
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 10th July, 1962.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. o'clock today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. F. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (*Speaker*); Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P. (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. G. V. BATSON, (*Chairman of Committees*); and Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that there are no Minutes yet available; hence none have been circulated.

LETTER FROM Mr. R. C. CHAPMAN

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. R. Clifford Chapman, Solicitor, which reads as follows:-

Pinfold Street,
Bridgetown,
5th July, 1962.

The Clerk,
House of Assembly,
Bridgetown.

Dear Sir,

I am a member of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Board and was so appointed by the Honourable House of Assembly.

It is my intention to leave this Island for a period of approximately three months from the end of this month and I shall be glad if you will place this letter before the Honourable House of Assembly with the request that I be granted leave of absence until the end of November, 1962.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
R. C. CHAPMAN.

That letter, no doubt, will engage the attention of the Honourable Acting Leader of the House, the hon. senior member for Christ Church, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS entered the House and took his seat.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay on behalf of the Hon. Premier the following:

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1962.

The Consumption Tax Regulations, 1962.

Statement showing net Customs and Excise Receipts for the three months ended 30th June, 1962.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour, the following:-

The Customs Duties (Materials and components for the manufacture of wooden toys) Order, 1962.

The Customs Duties (Logs for processing into lumber) Order, 1962.

Mr. LYNCH entered the House and took his seat

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:-

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Resolution to approve that the sum of \$3,600 provided in the Estimates 1962-63, Part I - Current, under Head 47 - Subsidies and Grants, Item 53, West Indies Olympic Association, be used for the purpose of making a grant to the Barbados Olympic Association.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: On behalf of the Hon. Premier:

Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1962" made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the sixth day of July, 1962 under the provisions of section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949.

A Bill to provide for the construction of references to certain public offices as a result of the re-organisation of certain branches of the public service and for other matters incidental thereto.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with the Money Resolution of which notice was given today.

QUESTION

Mr. CARMICHAEL: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware of the proposed sale of Trents Tenantry Land in the parish of St. James?

2. Is Government aware of the harm which threatens tenants of this Land who have been served with notices to quit?

3. Will Government regard this matter as one of extreme urgency, and take immediate steps to investigate this matter, whereby tenants thereon may be given an option to purchase at a reasonable price the lands which they now occupy, or alternatively, ensure that a suitable site be provided for them to occupy?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Bill to provide for the construction of references to certain public offices as a result of the re-organisation of certain branches of the public service and for other matters incidental thereto, was read a first time.

LEAVE GRANTED Mr. R. C. CHAPMAN

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, before the business of the House is proceeded with, I beg to move that three months' leave of absence be granted to Mr. R. C. Chapman from his duties as a member of the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Board as from 1st August, 1962.

- Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. BOXILL and Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took their seats.

Mr. WALCOTT GRANTED FOUR WEEKS' LEAVE

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking that four weeks' leave of absence be granted the hon. senior member for St. Peter as from today.

There being no objection, leave was granted the hon. member.

2.40 p.m.

WELCOME TO Mr. SPEAKER

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, before you proceed with the Orders of the Day, may I be permitted on behalf of my colleagues and myself to extend to Your Honour a warm welcome on your resumption of the Chair after your untoward and unexpected illness. If we were to say that we are delighted to have you back, that might seem to insinuate that during your absence things did not go through satisfactorily; but that is not the case. Your *locum tenens* carried on to the satisfaction of the entire Chamber; so that in saying that we are glad to have you back here in no way reflects adversely on the manner in which he performed the duties during Your Honour's absence. I do hope that no other untoward incident will occur during the remainder of the Session to deprive us of having you in the Chair on every occasion on which this House meets.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I should like to associate myself with the remarks of the Honourable Leader of the House. Unlike him, I would like to say that I am very happy to have you back here because your presence indeed means a lot to us, especially your seniority, and because of the experience which you have gained by being a member of this Assembly for so many years. Indeed when I came back here from England and heard about your illness I was shocked; now that you are with us again, I hope that you will be spared from any accident for a long time in order to preside over the destinies of this House.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the previous speakers. I am more than pleased to see you back here, and as you would know, that is from my heart. I say that I am very glad to see you back here because, during your absence, I was threatened to be put out of it here. That made me very unhappy, but I know, Sir, that it could not happen because your *locum tenens*, the Deputy Speaker, has found himself more than once trying to protect me. Sir, that would not have happened during his term or your term of office because I would not go so far as to break the Rules of this House. I should know when I am breaking the Rules of the House and when I am not breaking them, because I have

had the honour of being in the same Chair as that in which Your Honour is now sitting. I have had the honour to be Deputy Speaker, and Chairman of Committees, and I know that you cannot put out any member from here unless he breaks the Rules of the House. Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that you have regained your strength and your vigour; you look in the best of condition and I am sure that the little rest which you have had has done you a great deal. I repeat: I am very glad to have you back here.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to associate myself with the remarks of other hon. members in congratulating you on your recovery. I may say that there was one who was sick in years of old and through his good conduct the Lord preserved his life for 15 years longer. I must say that from the incident which befell your Honour, I hope you will gain experience because we all realise that chastening is for everyone who has a willing heart. I have missed Your Honour's presence, but I must say that the duties of the House were well carried on. I hope that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph will realise that no chastening seems joyous, but afterwards it yieldeth the peaceful fruits of righteousness to those who are exercised thereby. I am sure that anybody who misbehaves himself will be chastened. I am glad to see you back here to preside over the meetings of this House and I hope that prosperity will be yours as long as you remain with us.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am very grateful to hon. members for what they have said. I like the wish expressed by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew when he wished me prosperity. Perhaps he did hear that one of the tragedies of my accident was that I was uninsured against accident. However, I am very grateful to the three hon. Party Leaders for what they have said. In respect of the hon. member who mentioned a period of 15 years, I should like to say that even if I lived so long, that length of time will not permit me to have reached the allotted span of three score years and ten. In respect of the performance of the duties of this office during my enforced absence, I am more than grateful for what has been said of my colleague and that only confirms what individual members who found time to pay me a visit or to telephone me - and many of them were able to find time to do that - have said, that is that the duties of the office of Speaker were performed by someone who was eminently fit to perform them.

