springs which have caused serious damage by flowing over the surface of the land at Sedgepond. It is expected that use could be made of this water for domestic as well as for irrigation purposes. This water has been one of the main causes of slippage and erosion in the area; even after it has been brought under control, the land may continue to slip and be eroded away during the heavy rains unless there is proper management of the area and suitable crops grown on it. The Water Board further feels that every effort should be made to prevent the pollution of this water which will take place if the land is used for housing purposes."

The hon. member talked about the price of the land and says that it was sold for a few dollars in those days. I was

never a land agent and I am not interested in what it was sold for some time ago. This is what the Queen's Solicitor said about this land:-

"My searches reveal that the plantation was purchased in 1956 for £22,000."

I do not know if it was sold in the year 1 for \$100 or \$10, but that is the information which we have. I gather from the negotiations that this land, excluding 22 acres, would be sold for \$116,000, but the Government wanted the whole thing included and therefore it is costing \$120,000. Judging from the land value in the particular areas surrounding this land, land is sold at \$720 per acre as compared with \$520; and to talk about our helping out people is the mentality of an infant, and a warped mentality at that.

There is absolutely nothing wrong in this matter. The hon. member has always been connected with people who go in for that sort of thing, and therefore it is a part of his nature now. In whatever is brought down to this House he accuses us of doing something wrong; in other words, he tries to measure us by his yardstick. If I have a year or a day in here I will not stand for this sort of thing.
1.55 p.m.

Mr. CORBIN: On a point of order, I continue to hear the Minister saying "the hon. member". There are several members in this House; to which one is he referring?

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for Christ Church asked about three different questions. He asked about the arable acreage and the marginal and so on. It has been revealed to us, or I should say represented to us, that the whole estate is a marginal estate. We are told that 120 acres of that land is arable. I will promise the hon. member to get the information for him by the next meeting; I have not got it here now.

We are convinced, Mr. Chairman, that it is in the interest of the community to purchase this estate, if, for no other reason, than for preserving the soil in that area, planning the area, and also producing water for the people of that area.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, there are two supplementary questions which I would like to ask. I would like to know the production returns of this plantation in tons, of canes per acre over the last five years.....

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 2 p.m. o'clock, this Sitting now stands suspended until 2.30 p.m. o'clock.

On resumption.

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to draw your attention to the fact that there is no quorum and ask that you direct the Clerk to ring the Bell.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

QUESTION TIME

Question Time was called.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, may I say that we on this side are prepared to waive the continuation of Private Members' Business as from now, if it is the desire of the Government for the Hon. Minister of Finance to proceed with his Budget Speech?

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, I discussed this with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition when we first met today. He indicated that he has got an agreement with the other members that he can waive Private Members' Business. I

also indicated that we had two Resolutions which were very urgent, and that as soon as they were passed, the Hon. Premier would make his Budget Speech. I do not think it would take so long to finish the Resolutions. As soon as these are finished, we can carry on with the Budget Speech.

Mr. BRANCKER: At the end of the Budget Speech, and after it has been seconded, I take it that this day's proceedings will be brought to a close?

Hon. M. E. COX: I intend doing that. Copies of the Budget Speech will be given to us in good time, and before next Tuesday.

Orders Nos. 1 to 18 inclusive under Private Members' Business were called.

HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: On the Suspension, the House was in Committee of Supply.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: On the Suspension, the hon. senior member for Christ Church was speaking.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in connection with the proposed purchase of Sedgepond Plantation, there are two supplementary questions which I was about to ask; the first is the production returns in tons of canes per acre for the last five years. I would like to know what sort of returns can be expected after this Plantation has been brought back into cultivation; and also to find out whether or not the Minister is aware that the price which is being paid takes into consideration or is computed on the basis of any refunds which the Plantation should normally pay for the soil conservation work which is being conducted there in recent months. In other words, I would like to know whether this \$120,000 is separate and distinct; and whether the plantation has refunded the portion which Government is entitled to be refunded under the scheme for soil conservation work on this very plantation over the past so many months.

One must necessarily know if the necessary returns have already taken place in so far as the plantation owners are concerned of paying back the Government for the soil conservation work which has been conducted there in recent times.

Hon. M. E. COX: As to the first question, Mr. Chairman, I would have to get the figures for the hon. member if I can, as he will appreciate that it was not a Government estate; it was a private enterprise. We will try to get the figures and see what the returns were over the last five years. As far as the cost of soil conservation work in the area is concerned, that was taken into consideration when this was agreed upon.

Mr. BRANCKER: The Hon. Minister will remember the questions which I asked him as to whether the Soil Conservation Board advised that the entire estate be bought, or whether it regards the whole amount as necessary, as well as whether this £25,150 was arrived at after bargaining, or if it was the figure which was originally put up by the owners of Sedgepond on the property.
2.35 p.m.

Hon. M. E. COX: I will promise the hon. member to pass on that information to him.

Mr. BRANCKER: I accept the hon. member's assurance.

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

On motion of Hon. M. E. COX, seconded by Hon. L. St. A. THORNE, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr.

DEPUTY SPEAKER the passing of two Resolutions in Committee and the postponement of two.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1961-62

BUDGET SPEECH

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: Second reading of a Bill to grant a sum of money out of the Public Treasury and to appropriate the same for the service of the year ending on the 31st March, 1962.

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in moving the second reading of the Appropriation Bill, it is customary, first of all, to refer to the general economic situation and it is estimated that the national income of 1960 was \$98 1/2 million which was slightly less than the previous year when it was approximately \$100 million. For 1961, our forecast is \$100 million.

The main factor in the national income of this island is still the value of the sugar crop and this, as we all know, depends on rainfall and prevailing prices.

Now, the yield of sugar of the 1960 crop was considerably higher than predicted. If you will remember, Sir, at one time we were told that the crop was likely to be 125,000 tons. That was in late December before the actual reaping started; but it turned out that on that occasion, after the crop was reaped, the tonnage returned was 153,688 tons of sugar.

