THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 29th March, 1962.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 3 o'clock p.m. today.

PRESENT

His Honour Mr. J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., *(Speaker);* Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, *(Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries);* Hon. E. W. BARROW, B.SC., *(Premier);* Mr. S. E. SEALY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, *(Minister of Communications, Works, Housing and Tourism);* Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. G. V. BATSON, *(Chairman of Committees);* and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, *(Minister of Social Services);*

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meeting which was held on 13th March, 1962, have been printed and circulated amongst hon. members, and unless any hon. member objects, those Minutes will be taken as read and confirmed. *(After a pause)* There being apparently no objection, I declare those Minutes taken as read and confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay a Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due to the various Post Offices to 31st January, 1962.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: This is now the time for Private Members' Business.

RESOLUTION *re* PAYMENT OF GRATUITIES TO MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL LEGISLATURE

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business is to resume debate on a Resolution re payment of gratuities to Ministers and members of the Federal Legislature. When this matter was being discussed on the last occasion, the hon. junior member for St. George was addressing the House. The hon. member is, of course, at liberty to resume his address.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, matters have changed very much since the debate on this matter was started. The hon. senior member for St. Peter moved the passing of this Resolution and at this stage I would like to reply to the remarks of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas and those of the hon. senior member for the City, who spoke on this Resolution. Both of those hon. members jumped off and the matter was reduced to a form of abuse. I can imagine your dismay, Mr. Speaker, when such things take place in Parliament. I know your feelings on matters such as this. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas was at pains to make use of language which can be regarded as foul and utterly unnecessary.

Mr. SPEAKER: To which hon. member for St. Thomas is the hon. member referring?

Mr. MILLER: I am sorry, I was referring to the hon. junior member for St. Thomas. However, Sir, it was a matter of the debate being reduced to a form of abuse. You will forgive me, Mr. Speaker, if I comment on this matter. You will permit me to say, in reference to what the hon. junior member for St. Thomas said in referring to the Prime Minister of the West Indies, that the language was unparliamentary and it is strange that it did not occur to Your Honour as being such.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that there is no unparliamentary language which has been used in this Chamber, since I have been in the Chair, to which I have not drawn attention and asked that it be substituted for by other terms. The language used was parliamentary: otherwise I would have asked that it be withdrawn.

Mr. MILLER: It was a border-line matter. The hon. junior member for St. Thomas referred to the action of the Prime Minister as that of robbery with violence. I am, up to this day, at a loss to understand why he should refer to Sir Grantley Adams in such terms. I do not think that there is one man alive who could lay claim to more in this island than Sir Grantley Adams. Probably we are living too close to him and to see him from his bronze pedestal. It would be a question for history and posterity to say. I am sure that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas would want to change the unkind, unpleasant assertions which he made of the Prime Minister on that occasion. Probably it would be too late to refer to the names which the hon. junior member for St. Thomas called, but he referred to John Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd and I was thinking at one time why he called the first names.

3.15 p.m.

The zeal and enthusiasm with which the hon. member called the names of certain people made one think of them as contemporaries. The term "robbery with violence" reminds me of something you hear under the evergreen tree, the touts that you think of in the Court. Was he really thinking of Mortie Skeete? The unfortunate thing about all this is the effect it is bound to have on us politically, and, to some extent, spiritually. That type of foul criticism and abuse is invariably negative and is likely to have damaging effects. When it was said that the Mission should not have gone to the United Kingdom, I must say that it was not the decision of the Prime Minister; it was moved and seconded and unanimously agreed to by the members of the Federal Gov-

ernment that the Mission should go. One could hardly imagine an old Scout, warrior and statesman like Sir Grantley Adams ploughing the snow in London at this time concerned about a pension. As a matter of fact, it is not in his make-up and it is contrary to his character, and I consider the remarks unkind and unsympathetic. However, the question remains that whether or not he has succeeded, it was a matter of continuing the battle to the burning end. Now we are faced with the ugly position of being dictated to by Orders-in-Council.