2.50 p.m.

When I enquired what was meant by that, they said that the first letter of each of these words fit the occupant of the Chair in my absence: "F" for "firmness", "I" for "Impartiality" and "T" for "tolerance". I thank hon. members for what they had said, and I am looking forward to an extremely pleasant afternoon today.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Before Your Honour proceeds, Sir, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16 and 18 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting. In suspending these Standing Orders, Sir, which means that Government Business will be given priority at this time, I want to say that that is without prejudice to the understanding we have given to the hon. senior member for the City to proceed at this time, which would normally be Private Members' Time, with a Bill standing in his name, which is No. 14 on the Order Paper under Private Members' Business, and is to move the second reading of a Bill to change the name of the Leeward Island Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and for matters incidental thereto. After he has finished the Bill, we will proceed with Government Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the Hon. Leader of the House is giving notice of his intention immediately Order No. 14 is completed, that the Standing Orders be suspended for this sitting. In view of that, the hon. member has given notice of what his intention is; but still at this stage, I have to deal with the various Orders as they stand under Private Members' Business. Let the hon. member make the motion that those Standing Orders be suspended now.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16 and 18 be suspended for today's entire Sitting.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 14 under Private Members' Business standing in the name of the hon. senior member for the City be taken as the first Order of the Day.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would suggest to the Hon. Leader of the House that instead of that motion, he should move that Private Members' Business be now taken. If that motion is carried, then the hon. senior member for the City will, I take it, move that Order No. 14 be the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I am quite clear about that, Your Honour. A motion like that might imply that other Private Members can carry on when the hon. member is finished. The principle underlying the request for suspension of the Standing Orders is that we are only giving the hon. member permission to deal with his Bill. It is not controversial, and it is a clear undertaking that at the ending of that, immediately we will go on with Government Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, then, the hon. member may move that Private Members' Business be now taken with a view only to dealing with Order No. 14.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: That is the motion I made before, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not quite.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: As Your Honour pleases. I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken, and that it be an undertaking that only Order No. 14 be dealt with at this time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Item No. 14 under Private Members' Business may now be proceeded with, and no other item under Private Members' Business in view of the Suspension.

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-ADVENTISTS (CHANGE OF NAME) ACT, 1962.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 14 under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. senior member for the City: to move the second reading of a Bill to change the name of the Leeward Islands Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and for matters incidental thereto.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple and short Bill. As the title of the Bill points out, it is an Act to change the name of the Leeward Islands Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to the East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and for matters incidental thereto.

I suppose Barbadians are known for their tolerance of religious rights, and I do not think any member of this Chamber would in any way have any objection to any sect or body or religious Organisation changing from one name to another as long as they are not infringing or breaking the laws of the country.

I therefore have much pleasure in moving that this Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. LYNCH: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: (To Mr. MILLER:) You know so much about the Standing Orders.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member could not be addressing the Chair. I must know about the Standing Orders. If the hon. member said "you", he therefore must have been addressing the Chair.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg your pardon, Sir. I had no intention of addressing the Chair in that manner, because I know the Chair knows all about the Standing Orders. That was only an aside.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that no asides were allowed when I was not in the Chair.

Mr. MOTTLEY: And they should not be allowed now, Sir!

Mr. SPEAKER: Exactly.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I forgot that all Private Members' Bills must go to Select Committee, and it is Your Honour's right to appoint that Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have much pleasure in inviting the following hon. members to serve on this Committee:

The hon. senior member for the City, (Leader of the Opposition); the hon. junior member for the City; the hon. junior member for St. George; the hon. junior member for St. Andrew and the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Those members shall comprise this Select Committee, 3.00 p.m.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I think that this is a rather unusual thing happening today. This is the time of Private Members' Business and I would be put in a rather awkward position. May I pinch this opportunity to welcome Your Honour back in your dignified position since your illness and to say how happy we all feel to know that you have completely recovered.

Mr. SPEAKER: I appreciate that very much and I know that the hon. member will be glad to learn that hon. members have already welcomed me back.

Mr. MILLER: However, Sir, this is a rather unusual procedure today. We are not accustomed to it. The Hon. Leader of the House had a cross discussion with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and then suspended the Standing Orders of the House and by so doing has created a complete denial of the rights and privileges of hon. members of this House.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. On what motion is the hon. member speaking?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. George rose and he began to say something. I was listening to satisfy myself as to what he was saying before I asked him to desist.

The hon. senior member for St. Philip has risen on a point of order. What is the point of order?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I merely sought to enquire on what motion was the hon. junior member for St. George addressing the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member did not make a motion, and I thought that I should hear something so as to get an inkling before I ruled.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: My impression of the matter is that before the hon. member began to say something, he should inform the House on what motion he intended to say something.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. George who is an experienced member of Parliament just as the Hon. Leader of the House began by welcoming the Speaker back to the Chair and apologising for not being present when that was done. In so far as that is concerned, I extended his indulgence. Well then, he began to say something else and it was at that stage which the Hon. Leader of the House rose.