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

I was proceeding to speak on the Budget and I have reached the part where I announced, as is already known, that the tonnage reaped from the crop of last year was 153,688 tons as against a forecast of 125,000 tons.

Again, we realise the importance of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement to our main industry and I do not think we can stress that too often. Referring to paragraph 8 of the Memorandum, you will see, Sir, the details as regards the tonnage reaped. We know that the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement has been extended to 1968 and there has been an increase in the negotiated price per ton from £44. 8. 10. (\$213.32) B.W.I. in 1960 to £45. 2. 0. (\$216.48) B.W.I. in 1961, and the free market price has fallen slightly to £26. 10. 0. (\$127.20) B.W.I. There has been no significant change in the price of fancy molasses.

In view of the Cuban situation on which the world market depends to a large extent, we all know that this situation is uncertain. The International Sugar Council has recently reduced export quotas to 82 1/2% in basic figures to establish a balance between supply and demand.

Now, Sir, last year 140,327 tons of sugar and 3,868,974 wine gallons of fancy molasses together equivalent to 153,688 tons of sugar, were produced as compared with 184,153 tons in 1959. We therefore can see that there was a considerable drop. The crop of 1961 is estimated at 167,000 tons, 2.45 p.m.

Therefore, Sir, you will see that the actual amount reaped last year was below the amount reaped in the year before and the estimated crop for this year amounts to 167,000 tons. Both last year and this year there was what we call below average yield.

I want to take this opportunity to say a word to the Rum industry. I would say that it is advisable that the rum industry should build up their stocks and aid our products

in anticipation of developing markets in the Federation and abroad. Naturally the Government is interested in the export of rum, and also we would like to know that that product is matured when it is exported and that it would give every satisfaction to the users of that product. Here I want to say that this is in connection with the Federation. I remember that in October last year at the last Inter-Governmental Conference we were considering Customs for the area and the point was made specifically - I do not know if it referred to any place in particular - as to the maturing of rum. For that reason I want to take this opportunity to remind the rum industry that to a great extent the very marketing of rum and the customs tariff therefrom will depend upon the maturing of the rum; and since we are asking for the removal of customs tariff on rum from the other units and that rum can be a commodity free of customs duties it is anticipated that in the area alone we might have increased sales. So I repeat that the customs duties plus the sale depends to a great extent on the proper ageing of the rum.

By an improvement in the method of forecasting it is expected that the forecast for the coming year would be fairly accurate. The Government is advised that there was a decrease in the quantity of rum produced in 1960; and again the number of wine gallons today is 1,695,039 as compared with 1,838,417 gallons for 1959. Rum on which duty was paid for local consumption showed an increase from 404,971 wine gallons in 1959 to 411,154 in 1960. That shows that Barbadians are again showing preference for the taste of the home product, and that is very commendable.

Going back to the quantities and values of export of sugar and sugar products in 1959 and 1960, we find that sugar exported was 156,826 tons and the value f.o.b. was \$31,042,845 in 1959 as against 1960 when the quantity was 129,676 and the f.o.b. value was \$26,764,332. As regards Fancy Molasses in 1959 3,597,521 gallons were exported and the value f.o.b. was \$2,835,939. In 1960 the quantity was 3,144,327 gallons and the f.o.b. value was \$2,480,205. When we come to the V.P Molasses in 1959 the quantity was 6,249,591 gallons exported, and the f.o.b. value was \$1,312,217 as against 1960 when the quantity exported was 4,666,631 gallons and the f.o.b. value was \$695,607. 2.55 p.m.

The rum exported was 757,404 gallons and the value of that was \$2,149,676 in 1959, and in 1960 there was a slight increase. The amount exported therefore was 790,000 gallons and the value f.o.b. was \$2,415,067.

The amount of confectionery exported in 1959 was 208,914 lbs. and the value of it was \$76,482 as against in 1960 when there was a slight increase, 383,690 lbs. and the value of that was \$147,717.

The value of the exports of soap, margarine and lard rose from \$973,024 in 1959 to \$1,109,638 in 1960.

The total value of domestic exports in 1960 was \$34.9 million as compared with \$39.7 million in 1959; and the total value of our imports reached the record figure of \$83.3 million, exceeding that of our gross exports by \$42.4 million as compared with a visible trade gap of \$28.1 million in 1959. So Sir, from these figures, you will see that we have been importing far more especially during the last year than we have been exporting. The trade gap is also widening and stood at \$28.1 million in 1959.

In 1960, 35,535 tourists arrived in the island as against 30,249 in 1959, an increase of 5,286 as compared with one of 5,304 last year. Approximately half the number of tourists were from North America and Venezuela. The total expenditure by tourists was estimated to be over \$14 million (B.W.I.) in 1960 as compared with \$12 million the previous year. That is a gain of \$2 million which we hope will recur from year to year.

Remittances from persons abroad through the Post Office and other channels totalled \$6 million (B.W.I.) in 1960 as against \$5.6 million in 1959.

Emigration to the United Kingdom rose from 1,154 in 1959 to 4,194 in 1960, and migration to the U.S.A. under the Farm Labour Programme rose from 1,128 in 1959 to 1,275 in 1960. So we see that the increase to the United Kingdom is quite considerable, and there was a slight increase of migrants to the United States of America.

We come now to the Government Savings Bank. The total deposits in the Government Savings Bank in 1960 fell by \$260,000 as compared with a rise of \$793,000 in the previous year. It is worthy of note that in the commercial Banks savings again rose by \$900,000. Of course it is felt that the fall in deposits at the Government Savings Bank is accounted for by withdrawals for investment capital. The fall in deposits at the Government Savings Bank is probably also as a result of better facilities which are now being afforded to customers of all classes by these institutions; I believe the Commercial Savings Banks are giving more and better facilities to saving depositors than they gave formerly, and as I have been informed they are also facilitating the small depositors who formerly depended on the Savings Bank and give them greater facilities by way of loans and things of that nature.
3.05 p.m.