I know, Sir, that there is a good deal of unhappiness as a result of the Secretary of State's action on this matter, and I am sure that the Federal Parliament feels as we do on this matter. I take it that all the members are anxious to become members of a nation, and with Sir Grantley continuing the struggle to the burning end, we must all think of how many battles he has won and how many he has lost. I think you will agree, Mr. Speaker, that it is sometimes said that one live coward is worth about ten dead heroes. He is consistent in his desire to improve the constitutional status of the West Indies and he will continue until such time when we become members of a nation. His constant and unchanging search for human dignity will forever remain his most important effort. Unfortunately the hon. senior member for the City is not in his seat, and I do not know that I should say anything on this matter in his absence, but I also do feel some sense of regret at the manner in which he thought it advisable to express himself in referring to the Prime Minister of the West Indies. There is no man alive and no man in living memory who has made a contribution like Sir Grantley Adams, and when the hon. junior member for St. Thomas refers to robbery with violence, I think you would forgive me if I wanted to repeat myself by saying it is very unsympathetic, it is negative and it is unpleasant.

With those few remarks, Sir, I think I have said what I really feel at the moment and will continue to feel.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the hon. senior member for St. Peter exercises his final right to reply and makes his second speech, is there any other hon. member who would like to speak at this stage?

It appears there is no other hon. member who would like to contribute to this Address. The hon. senior member for St. Peter may now exercise his right to contribute a second speech if he so desires.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to make a second speech nor is it my intention to reply at length, because so far as the content of my Resolution is concerned, it has more or less been adhered to by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. I cannot claim to have sent any private telegram nor do I expect to receive a reply. This Resolution was placed here in this House without any prompting, and I believe that another hon. member wanted to bring a similar Resolution without consultation with me, but mine seemed to have reached Your Honour's office before that of the other hon. member.

This Resolution, Sir, was indicative of the feeling of West Indians generally, and I would say that it was indicative of the feeling of the people of Barbados in that we felt that the members in an elected Assembly like the Federal Assembly and the circumstances that brought about its dissolution did not merit any compensation, because the members of the Federal Parliament were adequately remunerated for their services, and in view of the fact that it was decided that there would be an election in May this year had everything worked well, there was no guarantee that all the members of the Federal Parliament would have been re-elected; so there could be no justification for disengagement money at a stage such as this.

As far as the hon. junior member for St. George is concerned, I am beginning to wonder if Ministerial posts in a small community - with all due respect to the present Ministers in the Government - where there is not enough work for the human mind to perform lead you, when you are not elected to that position any longer, into a complete state of stupidity, because for the months that the hon. member has been in here since he has not been a Minister, his brain has been completely void of any serious matter whatsoever, and I do not know how any human mind can absorb long speeches of unconnected nonsense which I have been able to hear. I pity people who have now been entrenched like the Minister. If there is something within the Chair of the Ministry of Social Services that makes you a complete idiot after you have lost that position, then the present Minister of Social Services should see a psychiatrist or go and get some medical attention right away, because the hon. junior member for St. George is gradually becoming a complete idiot - not in Barbadian terms that he is a half idiot. I cannot believe today on an occasion like this that you could hear a member getting up here and referring to another man in the way the hon. member has done.

Mr. Speaker, the way the hon. member has made reference to the Prime Minister, you would have to come to the conclusion that this is a complete God he is talking about, and all the time he was the biggest..... I would not say. I could not imagine the hon. member making this speech about the Prime Minister and saying all this drivel in connection with this matter.
3.25 p.m.

I do not know what is happening with the hon. member's brain. It seems to me that something is badly missing. I am really shocked. I do not think that this Resolution of mine was aimed at the Prime Minister at all. He is the only person in this House who would begin to edify the Prime Minister for taking a trip to London and say that it was not as a result of the Prime Minister but it was by a vote taken in the Federal Legislature. I have been in Parliament as long as to know that if the Prime Minister does not want anything to pass, it does not pass. You cannot come forward in Parliament and pass a law to say that you must pay all of us and the Prime Minister does not want it, especially as in this case, when the only person to whom they are giving a pension is the Prime Minister. No person can give you a pension if you do not want it. If you want to give me a pension, I must agree to it. If the Prime Minister said: "No, I do not want to receive a pension," that Bill could not have passed the Federal Legislature.