Mr. MILLER: Sir, I am going to use a point of privilege for addressing you. I am unhappy at what is taking place in Parliament today in that the Hon. Leader of the House is questioning Your Honour on what I was speaking.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House rose on a point of order to ask on what motion you were speaking.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate. We are reaching a sorry and unhappy pass. I sat and listened to the Hon. Leader of the House suspending all the Rules of this Chamber now that we should be dealing with Private Members' Business. The House is still in the time of Private Members' Business. Your Honour had to draw to his attention that it is Private Members' Business time. Even if the Hon. Leader of the House took the opportunity then to move Standing Orders, he should tell this House what numbers of the Order Paper should be discussed on the suspension of those Standing Orders.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. MILLER: I am on a point of privilege. You will forgive me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I say this: the hon. junior member for St. George has risen on a point of privilege which seems to me on a point of order. As I understand it, his point of privilege is concisely and succinctly that all normal business is proceeded with before the suspension of certain Standing Orders, but there was a clear proviso made that in respect of Private Members' Business only one matter might be proceeded with; otherwise, I gather that Government would not have agreed to Private Members' Business at all if there was not that proviso that only that item of Private Members' Business which has already been completed may be proceeded with. Therefore, Private Members' Business, which is only Item No. 14, has been completed with the result of the moving of this motion for the suspension of these Standing Orders.

Mr. MILLER: Permit me, Sir, to say a few words.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, I rise on a point of order. I want to clarify the position and thus save the hon. member some time.

Mr. MILLER: Let me decide whether I should save him some time.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The hon. junior member for St. George is completely under the misapprehension that this Government is now usurping the right of conducting their business in Private Members' time and not allowing them to conduct their business in the allotted time. When we came in here earlier today, the hon. junior member for St. George was not in his place. There were no replies to questions. If the hon. member were here, we would have consulted with him in the same way as we consulted with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to find out whether he wanted anything done under Private Members' Business. In other words, I had already had intimation from the hon. senior member for the City that he intended to utilise his right to deal with Item No. 14 on the Order Paper today and if the hon. junior member for St. George was in here and he had intimated that he wanted to do something under Private Members' Business, he would have had the right to proceed with it.

It is not fair for him to decide that we are doing something to destroy the democratic rights of hon. members. We consulted with the Party Leader of the Opposition, and certainly if the hon. junior member for St. George were here, we would have consulted immediately with him. Therefore, having understood from the Hon. Leader of the other Opposition Party what he wanted to do, we agreed to it and then we agreed to go to Government Business.

Mr. MILLER: Sir, I am under no misapprehension at all. Probably something is wrong or is going wrong with the Hon. Leader of the House. I was not here when the House started, but I was here before the motion for the suspension was put. If the Hon. Leader of the House wanted to discuss that matter with me, surely he could have done so; but you get this sort of dictatorship going on. I was here ten or fifteen minutes before he put the motion.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The hon. member was not in here any ten or fifteen minutes before I put the motion.

Mr. MILLER: I was in this place before the motion was put. How did I know it was a motion? The decision was taken when it was decided that you should deal with one item of Private Members' Business and then to discuss Government Business. That was done without consideration of anybody else but the two hon. members.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: That is not true.

Mr. MILLER: Are you telling me that the truth with you is now an experiment?
3.10 p.m.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: That is not true.

Mr. MILLER: Are you saying that the truth with you should now be an experiment?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been consulting the Clerk who advises me that, according to the records, the hon. junior member for St. George arrived and took his seat in this Chamber today. I will read from the official records of this House:-

"The Hon. Leader of the House moved, and the hon. senior member for Christ Church seconded, that Rules Nos. 5, 14, 16 and 18 be suspended for the remainder of the day."

The hon. junior member for St. George took his seat and then the question was put. All voices responded "Aye"; no voices responded "No". That is the official record. That is agreed to by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the House.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, there is bound to be some mistake in the Minutes. The hon. senior member for the City got up to interrupt the Hon. Leader of the House and he was asked to wait a moment. Even then he did not know that he would have been given an opportunity to deal with the item.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. That is not so. It is not correct to say what the hon. member has said. The Hon. Leader of the House consulted me that he was going to move the suspension of the Rules and he intimated that if I wanted to deal with the Seventh-Day Adventist Bill I would be given the opportunity to do it. The Minutes are correct as to when the hon. member came in.

Mr. MILLER: I expected the hon. member to say that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Do not let the hon. member tell me that he expected me to say that. (ASIDES) That is not true.

Mr. SPEAKER: The business of this Chamber must be conducted properly. The motion has been carried for the suspension of the Standing Orders. (ASIDES)

Mr. MOTTLEY: Who is lying more than you?

Mr. SPEAKER: There are indications of disorder and if these indications prove to be justified, with the power I

have in my hand I will not hesitate to use it. That may involve us returning here another day this week earlier than that for which we provided. I am suggesting that since the House agreed to the suspension of the Standing Orders, despite such suspension, since the hon. junior member for St. George was not here in time for prayers, the hon. member would agree to have a word with the Clerk or with the Hon. Leader of the House about some matter with which he wishes to deal. The Standing Orders have been suspended, and I would suggest to the hon. member, who is obedient to the Chair, that he should have a word with the Chair.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The House has already agreed that the only item to be dealt with under Private Members' Business is Item No. 14.

Mr. SPEAKER: That might give a lead that another uncontroversial matter might be similarly dealt with.

Mr. MILLER: If you call it a compromise, I would accept that; but it is the same thing to which I am objecting. The time for Private Members' Business must end at 4.30 p.m. of the clock. I was not in here for prayers, but a long time after that I hinted to the hon. senior member for the City who hinted to the Hon. Leader of the House.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. That is a lie. I had already spoken to the Hon. Leader of the House. It is not that I was taking any chances. I was not going to allow the Hon. Leader of the House to do that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the word "lie" was a deviation from "prevarication."