I will take this opportunity to say that Government is watching the credit situation in respect of which some limits may have to be prescribed. Wide extensions to credit and high rate of interest for the purchases of imports of certain consumer goods cannot be of real benefit to the community.

This is a situation which should be watched and I notice that in Jamaica quite recently that they were faced with a similar situation and they had to take notice of it. Even the United Kingdom recently was faced with a similar situation and it took notice of it; therefore, in a small community such as ours that must be noticed by Government.

To enable capital development to continue, the Government has spent considerable sums in the anticipation of the raising of loans. On the 1st April, 1960 the net amount of advances pending the raising of loans by the Government was \$1.4 million. During 1960-61, it is estimated that capital expenditure chargeable to loan funds will be \$7 1/2 million and that \$2 3/4 million will be raised by local loans. We have, Sir, to establish some confidence in the local loan raising powers, and the successful raising of this local loan would be positive evidence of the confidence which the people of Barbados has in the Government and its programme.

As the Estimates are prepared and presented well before the end of the financial year, it is not possible to give precise figures for the current year, but the approved and revised estimates for 1960-61 under the principal Heads of Revenue follow. The main reason for the rise in the revised estimates is that the sugar production in 1960 was considerably higher than predicted: 153,688 tons as compared with the forecast of 125,000 tons.

This is a review of the estimates for revenue for the year 1960-61. Under Customs and Excise, the approved estimate was \$10,430,200 and the revised estimate was \$11,825,200; Taxation, the approved estimate was \$8,670,000 and the revised estimate was \$9,282,000; Licences, the approved estimate was \$280,370 and the revised estimate was \$272,924; Fines, the approved estimate was \$21,900 and the revised estimate was the same amount; Rents and Royalties, the approved estimate was \$85,450 and the revised estimate was the same amount; Interest and Redemption, the approved estimate was \$95,255 and the revised estimate was \$172,976.

Then we come to the Net Revenue from Government Commercial Undertakings, the approved estimate was \$85,666 and the revised estimate was the same amount; Revenue from Government Departments and Services, the approved estimate was \$2,495,917, and the revised estimate was \$2,569,367; and Special Receipts, the approved esti-

mate was \$38,320 and the revised estimate \$370,260. These figures give a total, for the approved estimate of \$22,183,078 and for the revised estimate of \$24,685,743.

We have just dealt with the summary of the approved and revised estimates of revenue for 1960-61. We will now deal with a summary of the approved and revised estimates of expenditure for the same year. Under the Heads, Governor, Secretariat, Legal, Registration, Legislature, Judiciary, Barbados Regiment and Crown Solicitor, the approved estimate was \$1,062,781 and the revised estimate was \$1,085,781. That shows an increase. Under the Heads Contributions and Grants, Miscellaneous, the approved estimate was \$1,424,457 and the revised estimate was \$1,712,859. Federation, the approved estimate was \$780,326 and the revised estimate remains the same. There is no change. We come to Accountant General, Auditor General, Customs, Fire Brigade, Police, Ecclesiastical, Pensions, Charges of Debt, Inland Revenue, Statistical Service and Local Government, and together the approved estimate was \$5,416,105 and the revised estimate was \$5,601,573. Again, Sir, I want hon. members to know that there is an increase in the revised estimate over the approved estimate. Labour, Control and Subsidies, the approved estimate is \$854,885 and the revised estimate was \$1,264,997. Markets, Science and Agriculture and Peasants' Loan Bank, the approved estimate was \$1,219,788 and the revised estimate was \$1,218,307. You will note that in this case the revised estimate was slightly below that of the approved estimate. Under the Heads, Prisons, Industrial Schools, Medical, Old Age Pensions, Social Welfare and Public Assistance Board, the approved estimate was \$3,994,403 and the revised estimate was \$3,904,408. There is a decrease in the revised estimate as against the approved estimate. Under the Heads, Harbour and Shipping, Printing Office, Lighthouses, Public Works, Highways and Transport, Civil Aviation, Electrical Inspection, Housing, Transport Services, Waterworks and Town and Country Planning, the approved estimate was \$4,168,301 and the revised estimate was \$4,107,575. Under the Heads Education, Public Library, the approved estimate was \$4,039,559 and the revised estimate was \$3,896,247.
3.15 p.m.

The total under the head of expenditure for 1960-61 of the Approved Estimates is \$22,960,605 and the Revised Estimates was \$23,572,073. There is an increase under the first few Heads and under some Heads the amount is less. It is seen that the visible trade drop is due more to the increase in imports than by the fall in exports. The chief rise in imports were machinery and vehicles 3.7 million dollars, manufacturers 3.1 million dollars, raw material \$700,000, food \$700,000, fuel \$200,000. I think that this is proof positive that imports cannot be maintained at their record high figure of three and a quarter million dollars without further large investments in the island and a substantial increase in the cost of services. Barbados always spends more than it produces. We want a note to be taken of the fact that we are spending far more than we have been producing. As I said earlier, we are hoping, in view of this, to be able to attract further large investments in the island, in order especially to narrow that trade gap which in recent years has become wider.

I think that the Government has done a tremendous amount in establishing the necessary framework and facilities for such investment. The Government has adopted the method of deficit budgeting in lean years but it will be appreciated that comparison with the United Kingdom and Canada in such matters is invaluable. If this island were to spend more than it raised in revenue and by loan we would be bankrupt, and we hope that there will be some improvement with respect to the present difficulties of gilt-edged (including Colonial issues) on the London market. The high rates of interest prevailing make borrowing expensive and underline the importance of undertaking from loan funds only schemes from which there will be adequate returns. The factors affecting the money market are: the widening of the field for trustee investment and fears of irresponsibilities by new Governments on independence. The reputation of Barbados and the West Indies however, will mitigate the last mentioned factor.