Sir, I have no apology to make for bringing forward this Resolution. It is not a Resolution to decry the Prime Minister in his last days in the Federal Parliament. I consider that it was necessary for some public-spirited person or some Legislature in these parts to state that it disapproved of the payment of salaries to members of the Federal Legislature.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. That is the point which I was anxiously waiting for the hon. member to give expression to. I expressed nothing about public-spirited persons. It is such an easy thing. A man has the right to think as he likes. We have a character here known as "King Dyall" who thinks that he is a king, and he has the right to think as he likes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has gone far beyond the point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir, I will not go as far down as to make reference to King Dyall because I do not want to edify that gentleman with this reference in here; but what I do say is that an idiot has to be characterised by that harsh term. However, I say it without harshness, but from being factual that the hon. member for St. George is not exhibiting the behaviour which is consonant with a natural human being. He is acting so abnormally since he has not been a Minister that I do not know if anything has gone wrong with his mind. It looks that way from the way he is acting.

This Resolution was brought down by me merely to voice our views on the gratuities and pensions which the Federal Parliament passed to pay Ministers of the Federal Parliament. If the hon. junior member for St. George was dealing with the Prime Minister within a different context, and if the Prime Minister had made any contribution to public life, this Resolution was not decrying that because

there are many people who have made a contribution to public life. Of course, I have reached the stage where I do not speak so about any person because the way in which the particular member said so would make one to believe that the Prime Minister was the only person who had made a contribution to public life.

This Resolution deals specifically with the question of compensation to members of the Federal Parliament. This Resolution does not deal with what the hon. junior member for St. George spoke about. I thank those hon. members who have spoken on it, and speaking on a Resolution like this it is true the hon. members would speak with some feeling because I, myself, did not believe that I would live long enough to find Legislators voting a pension and gratuity to themselves.

I would only say that if politicians do not have a complete re-assessment of public affairs, then people outside of the West Indies, people from other parts of the world would begin to lose respect for us for any semblance of our being public spirited and having a sense of responsibility. I say that because I could not dream of asking a legislator to compensate me in the manner in which these gentlemen have been asking the public to do to them. These gentlemen have been given the generous treatment of drawing a salary of $350,000 and then on the back of it you hear one of the Ministers making a statement in the dying days of the Federation that they are left to be paupers and he is saying that in the same way as if when you enter Parliament you enter it to become a rich person. That is the sort of thing that sours public life and make people look disdainfully on politicians and feel that we are only people who are out to line our pockets with money and see about ourselves. That view is so prevalent in this Island that if you make any remark, they say that he is a politician, which means that he is some person out of the ordinary when it comes to ethical standards.

Sir, I do not propose even at this late stage from what is taking place to put this Resolution to the vote. It would be a sort of anti-climax to put it to the vote. The decision has already been taken and hon. members of this House have already voiced their opinions. What I really do not want is for the Government and members of the Government to be associated in any combination with other people about something which has already taken place because the Government may not know its true position within the whole gamut of federal affairs: and for that reason I am going to ask leave to withdraw the motion which I have made.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Peter is asking leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution standing in his name. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. *(A Pause).*

Apparently there is no objection to the withdrawal of this Resolution by the hon. member; therefore, leave is granted.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Resolution stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph: "To resume debate on a Resolution *re* reduction of instalments payable by fishermen on purchase of their boats."

I have observed that the hon. member is not in his place.

The next Order stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas: "To move the passing of a Resolution re the installation of public telephones at Welchman Hall, St. Thomas."

Is the hon. member ready to proceed with that Resolution?

Mr. BOXILL: No, Mr. Speaker. I am asking leave to postpone that Resolution.

Leave was granted the hon. member.

RESOLUTION *re* INVESTIGATION INTO THE FISHING INDUSTRY OF THE ISLAND

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph: "To move the passing of a Resolution re an investigation into the Fishing Industry of the Island."