Mr. MOTTLEY: I call it an absolute, unadulterated lie - and that is not unparliamentary.

Mr. MILLER: I am asking the hon. member to withdraw that, is the Clerk, the hon. senior member for the City and the Hon. Leader of the House addressing the Chair at the same time?

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to remind the hon. member that at any time the Clerk can have a word with me. And it appears to me that I will have to be on my feet all afternoon.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order.....

Mr. MILLER: The hon. senior member for the City has to withdraw that remark and the word "prevarication" is still unparliamentary. I still feel that it is unparliamentary.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought that the hon. member said "prevarication".

Mr. MOTTLEY: No, I did not, 3.20 p.m.

Mr. MILLER: As I was saying, Sir, it has happened in here on many occasions where the Standing Orders have been suspended and no consideration is given. I was in my place before the motion was put by the Leader of the House.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, if the hon. member was in his place before the motion was put, why did he not vote against it?

Mr. MILLER: What is the use of voting against it when he knows he is sure of his numbers? What farce is he telling me about voting against it?

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems that the duet has become the method of address in this Chamber since I was last here; but, may I say this; that the hon. junior member for St. George having conceded that he was in his place, as the records demonstrate, when the vote was taken, and there were all "Ayes", and there was not even a single "No", it could not be said that there was a single dissentient voice whereby Private Members' Business might still be carried on? Therefore the decision was that Private Members' Business other than Order No. 14 might not be carried on.

The hon. junior member for St. George admitted that he was not here for prayers. Had he been here for prayers, he might be adopting with great respect a different attitude than he is now adopting, had he been in time to hear our Chaplain pray for us all and for the good conduct of this meeting. We will proceed now in accordance with the suspension of the Standing Orders in respect of which there was not a dissentient voice heard by me, in respect of which there is no dissent recorded, and in respect of which no division was asked for when it was declared "the Ayes have it". I will now hear the Hon. Leader of the House on the Standing Orders as specified by the motion, namely, Nos. 5, 14, 16 and 18.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member did not say "on a point of order".

Mr. MILLER: It would not matter if I said on a point of privilege or on a point of explanation.

I am myself very concerned with Your Honour's health, and most of the time you have been on your feet. I know the doctor would expect you to be on the cushion. I think I have it clear in my mind that what the Hon. Leader of the House meant was that if I had indicated any desire or a preference to discuss an item under Private Members' Business.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion passed without a dissentient voice.

Mr. MILLER: The motion was passed before a decision was taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion has been passed that the Standing Orders be suspended. There being no dissentient voice, they have been suspended.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I see that you are about to put the question, but on a point of explanation, I was not in the House; but from what I have gathered since I have returned, there is a motion that Government Business will be resumed after the priority given to the hon. senior member for the City to carry on with his Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Without prejudice to that Bill which has been completed. It took only five minutes to do the second reading, and then it was sent to Select Committee.

The question that Mr. SPEAKER do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1962-63 No. 11

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, in last year's Estimates 1961-62, it was decided that \$11,000 out of a total of \$19,000 would be spent on the erection of a Nurses' changing room at the Mental Hospital. That amount of \$11,000 was earmarked by the Public Works Department as the amount they would have spent for the financial year 1961-62. At the end of the financial year 31st March, 1962, the sum of \$7,650.16 was spent, leaving a remainder of \$3,349.84 which lapsed. In the Estimates for the financial year 1962-63, an amount of \$8,000 was voted to complete the construction of this block, and now that it is about being completed, we are asking for a revote of approximately \$3,350 to complete the financial obligations of constructing this block. This, I am sure, will hardly meet with any op-

position even from some of the greatest oppositionists we have in this Honourable Chamber, because it is simply a revote.

I have great pleasure in moving that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1962-63 No. 12

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: This Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is to provide the sum of \$23,270 to purchase an additional crash tender for Seawell Airport. Hon. members will see from the Addendum that on 7th December, 1960, a token vote of \$1.00 was provided to enable an order to be placed on the Crown Agents for this Tender. The Tender has now come and therefore we have to have the money to pay for it.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.
3.30 p.m.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I just would like to say that I remember when we passed this token vote of \$1.00 for this crash tender, I wonder if the Hon. Leader of the House is in position to give us something by way of details. You are now asking for the sum of \$23,270. I am aware that in the Estimates of 1961, there was some change to that amount. If there is any indication of any differential between the estimates then and this estimate as to the cost of this equipment, will the Hon. Minister give us the details?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, the position is that the sum of \$1,060 was provided in the Estimates of 1961-62 for the purchase of fire equipment such as extinguishers and hoses for Government offices, schools and other places, and as I said earlier, the House provided a token vote of \$1.00 merely to provide that this order for a crash tender be placed with the Crown Agents. When the tender came, the bill was sent in and the amount is for what is asked in this Resolution. When the House voted the token vote of \$1.00, there was no question as to what the cost of the tender was. The House by granting the token vote merely supported the suggestion of the purchase of the equipment. Now it has been delivered, they have sent the bill for it and since there was no inclusion for the cost of this tender in the Estimate of 1962-63, we have to get a supplementary Resolution.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, can the Hon. Minister tell us what the tender costs? What is stated in the 1960-61 Estimates was part of the last Government's Five Year Plan and I think the Hon. Minister would remember that if he followed what the last Government recommended, I am simply asking for the cost of this tender because I would like to know for my own interest what this unit costs in the United Kingdom. It is not necessary for the Hon. Minister to talk shop and go all around. That is not necessary to the question which I have asked him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is.....