I mentioned that because we are often told that, as in big industrialist countries, deficit budgeting is highly desirable, that it is a very good thing to do, and Barbados should adopt a similar system. I have heard that many times before; I have heard it in this House and in other places. The Government wants to draw attention to the fact that while there might be that system encouraged and adopted in big countries which have all sorts of industrial development, certainly the same thing cannot apply to Barbados with our one crop economy. As I said earlier, that sort of thing, if persisted in, in the case of Barbados will certainly lead to bankruptcy. I am sure that none of us in Barbados want to have that sort of thing happening here. We have always been able to pay our way through and we do hope and wish that we would continue to pay our way through. Therefore, that sort of budgeting to which I have referred, has to be very carefully watched.

3.25 p.m.

I want to say for the benefit of hon. members that an errata slip has been circulated with corrected revised estimated under the several group Heads; so each member should have one.

The increase to Contributions and Grants and Miscellaneous of \$1,720,859 was accounted for by contributions to Local Government Councils, hurricane relief in other islands and other supplementary expenditure. As hon. members might have heard, I gave notice a little earlier of a Bill to amend the Local Government Act, having for its object the making of a uniform trade tax which would be applicable to all Councils by, so to speak, pooling all the trade tax, and then provision is made that from that pooling the Local Councils will receive a percentage. This will eventually obviate the subventions given by Government to these Councils.

This has been studied very carefully; we had it under consideration for some time, and we feel sure that if the amendment is passed by the Legislature, it will, I repeat, obviate the provision of subventions by the Government for these Councils. I mention that by the way because the Bill has been laid and we hope to proceed with it in due course.

The increase in the Accountant General's and other Departments under my control to \$5,601,573 is chiefly due to additional customs drawbacks under the Law. I think, Sir, that members are well aware of this system of drawbacks and I do not think I need say any more about it. The increase under Labour etc. from \$854,855 to \$1,264,997 is due to additional expenditure of over \$400,000 on emigration which has already been approved. Well, Sir, I think the Government's stand and practice with regard to emigration especially in recent years to the United Kingdom is very well known. There was a tendency during the last year at least for the numbers to increase as I read a little earlier, and naturally this provision is to help those who require help under the Government scheme.

Now the revised estimate for Social Services is \$3,904,408, and that for Communications and Works is \$4,107,575, and as I said earlier, the total of the revised estimate for expenditure is \$23,572,073. The net return will therefore be a current surplus of over \$1 million. That is most gratifying in view of the needs of the coming financial year.

Hon. members will remember that when we started out this current year, we budgeted for a deficit, but by some means, chiefly the additional 10% on motor cars coming into the island and by other fees, we have been able to turn that deficit into a surplus of a little over \$1 million.

3.35 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we now turn to the estimates for 1961-62.

The estimate of revenue for 1961-62 is \$24,795,780 as compared with \$22,183,078, the approved estimate for 1960-61. Again, in this year 1961-62, we are starting off with a deficit and it would be well to go back for a few

years and see how this revenue increases from year to year so that hon. members will be able to follow how it increases. A little later on when I come to it they will understand how this deficit has occurred. In 1951-52, the revenue was \$13,181,295, in 1952-53, the revenue was \$13,757,830; in 1953-54, it was \$14,916,811; in 1954-55, it was \$16,272,736. In 1955-56, it was \$17,281,545. In 1956-57, it was \$19,124,815. In 1957-58, it was \$20,684,883; in 1958-59, it was \$23,761,801; in 1959-60, it was \$23,157,771. In 1960-61, the revised estimate was \$24,685,743 and in 1961-62, the estimate is \$24,795,780.

Very soon, we will come to the expenditure and when we come to it, you will notice that as the revenue has been increasing, the expenditure has also increased and in many cases in step with that of the revenue. The estimate for the coming year is derived from estimates of \$11,724,000 by the Customs and Excise Department (Head 1), \$8,250,000 from Income Tax, and other revenue of \$4,821,780.

The estimate for Customs and Excise is \$1,293,800 more than the approved estimates for 1960-61, and \$101,200 less than the revised estimates for this year. The estimate for Income Tax is \$250,000 more than the approved estimate for 1960-61 and \$350,000 less than the revised estimate for that year. The estimate of other revenue is \$1,068,902 more than the approved estimate for 1960-61, and \$561,237 more than the revised estimate. The increase in Customs estimate is due to an expected increase in imports and consumer goods and building materials; the income tax estimate takes into account the size of last year's crop. Most of the increase in other revenue over the 1960-61 figure is due to reimbursement by the Port Department of loan charges.

Now, under the Head of Expenditure for 1961-62, the estimate of current expenditure of 26,239,807 is \$3,279,202 more than the approved estimate for the year 1960-61. That has to be noted. There is a big gap between the two years of over \$3 1/4 million.

As in a case of revenue, I will give a summary of the current expenditure over the same period of years. In the year 1951-52, the recurrent expenditure was \$8,900,061, the non-recurrent \$2,110,359 making a total of \$11,010,420. In 1952-53, the recurrent expenditure was \$9,819,016, the recurrent was \$1,604,895 making a total of \$11,423,911. In 1953-54, the recurrent expenditure was \$11,161,928, plus a non-recurrent expenditure of \$1,686,202 making a total of \$12,848,130. In 1954-55, the recurrent expenditure was \$11,504,380 and the non-recurrent expenditure was \$1,163,691 making a total of \$12,668,071. In 1955-56, the recurrent was \$12,190,668 and the non-recurrent was \$1,938,304 making a total of \$14,128,972. In 1956-57, the recurrent was \$14,115,839 and the non-recurrent was \$2,100,703 making a total of \$16,216,542. In 1957-58, the recurrent was \$16,987,496 and the non-recurrent was \$2,283,490 making a total of \$19,270,986. In 1958-59, the recurrent was \$19,100,063, and the non-recurrent was \$1,623,369 making a total of \$20,723,432. In 1959-60, the recurrent was \$19,786,452 and the non-recurrent was \$2,467,029 making a total of \$22,253,481. In 1960-61, Revised Estimate the recurrent was \$22,225,334 and the non-recurrent was \$1,346,739 making a total of \$23,572,073. And now in the 1961-62 (Estimate) the recurrent is \$23,928,406 and the non-recurrent is \$2,311,401 making a total of \$26,239,807.