Is the hon. member ready now to proceed with this Resolution?

Mr. COWARD: Yes, Sir.

In moving the passing of this Resolution, I would like to draw to the attention of all hon. members and the general public that this is a matter which I feel is of great importance to one and all.
3.35 p.m.

It was on Thursday morning, the first day of March in the early morning, that the sea at Bathsheba became rough and, as a result of that, no fewer than six boats were washed off the beach along with some others which were very badly damaged. It was not only that, but I saw some abrasions on some of the fishermen who had worked very hard in trying to save these boats which were washed off the beach. These men are very aggrieved because they said that on more than one occasion during the Thursday they had reported the matter to the Fisheries Officer and no one came to their rescue until the following day when an officer from the Department — not the Fisheries Officer, Mr. Wiles — but an officer from the Department came to see what had happened. I am further informed that on no occasion when these men find themselves in distress and report to the Fisheries Department, will this Officer, Mr. Wiles, come to their assistance. I am also informed that things have gone so far that the fishermen have absolutely no confidence in this Officer. As a junior member in this House, I am not here to belittle any officer, but I feel it is my duty to bring a matter of this sort to the attention of this House for the benefit of the people whom I have the honour to represent.

It is not only that matter, but while I was down there on the second day of the month, I inspected a boat which had drifted over from Cambridge Bay. I was told that this boat was not insured, that the fishermen sought assistance from the Fisheries Officer and up to that time - the boat has been wrecked two weeks before — they had heard nothing either from the Fisheries Officer or from the Department. Relative to these fishermen who are doing a very good job and helping industry in this island — because we must realise that the fishing industry is part of the life of the public, we should do everything to make these fishermen happy.

Mr. Speaker, I may also draw to your attention that there is a tractor which has been placed there for the purpose of assisting these fishermen in hauling up their boats. This tractor has no light when it has to work at night. I was told that representation was made some three weeks ago for the purpose of putting a light on the tractor and up to now no light has been put on it. I know that this Government is quite capable of running their affairs and I would like to warn them that they should not allow any officer to impede progress. As to any officer who really feels himself too big for his job, I am saying that such an officer should resign his job. If he does not resign then I would say that this Government on the 4th December, 1961, had been using some very severe brooms and I do not think that all of the straw has gone out of those brooms yet. *(Laughter).* I feel that these same brooms should be used again in connection with this matter.

With those few remarks, I am asking the Government to make a thorough investigation of this Department with a view to doing something to help these poor fishermen who suffered on the 1st day of March, 1962.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the hon. member takes his seat, will he formally read the Resolution and move its passing?

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. It reads as follows:-

WHEREAS the Fishermen at Bathsheba in the parish of St. Joseph in this Island are deeply perturbed through the treatment meted out to them by the Fisheries' Officer if, and when his assistance is needed, and more particularly his indifference to their complaint on Thursday the first day of March, 1962 when about ten (10) boats were damaged as a result of rough seas in the area;

AND WHEREAS it seems very unlikely that there will ever be any confidence by the Fishermen in the said Officer;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly, in view of the importance of the Fishing Industry to the life of the Community, coupled with the fact that Public Funds are tied up in this Industry, order an immediate investigation into the said Industry with special reference to the relationship between the Fishermen and the said Fisheries' Officer.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion for the passing of this Resolution. When I first came into this House or at least when this Officer was first appointed, I had a lot to say and certain hon. members thought that I wanted the job or that I was jealous of this officer. I still represent a lot of fishermen. This matter has not been brought to my notice officially within the municipal area, but I believe that the hon. member who is representing the parish of St. Joseph and who is now making his debut in this Chamber, feels the plight of the fishermen and everyone knows the difficulty with which these fishermen are faced in getting their boats hauled up. With heavy seas coming down the Atlantic everyone must be aware that there is something wrong when an hon. junior member in this House has taken up this matter so quickly.
3.45 p.m.