Mr. MILLER: You cannot do that, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am not sitting down here to allow any member to waste any time.

Mr. MILLER: I have asked the Hon. Minister of Trade a question and I would like to get an answer.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I will like to draw the attention of the hon. junior member for St. George to Standing Order No. 36, and I would invoke this Rule if he attempts to disrespect this Chair.

Mr. MILLER: I simply asked the Hon. Leader of the House for some information. Why talk of disrespecting the Chair?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We are going to abide by the Rules.

Mr. MILLER: Surely, we are going to abide by the Rules. I just asked the Hon. Leader of the House for some vital information and instead of your waiting for the answer to be given, you have attempted to put the question and you are now telling me something of the Rules. The least the Hon. Minister can do is to provide the information. I do not think he knows where it is. Why are you putting the question before the information is given? Let the Hon. Minister say that the information is not available and he would get it next week or next month. You are telling me about disrespecting the Chair. You must follow the Rules. I will be on my feet until the Skipper comes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. junior member for St. George sit if he desires the information?

Mr. MILLER: I have been sitting for a long time.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The hon. junior member for St. George asked for some information and then he went on to say that I would not know where to find it: so I expected that he did not want an answer.

Mr. MILLER: I have the right to ask the Hon. Minister in charge of a particular item to supply this House with information. The Hon. Leader of this House has come here with a Resolution to provide him with \$23,270 to pay for a crash tender. I am simply asking him to tell this House what this tender costs, and instead of the hon. member attempting to bamboozle and talk all around the House, he can give us the information. If he does not have the information, let him say so. I do not know if he wants hon. members on this side to believe that he is a walking encyclopaedia. Let the hon. member tell me that the information is not available and that he will let me know what it costs next week or week after next. I have a right to ask for the information. You get the Chairman showing to the Committee that he is a Party man and he attempts to put the question. If the Chairman knows nothing about the Rules, he should be taught.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I would not have the hon. member asking me about the Rules. He knows nothing of the Rules. If he knew, he would be sitting now.

Mr. MILLER: I have come around to the realisation that I must respect the Chair. I will hate to think that I disrespect the Chair, and if that is possible, for that reason I will ask that you bring Mr. Speaker to give a ruling on this matter. I want the information which I asked for. Certainly, the Hon. Minister can tell us what it costs, and if the information is not available on the files now, he can say so and tell us that he is going to bring it in next week or week after next. But he is bound to give us the information.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member willing to hear the information?

Mr. MILLER: Very much so.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Well, will he sit and listen?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I have already told the Committee what the tender costs. The cost of the tender is \$23,269.84. There is no comparison or no differential in the cost during the period 1960 and 1962. A little child could have understood what I said.
3.40 p.m.

In 1960 when the House passed a token vote of \$1 there was not question of knowing what the tender would cost. The House accepted the principle of ordering this tender and it was ordered, but it takes time for these things to be delivered. Now that this tender has been delivered we have the bill. (ASIDES)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for St. George has asked for information and now that the Hon. Minister is supplying that information, the hon. member is talking in asides.

Mr. MILLER: I am listening to the Hon. Minister.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: As I was saying, Sir, there is no question of differentiation between what this crash tender cost in 1960 and what it costs now. A token vote means that when you pass such a vote for one dollar you agree to the placing of the order. When the item comes, you then come to the House for the Resolution to get the money to pay for the item. I cannot tell the hon. member what were the freight costs in 1960, and whether they were more or less than in 1962 does not arise at all.

Mr. MILLER: The hon. member had a lot to say but he has failed to give the information. He says that the cost of this tender is \$23,000 odd which is the gross cost of it. I have the right to ask for a break down of this money. The hon. member has failed to give us that information. What does the unit cost on the docks of London? Can you say what is the freight cost of this unit? Are you going to give that information? I am not asking for it in respect of 1960 because this item was not shipped then, I am asking what it costs today. Is there anything wrong in asking for this information?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, whenever the hon. member asks a question he will get a reply to what he asks. His first question was to explain to the Committee what was the differential in freight costs in 1960 and in 1962; therefore I explained to him that there was no question of our knowing what the freight costs in 1960 were. If he wants the freight costs in 1962, I can give him that information. The freight costs in 1962 were \$2,905.82 and the inspection charges were \$201.62. In other words, the tender costs \$20,162.40, the freight charges cost \$2,905.82, inspection charges \$201.62 total \$23,269.84 cost for this year. I do not know what the freight costs were in 1960.

Mr. MILLER: I thank you very much. I know you had trouble to locate that.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

The CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA in each case, the Resolutions passed in Committee were read a first and second time and agreed to.

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier:- To move the second reading of a Bill entitled the Development Loans (United Kingdom Government) Bill 1962.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, that Bill cannot be proceeded with until the Other Place has approved of the Development Programme. I am therefore asking leave that Order No. 5 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE RUM DUTY (MANUFACTURE OR PREPARATION IN BOND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS"

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day now stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Development, Trade,

Industry and Labour:- to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled "The Rum Duty (Manufacture or Preparation in Bond) (Amendment) Regulations, 1962" made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 21st March, 1962, under the provisions of section 110 of the Rum Duty Act, 1906.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is a Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled "The Rum Duty (Manufacture of Preparation in Bond) (Amendment) Regulations, 1962" made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 21st March, 1962, under the provisions of section 110 of the Rum Duty Act, 1906.

Hon. members are aware that we have actually laid these Regulations on the Table of the House.