3.45 p.m.

It will be seen that in the earlier years, in the 1950's there has been more or less a gradual increase in the expenditure, and in the later years, especially from 1959-61 the jump is quite considerable. The estimate of recurrent expenditure for 1961-62 is \$3,279,202 greater than the Approved Estimates for 1960-61. A large part of the increase is for debt charges chiefly on loans to meet the cost of the Deep Water Harbour and connected works. Other factors which contribute to the increase include: provision of \$1 million for loans to emigrants; additional votes for road reconstruction and repairs; more teachers; increments of salaries; increase of the grant to the Tourist

Board to half-a-million dollars; increased allocation to the Training Fund; Pensions; customs drawbacks, the cost of the General Hospital and water pumping expenses. The main increases under Heads of expenditure are: Charges of Debt, \$1,247,175; Labour \$601,358; Highways and Transport \$411,517; Education \$260,547; Subsidies and Grants \$184,533; Miscellaneous Services \$167,046; Pensions \$157,045; Customs \$152,654; Medical \$130,654; Waterworks \$73,527; Police \$42,367; Public Works \$35,365; and Old Age Pensions \$28,204.

The Post Office Estimates are annexed to the Estimates and we come that later on. Now, Sir, it will be seen that these increases under these different Heads are due to increased services, as I have read out. The Government has been spending and is continuing to spend money to grant services to the people as we have always promised. I think earlier in the year that was reflected in the Speech of His Excellency the Governor at the opening of the Legislature for this Session. Therefore, in His Excellency's Speech the forecast which was made and the figures which I have just read out testify to the policy of the Government on that score.

I want to say one or two words under the Head of Old Age Pensions. We know that there has been agitation for an increase in the Old Age Pension. We hear it from members of this House and we read it in the newspapers. I myself got anonymous letters from the public up to week before the last asking me to remember the old age pensioners now that the Budget is being considered. I want to say that there is nobody in Barbados who would be more willing to grant the old age pensioners an increase than we who form this Government. We would be glad to do so; but those members who have been listening to the figures which I have just quoted testifying that there is a steady climb up for the past two years - and so far it has reached the astounding figure of \$3 million - ought to realise, if they have any conscience, that the Government at this stage cannot increase the old age pension. We have either to increase the old age pension and reduce some of these services, or have the services and forego granting an increase to old age pensioners. I know that I would be told that a few years ago - I think it was about 1955 or thereabouts - we asked a gentleman called Prof. Richardson to come to Barbados and advise us on certain aspects of Social Security. I will be reminded, I know, that Prof. Richardson in his report did say that by certain stages the old age pension would be increased - I do not remember the period of time - until we reached a maximum of \$2.40 per week. We have considered this figure and, as I said just now, the Government cannot afford to do that and run these services. Hon. members should let that be clearly understood. As I said, Sir, we either reduce these services and put up old age pensions, or continue to give the services which we are now giving and let the old age pensions stay until a little later.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that hon. members must have heard - and this will testify to the good faith of the Government - that we have now asked the International Co-operation Administration to send us an expert who will stay with us for a period and go into the whole question of old age pensions and public assistance, and to advise us on how best it can be done on contributory basis. Now in all other places I know of old age pensions and social security are a contributory scheme. The employee when he is working has his weekly deductions from his salary, the employer makes his contribution and the Government makes its contribution; but in this case, the Barbados Government makes all the contribution. We want to adopt a more modern system and make it contributory. That gentleman is likely to arrive during this year, but they did not give any fixed time.

As I said, that proves the earnestness of the Government in a concern of this sort. We want to have it done on a modern and up-to-date method as is done in big countries like the United States, Canada and Great Britain.

Now it is generally known, I think, that old people need not suffer; they get the Government contribution and according to the law, they are also entitled, if they prove

their case, to public assistance. If it can be proved that they are in need of certain essential elements of life, public assistance has to come to their aid; so, Sir, I am very glad for this opportunity to make a pronouncement at this stage on the question of old age pensions. If we could do more we would, but we are trying to get some expert to come to us and advise us how to do it on a contributory basis.

Now on the last occasion when I spoke, I made some reference to Government pensions and that we were then very much concerned about the number of pensioners and their rapid increase. We are not saying, Sir, that people who have served this Government should not receive a pension; it is only natural; but what members of this House, members of the Other Place, the general public and I might as well say - and even the Civil Service should take note of - is that people who resign from the Government then go out and get jobs, and thus compete with younger people.

Now I think that you, Sir, and the House are aware of the fact that the age for retirement from the Government Service is 55 years voluntarily and 60 years compulsorily. Until a few years ago, that of Barbados was 60 years and 65 respectively, but at the request of other Governments in the area for the sake of uniformity, we have reduced ours to the figures I have just mentioned.

We know, Sir, that Barbados has a reputation of being a healthy island and that people at 55 years and 60 years are still relatively young and some very active. I myself have passed sixty-five not so long ago and my friend, the hon. junior member for St. James has passed 65, and he looks like a boy of 35 or 40 years. I feel that way myself, Sir, and there are many more of us. Let alone that, with the use of modern drugs, and advice easily available relative to one's health, the span of life in Barbados - I know this from my profession - has increased; and naturally a man asking my friend over there, the hon. junior member for St. James, or myself to retire at 60 years will be doing us an injury. I am quite sure of that.
4.05 p.m.

On the last occasion, last year when I was making my Budget Speech, I referred to the same matter and said that I was asked, and I promised, that I would go into the matter with other Governments of the area. The other Governments concerned - I am thinking of the bigger ones especially - are in a better financial position that we and probably it is not felt to the same extent by them as we do; I am not in a position to make a final report. I thought I would mention it because I may be asked of it again. I want to mention at this stage that I have made approaches to other Governments in the area and the matter is still under consideration.