One thing he has made quite clear and I believe he has confidence enough that the Government will call an investigation. As a matter of fact, this Government could hardly adopt the attitude or refuse to carry out the policy that they themselves enunciated on several occasions, when they found something wrong, of asking for an investigation. Looking over on the side of the Government, although the Minister is not Minister of Fisheries — I speak of the Minister of Communications and Works who, I believe, has the support of the fishermen of this country 100% — I cannot imagine him being in a Government and hearing the utterances from the hon. senior member for St. Joseph and refusing immediately, if not sooner, to call an investigation into the difficulties and troubles of fishermen in St. Joseph.

Knowing the Minister of Agriculture as well as I do, Sir, I know that he will act as soon as he hears something from a member whom he considers responsible — although I consider every member in the House responsible — especially when the statement is as precise and as deliberate as that by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph.

I have much pleasure in seconding the passing of the Resolution and hope that between now and another few days a Committee will be set up. The hon. member, I believe, failed to say this: in setting up the Committee, you should not only appoint men who would be partial or friendly with the officer, but you should have some raw-boned fishermen put on it, and I believe the hon. member who introduced this motion would like that done. Let some raw-boned fishermen who really know what they are talking about go on the Committee, and I do not mean yachtmen who know as much about fishing as I know about flying an aeroplane.

I have much pleasure in seconding the Resolution.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, it is regrettable that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph should have to come in here and make remarks about the fishing industry and fishermen complaining about the present Fisheries Officer. It is regrettable, Mr. Speaker, that throughout nine of the eleven parishes of the Island of Barbados, if you call the Fisheries Officer's name, you are calling the name of something worse than a devil to the fishermen whom he represents. More than twelve years ago the hon. senior member for the City referred to him in this House as a square peg in a round hole. Today he is no better than a round peg in a square hole, and I am in a position to say that after a period of over twelve years. There is not one Government Officer in any part of the Island representing any industry and an industry as important as the fishing industry that is more disliked by the people that he is supposed to represent than this Officer. It is a downright shame and disgrace.

Mr. Speaker, the bay at Bathsheba where the boats are anchored is the most difficult in the Island. The fishermen must haul their boats up every afternoon and push them out every morning. The design of the boats is one of the things that would aid in the fishing industry in Barbados, especially on the Eastern Coast where double-engined boats would be more important than anything else. Not only do I agree with the hon. member that more investigations should be made into the fishing industry, but I must say that it is a dying industry.

The Government today is building a cold storage for over $1 million. This is nearly the end of March which is the prime month of the fishing season, and I am saying now that up to the end of this month we would not have been able to put one pound of fish in the cold storage. That is a lot of money which the taxpayers of this Island are losing which could be used for some other purpose. Nothing has been done in the Island to develop the fishing industry. Nothing has been taught to the men who have new types of boats whereby they can proceed to a wider radius offshore; they are left with the same margin and scope as they had forty years ago. After bringing a new model boat into operation, one would have thought that the previous Government would have done everything in their power to give lectures so that fishermen would be able to go further offshore in order to develop the industry; but again I say the officer is a square peg in a round hole. He knows everything, is jack of all things, but boss of none, neither about the boats nor the fishing industry or else.

Only a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, I was on the beach at Bathsheba with the hon. senior member for St. Joseph and the Officer of Fisheries, and there standing on the beach were hundreds of fishermen, and it was deplorable to hear the language and comments passed by those people to whom he should teach something. I have done all in my power to try and aid the industry, and I would dislike members to believe that I am using the privilege of this House to mention his name. I have done it on hundreds of occasions and at all times in the newspaper.