Regulation 2 of the Rum Duty (Manufacture or Preparation in Bond) Regulations, 1934, provides that any persons intending to manufacture or prepare in bond any article requiring rum in its manufacture or preparation shall first obtain the approval of the Comptroller of Customs of the factory or place in which it is proposed to carry on such manufacture or preparation and shall also obtain a licence in that behalf under the provisions of section 92 of the Trade Act, 1910.

The 1910 Trade Act will be repealed when the omnibus Customs Bill which we passed earlier this year comes into effect; so that the provisions of Section 92 of the old Act 1910 will not be retained.
3.50 p.m.

Therefore, Sir, these Regulations which we have before us seek to include the provisions of Section 92 of the old 1910 Trade Act.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) REGULATIONS, 1962.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 6 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. John whom I observe is not in his place.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking for leave to deal with the Resolution standing in the name of the Hon. Premier, and unless there be any objection leave will be granted.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: This Resolution, Mr. Speaker, is another Resolution seeking the approval of Regulations in connection with pensions. The 1962 Pensions (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, were made on the 22nd June, this year under the provisions of Section 3 of the Pensions Act, 1947 (1947-20), and the obvious thing to do now is to seek the approval of the Legislature to these Regulations and to amend the First Schedule to the Pensions Regulations, 1947 by adding thereto the title "Somaliland".

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works, Housing and Tourism, whom I observe is not in his place.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with this Resolution in the absence of the Minister of Communications, Works, Housing and Tourism.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries is asking leave to take the Resolution standing in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works, Housing and Tourism, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in these three proposed acquisitions as set out in the Addendum, good and marketable titles cannot be furnished, and it is necessary to resort to compulsory acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act, 1949. These acquisitions are for the purpose of highway improvement at Eastmond Corner, Hindsbury Road, St. Michael. The Resolution is that the House of Assembly approve the compulsory acquisition by the Governor-in-Executive Committee of the lands described in the Schedule hereto for public purposes, namely, for Highway Improvement.

As the Addendum sets out, the description of the respective parcels of land set out in the Schedule are:

FIRSTLY ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land situate at Hindsbury Road in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island containing by admeasurement 1,780 square feet or thereabouts abutting and bounding on lands of the Barbados Light and Power Co. Limited, on lands of Ena Eastmond, on lands of L. H. Alleyne and on two public roads known as Hindsbury Road and Bridge Road or however else the same may abut and bound together with the buildings and erections thereon and thereto belonging.

SECONDLY ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land (being part of a larger area the property of the Estate of James Jones, deceased) situate at Hindsbury Road in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island containing by admeasurement 60 square feet or thereabouts abutting and bounding on two sides on lands now or late of the Estate of James Jones deceased, on lands formerly of D. L. Emtage but now of the Executive Committee and on the public road known as Hindsbury Road or however else the same may abut and bound.

THIRDLY ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land (being part of a larger area the property of Joseph Foster) situate at Hindsbury Road in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island containing by admeasurement 42 square feet or thereabouts abutting and bounding on lands now or late of Julian Nicholls, deceased, on lands of Joseph Foster, on lands formerly of Harold Proverbs but now of the Executive Committee, and on the public road known as Hindsbury Road or however else the same may abut and bound.

I may mention, Sir, that this land is for Highway Improvement, and in order for the Governor-in-Executive Committee to acquire same, it has to be approved by both Houses of the Legislature. Hon. members may want to know what price is being paid; so in order to satisfy hon. members, I am supplying the prices right now. For the first parcel of land which is 1,780 square feet and the building on it, the price is \$7,000. For the second parcel of land which is about 60 square feet, the price is \$120.....

Mr. SPEAKER: There was a question asked which I do not think the Minister heard, as to what is the price per square foot for the land.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am giving the hon. member the price of the property in the first case and the price of the other two parcels of land respectively; so if he wants the price per square foot, I am not a Real Estate man, and if he is a Real Estate dealer, let him ask someone else.
4.00 p.m.

If he wants to work out the square feet, that is a matter for him.

Mr. SPEAKER: In case assistance is needed by the hon. member, the Hon. Minister might have assisted by working out the cost per square foot for any members who cannot work it out for themselves.

Mr. MILLER: I rise on a point of order. I have listened to the Hon. Minister on this question. He talks of Government buying these bits of land. He is now discussing the second item and I have the right to ask him what it cost per square foot. You can be a Minister, a back bencher or even a solicitor; I was not asking for any assistance.

Mr. SPEAKER: I believe the point of order has been made. I will also remind the hon. junior member for St. George that he is entitled to speak at length on this Resolution.

Mr. MILLER: The Hon. Minister gave the figures relative to the first item and I ask for the figures in respect of the second item.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Sir, there are two small parcels of land. The first is 60 square feet of land for which the purchase price is \$120. The other is 42 square feet of land for which the purchase price is \$84.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, we had an interruption from the hon. senior member for St. Andrew.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not hear him. He did not make any point of order.

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

ORDER No. 8 POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: Third reading of a Bill further to amend the Bank Holidays Act, 1905. I am advised that the Select Committee appointed to consider and report on this Bill has not yet reported. Does the Hon. Leader of the House want to say something?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I agree most wholeheartedly with that information. That makes it impossible for us to proceed with this item today.

That concludes Government Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then, there is no other Government Business.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: We have a very important engagement at 5.00 o'clock.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD fixed the Order Paper.