The Capital Expenditure for 1961-62 - \$10,116,827 is \$1,102,512 less than the approved estimates 1960-61 and \$42,325 more than the revised estimates.

The following is a summary of the Capital estimates:-

Number 1, Deep Water Harbour, Provision in Approved estimates 1960-61, \$4,954,101, expenditure 1959-60, \$6,672,026; provision in supplementary estimates, 1960-61, \$1,184,592; revised estimated expenditure, 1960-61, \$6,083,127. In the Estimates 1961-62, there is a revote of \$55,565; new provision, \$1,744,727; Total, \$1,800,292; proposed to be spent. It will be noted that the work on the Deep Water Harbour is drawing to a close and it is expected to be opened on the 6th May, 1961.

Housing: provision in approved estimates 1960-61, \$350,000; expenditure, 1959-60, \$417,395; revised estimated expenditure 1960-61, \$350,000. In the Estimates 1961-62, there is no revote and there is new provision of \$350,000.

Development Board: provision in approved estimates, 1960-61, \$750,000; expenditure 1959-60, \$720,000; revised estimated expenditure 1960-61, \$750,000. In the Estimates

1961-62, there is no revote but there is new provision of \$1,000,000. In short, we estimate to spend \$1 million on the Development Board this year which is \$250,000 more than last year.

Water Supplies: provision in approved estimates 1960-61, \$501,000; expenditure, 1959-60, \$351,726; revised estimated expenditure, 1960-61, \$345,000. In the Estimates, 1961-62, there is a revote of \$156,000; new provision \$327,000, which makes a total of \$483,000 proposed to be spent on water supplies this year, such as the laying of pipes, the extension of the services and all that sort of thing. We are spending almost \$1/2 million on this service.

Medical Services: provision in approved estimates, 1960-61, \$2,010,200; expenditure 1959-60, \$490,710; provision in supplementary estimates 1960-61, \$387; revised estimated expenditure, 1960-61, \$632,325. In the Estimates, 1961-62, there is a revote of \$1,378,262; new provision of \$471,720; which brings it to a total of \$1,849,982, proposed to be spent.

Education: provision in approved estimates, 1960-61, \$346,578; expenditure 1959-60, \$422,785; provision in supplementary estimates, 1960-61, \$86,696; revised estimated expenditure, 1960-61, \$350,206. In the Estimates, 1961-62, there is a revote of \$82,268; new provision, \$425,157; which makes a total of \$507,425, proposed to be spent on education.

Agriculture: provision in approved estimates 1960-61, \$1,118,092; expenditure, 1959-60, \$416,779; provision in supplementary estimates, 1960-61, \$92,270; revised estimated expenditure, 1960-61, \$335,070. In the estimates of 1961-92, there is a revote of \$824,097; new provision of \$690,969, which makes a total of \$1,515,066, proposed to be spent on agriculture for this year. I think hon. members should refer to the Governor's Speech at the opening of the Session as there is a forecast of how this money is to be spent.
4.15 p.m.

Communications: provision in Approved Estimates 1960-61, \$637,575; expenditure in 1959-60, \$938,396; provision in Supplementary Estimates 1960-61, \$805,909; Revised Estimate \$826,984. In addition there is a revote of \$616,500 and a new provision of \$1,450,100 making a total \$2,066,600. That is the total capital expenditure on Communications; that is for the building and surfacing of roads, extending roads and making them wider where we can.

In the Head "Miscellaneous" the provision in the Approved Estimates 1960-61 is \$142,793; expenditure in 1959-60, \$217,089; provision in Supplementary Estimates 1960-61, \$98,674; Revised Estimated expenditure 1960-61, \$235,152; there is to be revoted \$4,307, and a new provision of \$297,793, making a total of \$302,100.

Under the Head "Road Transport" the provision in the Approved Estimates 1960-61 is \$409,000; Revised Estimated Expenditure 1960-61, \$166,638; there is a revote of \$242,362, and the total expenditure is \$242,362. That gives a total capital expenditure for this year of \$10,116,827.

The Estimates of Expenditure are both forecasts of sums needed and, when approved, the basis of authority for expenditure. Because of their latter function, it is inevitable, especially with capital construction works continuing over a number of years, that delays in the supply of materials or equipment or in the negotiations for the purchase of properties or revision of plans should lead to requests for revotes. The money to do these things, to order material, was voted this year, but because of unforeseen circumstances the money could not be spent, and therefore it has to be revoted in the following year. That is why the amount for revotes seem to be so great. To give an instance, the work has had to be suspended, as you know, for a few months on the Hospital because the steel girders did not arrive in time. This material has just begun to arrive and therefore there will be a revote for these steel girders.

We come now to the Deep Water Harbour. We are told that the Deep Water Harbour will be completed by May, three and a half months before the date for completion in the contract. The bulk sugar installation is already receiving sugar. It is expected that on Friday, that is tomorrow, we will load the first portion to go to the United Kingdom. Further as regards the Deep Water Harbour, in the contract made with Messrs Richard Costain (West Indies) Ltd., in 1957, the total cost of the contract works was estimated at £3,681,453, which is in the vicinity of \$17.67 million. This amount however included provisional sums totalling \$2.16 million for the bulk sugar and molasses installations and the net estimate was therefore \$15 1/2 million. Increases in wages and prices of materials and additional works such as a third transit shed have increased the estimated cost by \$2 million and the estimate is now \$17 1/2 million. We are not in the position to say at this point whether \$17 1/2 million represents the total, but that is the latest figure which we have. The bulk sugar handling equipment and store which are being paid for from the Sugar Industry Price Stabilization Fund, are estimated to cost \$4.6 million.