About two years ago, the hon. junior member for St. Lucy asked certain questions in this Honourable House with regard to the fishing experimental boat "The Investigator". If the records over the number of years were to be checked, you would find that every year the catches of "The Investigator" were decreasing and this year it is going lower, which will prove to anybody with any commonsense that the fishing industry in Barbados is dying. This is the prime month of the fishing season and the average fishing boat being operated today cannot buy its own lubricating oil and fuel, furthermore keep it in condition, pay insurance and pay its Government loan. The average fisherman in Barbados, as far as I can see, is too satisfied with nothing. You will never hear him tell you about the hardships he has endured for several weeks, but he will tell you about the one good day he had had, and that one day satisfies him for the days of hardship. I feel that for the benefit of Barbados something will have to be done for the fishermen in this Island. It is impossible for the fishermen to keep their boats in order today. If we had a range of 500 sail boats, and those 500 sail boats were equivalent to 500 donkeys on an estate costing $10 each, if it would take $1,000 to buy a truck, and if it took the same amount of trucks to cover a greater area, then you might as well get out of that business. That is the position with the fishing industry in Barbados today. There are too many boats operating within the same field, and nothing has been done to expand the range and margin to which they could proceed in order to make a better living.
3.55 p.m.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, it has been a revelation to hon. members what the Hon. Minister has just said about

the fishing industry. We, at the moment enjoy internal self-government, and if the Hon. Minister feels that way about an officer in charge of an essential department of Government, that is a matter of which he can free himself; but he ought not to criticise the industry and by no means should he criticise the officer because the officer is not in a position to answer for himself. Surely, if the Hon. Minister is that unhappy about the industry and along with that he has made these burning and scalding remarks about an officer in one of his departments, is it that we need to worry about the fishing industry? I am wondering if the Hon. Minister has made those remarks because of the officer's presence in that department or because that officer is connected with that department. Is it because of the boats having gone as far afield? The Hon. Minister can very well inject new life in this industry and that is something which he needs to worry about.

All over the Island, there have been large catches of fish and the amount of fish caught nowadays is thirty or forty fold the catches taken in the time of the sail boats. I am really wondering if we should be unhappy about the fishing industry. I know the remarks of the Hon. Minister are something of which we should be scared.

Sir, I wonder if you would give the Hon. Minister permission to go a little further and give us a little more explanation. I know the techniques in the fishing industry probably from the time I was a little boy. If you open the stomachs of bill fish, you will see bits of crabs, and stuff taken from the sea bed. If you adopt the necessary nets to catch flying fish at that depth, I am sure the credit would go to the Minister. I would be pleased if the Hon. Minister would give me some more longitude and latitude about this matter. We need to be concerned about this matter.

As regards the way in which the Hon. Minister has spoken about the officer in charge of that department, it is not in the best style particularly when it is taken into consideration that the officer cannot defend himself. As I see it, if the Minister wants to make a success of his department, he should remove the officer with whom he cannot get along.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, from the year 1922 to 1942, I was dealing with fishing and I think I should know something about it. For the benefit of the hon. junior member for St. George, I would like to tell him that I had the first launch ever built for the protection of fishermen's lives and I sailed it from Barbados to St. Vincent and back to show the then Government what a fishing launch should be like. I carried fishermen with me; I did not carry seamen. It was completely different to the then sail boats.

A boat at sea is driven under two types of influence. One is the set and drive of the tide and the other of the wind. In previous days, we had a sail boat whose depth under water was five to six feet draft and a wind hull above water of about two feet. That boat drifted strictly under the influence of current. Today, we have a boat with about two feet draft and five feet superstructure above water and this boat drifts strongly under the influence of wind which will be in normal circumstances much faster than the tide.

The second thing to be taken into consideration is that fuel oil and mineral oil would affect the eyes of any fish. I am not an expert or scientist, but I happen to know that mineral and fuel oil will kill the spawn of fish because it will prevent the spawn from being fertilised, and if the spawn is killed, you cannot have that quantity of fish. Those are two of the common reasons.

I have served with the Fisheries Advisory Committee under the previous Government to which the hon. junior member for St. George belonged. I resigned from that Board because the very Fishery Officer would submit to the Government whatever he liked and not what was true. His reports on the amount of fish caught were anything except the truth.

Mr. SPEAKER: Actually, that was not a point of order, but it seems to me to be in order as a point of elucidation on matters raised by the hon. junior member for St. George in the course of his speech. The hon. junior member for St. George who had been speaking seemed more than willing to give way to the Hon. Minister and as a matter of fact, he invited the Hon. Minister to elucidate.