Mr. MILLER: There again, Sir, before the Hon. Minister fixes the Order Paper, I just want to say this. We are coming to the end of the business for today when there is so much on the Order Paper to be done. We were denied the right of doing Private Members' Business and even at this stage of the day, the Hon. Leader of the House is thinking of another appointment which he has at five o'clock. I am nothing to do with his Department. All I am interested in is that there is so much business on this Order Paper which is being left undone when there is so much time today to deal with some of it.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I object. It is a totally irrational and unjustified statement for the hon. member to say that the other business which I have to do has nothing to do with the people's business. That other business is an appointment with peo-

ple at the Labour Department who are leaving the Island tomorrow to join the London Transport, I do not think this is the stage for reflecting on the earlier vote of the House as regards what business should be done.

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of the fact that certain Standing Orders have been suspended and in view of Government Business having been concluded today, it is up to any hon. member to move that Private Members' Business be now reverted to and if that motion is passed and there remains a quorum of this House, Private Members' Business may be reverted to.

Mr. MILLER: I do not want to hear your ruling on this matter, but on the Rules.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Rules were suspended by a motion of the House which was carried without a dissentient voice. Now, the Hon. Leader of the House has said that Government Business is concluded. It is up to any hon. member to move that Private Members' Business be taken and if that motion is passed, Private Members' Business will be taken so long as there is a quorum of the House..

Mr. MILLER: Sir, I rise on a point of order. You will remember that I was interrupting the hon. member. This is now a motion of the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no motion by the Chair. The Chair has gone out of its way to give advice to an experienced parliamentarian.

Mr. MILLER: I just said that I rose on a point of order when the Hon. Leader of the House was about to adjourn the House because he had some other appointment at the Labour Department. I asked what that has to do with the meeting of this House. Why does not the Hon. Leader of the House withdraw his original motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any motion that Private Members' Business be now dealt with?

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am not moving any motion that Private Members' Business be now proceeded with, but I would like to say that for quite a few evenings, this House was adjourned to meet 2.30 p.m. o'clock and then Government members came in and asked for the suspension of the Standing Orders, well knowing that it would prevent hon. members from doing Private Members' Business. I take it that if the Government is going to adjourn the House until 2.30 p.m. o'clock, they should always take into consideration that that time is Private Members' time, and if they adjourn to meet at that time, they should allow Private Members to do their business.

4.10 p.m.

I cannot see why the Government cannot adjourn the House until 12 o'clock noon and let us carry on in the usual way, whether it be little or much to be done, and finish on time. It is not fair to adjourn the House until 2.30 p.m. of the clock and then ask for the suspension of the Standing Orders. Private Members will never get the chance of doing their business at this rate. It is now twenty-five minutes to four.....

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order. The hon. member's memory is at fault. The hon. member said that the Government has been adjourning the House to meet at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon and when we come in here we only do Government Business. That is not correct. Last Tuesday the hon. member himself contributed to the debate which was taking place under Private Members' Business and he was speaking on an item of Private Members' Business, when the debate was adjourned to resume Government Business. It was only on Thursday when we had a special meeting for a special purpose to deal with the Development Plan that we asked the House to give us the time which is normally allotted to Private Members' Business. Therefore it is neither fair nor accurate for the hon. member to say that we are continually doing this thing. As a matter of fact, if you were to refer to the Order Paper under Private Members' Business, you will see that at the

last regular meeting of this House on Tuesday, the debate was resumed on the Resolution relative to the Premier's Financial Statement and Budgetary proposals.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that the hon. member is not suggesting that there has been any irregular meeting of the House.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I want to differentiate between the normal meeting on Tuesday and the Special Meeting on Thursday. At this regular meeting the hon. senior member for the City moved the passing of the Resolution in the time allotted for Private Members' Business. The hon. senior member for the City spoke and the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, who is now making these erratic statements, was actually speaking when the time for Private Members' Business expired. Except in the realm of the hon. member's imagination, it is totally unfair and incorrect to say that we are continually doing this thing. I may say that if at today's meeting we utilised the time normally allocated to Private Members' Business, it is merely due to the fact that the number of Government spokesmen who can be present today is limited, since no fewer than three Ministers are out of the Island. The other three Ministers, Mr. Speaker, have highly important Government business to attend to later on this afternoon. If we had more Ministers here, certainly we could carry on; but in the absence of three and the others having important Government business to deal with, what can we do?

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I said that I am not pressing for any motion; I am not making any motion today. I will not make any motion that Private Members' Business be carried on because I have seen the absence of the Ministers, and in dealing with Private Members' Business I may want a reply from some of the same Ministers who are now absent. The Hon. Minister has referred to the last meeting of this House, but the records are there. If you check the records you will see that this House was adjourned until 2.30 p.m. of the clock for a number of meetings, and the suspension of the various Rules was carried into effect. I am not speaking of the last meeting. The hon. senior member for the City had asked that his Resolution be dealt with as Order No. 1 under Private Members' Business; otherwise they would have come in with the old stunt and carried on. I am suggesting that the House should meet at 12 o'clock as is customary and come on to Question Time and then to Private Members' Business.

On the last occasion there was not even water for an hon. member to drink and so quench his thirst. That shows how much they care about hon. members. *(Noise from the Visitors' Gallery).*

Mr. SPEAKER: There must be no one speaking in this Chamber and its precincts other than the hon. member who is on his feet. Let that be clearly understood because the powers which are vested in the Chair will be invoked to ensure that. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph may proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to state that it is unfair for the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to say that not even a little water is on these premises, because within less than five minutes I was outside and I had a very cold glass of water which is provided out there; therefore it is untrue to say what the hon. member has said.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand the hon. member to be speaking of something which happened at a previous meeting.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what to say about the hon. member. If he does not have anything to say, then he should sit and listen. I said that up to the last meeting, not even water was supplied and the hon. member was in his place. I do not suffer from T.B.; my voice is strong; I would like the hon. member to say where he got that water from, if it is from the place where we used to get it or if it is supplied privately by the Staff?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Everyday water is in this House. It is unfair for the hon. member to say what he has said.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am informed that cold water or ice is provided at the expense of the members of the Staff. I will ascertain whether my information is correct at the next meeting of this House.