The cost of the Harbour is being paid for from loan funds, \$12 million of which have already been raised in London. Pending the raising of further loans to cover the balance of the cost, temporary finance is being afforded from available funds. By the end of the financial year 1959-60 approximately \$14 million had been paid to the contractors; it is expected that most of the remainder of the cost will have been paid by 31st March, 1961. In short, the first estimate was £5 million. We had already borrowed from the U.K. one half of that, and the other half is still, so to speak, owing to us. Meanwhile we have been advancing payment for the further cost of the Harbour from loan funds. When the £2.5 million is recovered it will be used in other directions.

The estimated cost of the other main items allied to the port construction proper and port facilities, including the cost of the tug, engineering supervision, port buildings, staff houses, and the new quarantine stations is a little over two million dollars. Other related works are estimated to cost about \$2 1/3 million mostly for the purchase of property. Funds for these works are being found from available sources mainly pending the raising of a loan.

Charges on the loans raised to pay for the port construction and equipment, less the cost of reclaimed land which will be under the control of the Ministry of Trade for development purposes (approximately \$2.9 million), will be met from the port revenue.

More than half the provision of \$1,243,892 under Head 1, Item 1 - Harbour, in the Capital Estimates for 1961-62 represents the estimated cost in the financial year of the alignment of roads by the purchase and removal of properties.

In order to get the proper alignment of roads and widen them, we have to buy properties very often and demolish them in order to use the land.

The Estimates include the provision of further capital for the Housing Authority in accordance with the Act.

As I said before, approximately half a million dollars is provided for the development of water resources: for the Hampton Scheme and additional mains and standposts.

The expenditure on tenantry roads, highway improvements, and drainage, has been increased from \$1/2 million to \$877,000, despite the fact that Colonial Development and Welfare Funds are not now available for any of these projects, being reserved for other purposes. Previously we got some assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare; that has now been exhausted and these Funds come directly from Government sources.

Further, Sir, to the question of the Deep Water Harbour, I suppose it is generally known that arrangements have been made with the Sugar Producers' Association

for the operation and maintenance of the bulk sugar store and handling equipment. Similar arrangements are being made with respect to fancy molasses. Arrangements are being made with a Landing and Shipping Company which has been formed for the handling of cargo. The Government proposes to take shares in this Company which will be formed to operate the landing and shipping of cargo. We know that this Landing and Shipping company has been properly incorporated, and the Government proposes to take a certain number of shares in this company and to have a seat on the Directorate obviously to get first-hand knowledge of the operation of this scheme.

Arrangements are being made for the bunkering of ships in the Harbour. There was an advertisement during last year calling for tenders, and the tender was awarded to the Esso Company. Work on the drafts of the various agreements is proceeding, and it is expected that the arrangements will soon be concluded.

With regard to Housing, Sir, the Government wants to announce that a scheme for mortgage insurance is under consideration, and the Government hopes to propose the necessary measures to the House in a few weeks' time. Action is being taken to attract a large amount of overseas capital and know-how which will be required for the development of industries in this island, and as I read earlier, the amount now allotted to the Development Board this year is \$1 million. I think they are getting down a new officer if they have not got him yet, and with his ingenuity and know-how, we hope that the work of the Development Board will be stepped up, and very soon we will see more industries being established in the island.

There is a certain amount of reclaimed land which will accrue to the Government as a result of the building of a Deep Water Harbour, and it is proposed to use this land for industrial purposes connected with the export of manufacture of several products. The land will not be sold.

Now, Sir, our increasing population and the wide extension of water services, is putting considerable pressure on our water resources. That is one of the reasons why we need a geological investigation to advise us on the extent and sources of water on which you can draw. No such examination has been made since Dr. Senn reported fifteen years ago. Further to that, Sir, you will remember that last year and the year before were two successive years of scant rainfall, and that is putting an additional strain on the water resources. As I have said, we are seeking to get further information as to the extent of these resources. 4.35 p.m.

These factors caused the Government to make an announcement a few weeks ago asking consumers to be as sparing as they possibly can in the use of water. We do not want to take any further steps at this stage. If the public will show this cooperation, we will be able to go on; but if no heed is taken, we will have to use other measures to restrict the use of water. We do not want to do anything of that sort if the users of water cooperate and assist the Government in maintaining and retaining a proper water supply.

In the capital provision, as mentioned just now, under Communications, the sum of \$2,066,600 is proposed to be spent and that includes \$1,189,600 for the Airport, the extension to 9,000 ft. of the runway. About 2,000 feet have to be done now. Under runway extension, there is a revote of \$300,000 and a new provision of \$722,000 which makes a total of \$1,022,000 proposed to be spent on the extension. In view of the proposal to extend the runway by 2,000 feet, certain equipment has to be obtained for that purpose.

We come to the general revenue balance. The actual expenditure of the general revenue balance on the 1st April, 1959-60, was \$6,411,774. In 1959-60, there was a surplus on current account of \$904,290 and of the capital expenditure in that year of \$10,646,906 (within the Budget) \$1,521,301 came from the general revenue balance, so that the general revenue balance on the 1st April, 1960 was \$5,794,763.

In 1960-61, we estimate that there will be a current surplus of \$1,113,670 and that of the estimated capital expenditure of \$10,116,827 for the current year, approximately \$2,270,480 will be met from the general revenue balance. So it is anticipated that on the 1st April, 1961, the general revenue balance will be \$4,637,953. The amount of \$1,444,027 of this amount will be used to meet the estimated deficit next year and \$3,193,749 for capital expenditure which cannot be met from any other source.

Further to this question of the General Revenue Balance, I will read this statement. A comparative summary showing the results of these estimates is as follows. The General Revenue Balance on the 1st April, 1959-60, \$6,411,774; the revised estimate for 1960-61, \$5,794,763 and the estimate for 1961-62 is \$4,637,953. Revenue: the actual expenditure for 1959-60 was \$23,157,771; the revised estimate 1960-61, \$24,685,743 and the estimate for 1961-62 is \$24,795,780. Expenditure: the actual expenditure 1959-60 \$22,253,481, the revised estimate for 1960-61, \$23,572,073 and the estimate for 1961-62, \$26,239,807. In the case of 1959-60, there is a surplus of \$904,290 and in the case of 1960-61, the surplus is expected to be from the revised estimate \$1,113,670 but there will be a deficit in 1961-62 of \$1,444,027. Therefore, if we add to the revenue on the General Revenue Balance the surplus for 1959-60 and 1960-61 and subtract the deficit from the General Revenue Balance, you will get an estimate of \$3,193,926 for 1961-62. This is interesting, Sir. The General Revenue Balance on the 31st March, 1959-60 was \$5,794,763 and from the revised estimates for 1960-61, it will be \$4,637,953 and on the 31st March, 1961-62, it is expected to be \$177. 4.45 p.m.

It will be seen that during the last five years approximately \$50 million have been spent on capital projects. About \$28 million of this money has been obtained from general revenue balance, \$3 million from the Colonial Development & Welfare Fund; \$5 1/2 million from the Labour Welfare Fund, and \$4 million from the Sugar Price Stabilization Reserve Fund. The House is aware of the successful carrying out of this tremendous programme and of the great benefits and assets created this capital expenditure. It was inevitable that the greater part of these capital expenditure should be financed from borrowing, and we have carried out successfully the largest programme of loan-raising in the history of the island. That that has been done without affecting adversely the general financial standing of Barbados is an achievement of which we can be proud. To think that there is no limit to the amount of money which we can borrow, and to forget the heavy loan charges, would be a grave error.

Further to the financing policy it is estimated that the whole General Revenue balance will have been spent by the 31st March, 1962, but the Revenue Equalization Fund should be intact and as in the past available for temporary financing.

In accordance with the Resolution passed last year I propose that the first issue of Treasury Bills should be made in April. It will be remembered that a Resolution to that effect was passed during the last year and it will now be implemented. The first issue of Treasury Bills will be made in April. As the amounts required for compensation to port workers and for increases in salaries of Civil Servants have not yet been determined these are not yet included in the Estimates. It is too early to say whether a supplementary budget would be required at this stage having regard to the fact that this is the second successive year in which there will be a below average crop, and as it is desirable that the economy should be allowed to catch its breath — I mean by that that we have had two successive below average crops, last year and the years before — and in economic circles that is a phrase used to indicate that things will catch up, so to speak, and that there will be no need for any great anxiety and worry, and probably in a year or two after that things will come back to their original level. Borrowing that phrase from the economists I use it here, and I repeat that as it is desirable that the economy should be allowed to catch its breath, I do not propose any new taxation, (CHEERS). I think that

we in Barbados, like other big countries, are somewhat worried about this word called "recession", not the word itself, but the application. I am not an economist so that I cannot speak with any authority; I can only add and subtract money. I cannot speak with the authority of the economist, but opinion is divided as regards the possibility and the probability of a recession at this time. Just last week I was reading TIME, an American weekly publication, and I saw that there was an expression of opinion by several economists as to whether or not recession is in the making. As I said, opinion is divided on this question. Mr. Howard Ellis who has just been appointed as the Economic Adviser to President Kennedy thought this: "When you have 7% unemployed is a depression serious enough to demand vigorous action. It may be, if it is over a year, I favour a tax cut immediately." This is the expression of opinion of Mr. Roy Blough of the Columbia University: "Assuming that heavy unemployment does not initiate a downward spiral I would expect business activity to start soon, but I do not see signs of the strong demand needed to stimulate vigorous growth." There is one more opinion expressed by Mr. Kenneth Arrow of Stanford University in the United States. He said: "I would expect the economy to show some improvement by autumn or the end of the year, but there is a need for Government pump-priming — and then unbalancing the budget — until private investment overcomes its static condition." So, Sir, when I read the opinions of these eight or nine people, who are prominent economists in the United States and balanced them against mine which is nil — and some thought as I said before that there was no need for alarm and it would straighten itself out — I thought I would take not the view of the pessimist but the view of the optimist; so as I said just now, I do not propose any new taxation.

That, Sir, is my Budget Speech and at this stage, I now formally beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Hon. M. E. COX: Mr. Speaker, as amendment to that motion, I beg to move that further consideration of this debate be postponed.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: I beg to second that.

The question that further consideration of this debate be postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, you will remember that in accordance with ancient custom, it is necessary at the end of the Budget Speech to introduce a Bill to settle the rates of Income tax. I am asking leave therefore to give notice of a Bill which seeks to settle the rates at which income tax is to be assessed and levied in the year of assessment, 1961.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Premier is asking leave to give notice of a Bill to settle the rates of income tax for

the year 1961. Unless there be any objection, leave will be granted.

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

Hon. Dr. H. G. H. CUMMINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill entitled an Act to settle the Rate of Income for the year 1961 and to make provision for certain other matters in connection with the levying of the said tax be now read a first time.

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

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

OPENING OF THE HARBOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the following letter from the Ministry of Communications, Works and Housing:

"Sir,

I am directed by the Honourable Minister of Communications, Works and Housing to inform you that the S. S. *Diplomat* will be arriving on the morning of Friday 10th March, 1961, to take the first shipment of sugar from the bulk sugar installation.

Notice of the arrival of this vessel has been too short to permit of a formal invitation being extended to Hon. Members of the House of Assembly to be present to witness the loading of the vessel. I should however be grateful if you would inform the Honourable House and extend an invitation to Members who wish to attend to be present at the new Deep Water Harbour at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow.

F. J. ODLE
Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Communications, Works and
Housing,
9th March, 1961."

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, 14th March, 1961, at 12 noon.

Hon. F. E. MILLER: I beg to second that.

Mr. BRANCKER: Mr. Speaker, we are looking forward to cyclostyled copies being available, not later than Saturday of this week, of the Budget Speech of the Hon. Minister of Finance.

The question that this House do now adjourn was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

5.05 p.m.