Mr. SMITH: That is what I am saying; I do not know what kind of Minister the hon. member could be. I am asking him to tell me where he got this water from, whether it is the water provided by the Staff or by the Members of this House. I understand that if the Staff want to get a little water they have to buy the ice; so that if the hon. member had a nice, cool drink of water it was supplied by the Staff. He should be providing ice for the Staff, not the Staff providing ice for him. I am asking the Hon. Leader of the House to decide that Tuesday is the day for hon. members to meet here.
4.20 p.m.

There are members that are working for the Government, and members that are for the Government and themselves. I am one that is for the Government and myself, and I am quite willing to come here any day at 12 o'clock and do the people's business and go on until 6 o'clock if necessary; but I am not satisfied with the Government calling me here at 2.30 p.m., suspending Private Members' Business in order to carry on with Government Business, and after that nothing more is done. At this time, what is to prevent the hon. member from sitting and allowing Private Members to do their business rather than take up a lot of time arguing whether we can carry on with Private Members' Business? The Government had very little business to do today, and now that that is finished, we should be able to do Private Members' Business. They are only doing this because they have the numbers and they can take advantage of Private Members. Their backbenchers have business on the Order Paper too which they would be only too glad to do.

Mr. Speaker, I never expected the hon. junior member for St. Thomas would have taken the stand he took a couple of meetings ago when it came to Private Members' Business. The Government must understand that it is the people's business we are doing. Why meet at 2.30 p.m. when you do not have any kind of convenience for hon. members? Any hon. member knowing that he has to come here at 12 o'clock would make the necessary provisions to suit that time. There are twenty-five or twenty-six Resolutions under Private Members' Business, and at every meeting Private Members' Business is suspended. There should be no suspension at any time, because we can get along with all the business in a regular way.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I merely want to say that at times, listening to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, I am inclined to the view that this is his first Session in Parliament and he has never been here before; but when I recollect that he had been here before, I can come to no other conclusion than that his memory is serving him tricks, because certainly he must recall the divers of occasions when under the regime of his Party, Private Members in the Opposition had to beg and beseech week after week and month after month.....

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, the hon. member is forever talking about the last regime. I am nothing to do with that; I am something to do with what is happening now. If they want to carry on as under the old regime, why did they ask the people of this country to give them a try at the Government? Every time, they talk about the last Government, which shows that they are sorry the last Government is out, and they are afraid of their responsibility which the people have given them. The last Government does not care two hoots about them; so why should they care about the last Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: I gather that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph is suggesting that an example which may be regarded by the Hon. Leader of the House as bad, should not be followed.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I merely wanted to say that what the hon. member is accusing us of, they were guilty of. The point is that the only occasions on which the Gov-

ernment has requested to utilise all the time allotted to Private Members are when the importance of the Government Business before the Legislature warranted such a step.

Mr. SPEAKER: You mean when it has transcended everything else.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I am sure Your Honour will yourself concede that since it is Government's business to conduct the business of the Government, the Government Business must be more important and must transcend everything else, to quote your own words, and therefore must be accorded priority in comparison with business tabled by Private Members. I say, Sir, that the Government never uses its numbers unnecessarily and unwarrantedly to deprive Private Members of their right. On each and every occasion this has been done, the Government can substantiate or give reasons why it was done.

I beg to move that this House.....

Mr. MILLER: On a point of order, I did not think it was necessary to interrupt, Mr. Speaker, but the Leader of the House had his way on this occasion. A couple of moments ago we were told that because some of the Ministers happen to be out of the Island, there were just a few items that could be dealt with. We were brought here at 2.30 p.m. today and at 4.30 p.m., two hours later, we are told that the Ministers have business other than in Parliament, and it is for that reason that we are not permitted to continue with the Sitting today. There was a meeting of the House last Thursday, and certainly the Leader of the House ought to have known that there would have been some other arrangement for this afternoon. What is wrong in coming here on Tuesdays at 12 o'clock? I must agree with my colleague, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. You have specifically arranged and laid down in the Rules and Standing Orders of this House a period for Private Members' Business, but now you can tell me that Government Business transcends Private Members' Business. Because you have the right to destroy by numbers and plurality of votes, you are going to use them late or early. You started at 2.30 p.m. and before 4.30 p.m., you are adjourning the House and providing some argument that Government Business transcends Private Members' Business.

Mr. Speaker, some time is set out in the Standing Orders for Private Members' Business. To say that this is not so would be to fail to tell the truth; and if we ask to come here every Tuesday at 12 o'clock instead of 2.30 p.m., what is wrong with that? We are accustomed to sitting until 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock at night, but now two hours after you have met, you are taking away a very essential and important privilege and right in Parliament of Private Members.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point of order has been put very clearly and forcibly.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 17th July, at 2.30 p.m. o'clock.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 17th July, at 12 o'clock noon.

Mr. MILLER: I beg to second that.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 17th July, at 12 noon was put and resolved in the negative, the House dividing as follows:-

Ayes: Mr. HUSBANDS; Mr. COWARD; Mr. SMITH and Mr. MILLER - 4.

Noes: Mr. BATSON; Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. WEEKES; Mr. LOWE; Mr. YEARWOOD; Mr. CARMICHAEL; Mr. BOXILL; Mr. LYNCH and Mr. MOTTLEY - 11.
4.30 p.m.

The question that the House do now adjourn until 2.30 p.m. o'clock was then put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.
4.32 p.m.