Mr. MILLER: We are out to sea and we are fishing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you saying that you are out to sea?

Mr. MILLER: I know the Hon. Minister's technology in fishing. I really wanted to be told by him if we are in danger when he says that the fishing industry is dying. As I have said, we are still sailing; he was just in St. Lucia. It would be good for the sake of the record when you have all this money involved and invested in the industry that the Hon. Minister tell us something more about it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Sir, I am grateful to the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works, Housing and Tourism who has laid such great emphasis on the plight of the fishermen when exceptionally bad weather is prevailing in the Bathsheba area. As far as this exceptionally bad weather is concerned, it was so bad and anybody who knows the general terrain of the country there would know that no finger can be pointed to the officer in particular in that he has no control over the rough seas and the acts of God, so to speak. 4.05 p.m.

However, if one says that assistance did not come as quickly as was expected, I would like the hon. senior member for St. Joseph to know that since this matter was brought to my attention, I communicated with the Fisheries Department and with my Secretaries, but it was not until some hours after that I received the necessary information. I would like the hon. member to know that on the next day — on the Friday — an officer of the Department was sent down to Bathsheba — it was not the Fisheries Officer himself — and there were recorded ten boats damaged. Four of them were severely damaged, the damage exceeding in value the sum of $50, and within two days six of the boats which were damaged took out to sea. As to the four which were severely damaged, assistance was given, in the case of two, within a few days and only one boat is now beached.

I want to bring to the attention of the hon. member that the damage was attended to with reasonable speed, although not by the Fisheries Officer but by an officer of the Department. To say that the fishermen were left to their own peril is not strictly correct. I am not saying that the fishermen do not need any assistance, because they need assistance owing to the difficulties under which they have to fish. To say that they were neglected by the Department or that it appears they were neglected by the Fisheries Officer, well, it is not correct to say that they were neglected by the Department (Mr. MOTTLEY: We want an investigation of that). A preliminary investigation has already taken place, but if the hon. member is insisting that a full or a more throrough investigation should be conducted — I feel that an investigation would be in place and it should be conducted along proper lines.

I want to point out to the House that it was only a few Sundays ago that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing, the Fisheries Officer and other leading people in the fishing world along with myself, visited Bathsheba with the object of trying to improve upon the facilities for the hauling up of boats down there. There is a tractor service now, but we are trying to acquire a strip of land in order to facilitate the use of winches in hauling up boats in the rough season. The tractor will still be there. I should like to inform hon. members that at one time the sea encroached so much that the water was going up against the wall of the Atlantis Hotel; and if you have severe weather, you can understand what the position of the boats would be. To say that the fishermen were neglected, I repeat, is not strictly correct, because a recent delegation visited Bathsheba for the purpose of improving the facilities for the hauling up of boats. It is unfortunate that extra rough seas came in and through an act of God these circumstances have taken place. That delegation, as I have mentioned, was comprised of fisher-

men who will have the opportunity of putting forward constructive suggestions and the hon. senior member for St. Joseph may be asked to serve on that delegation if he is willing to do so, and therefore greater assistance will be meted out to the fishermen in the most dangerous and hazardous area in the entire island, that is, the Bathsheba coast.

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of the assurance which the Hon. Minister has given, does the hon. senior member for St. Joseph seek that this matter be put to the vote?

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for the explanation which he has given and for the assurance that an investigation will be made into the matter and that there will be the inclusion of fishermen on that delegation. In the circumstances, I do not think I will have to say anything more in connection with this matter because there are members who have contributed to the debate. As long as I have had that explanation from the Hon. Minister, I am asking leave to withdraw the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has asked leave to withdraw this Resolution and unless there be any objection leave will be grated the hon. member. *(After a Pause.)* There being no objection, the hon. member is granted leave to withdraw the Resolution. The Resolution is accordingly withdrawn.

ORDERS POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter:- To move the third reading of a Bill to amend the Trade Union Act, 1939. In connection with this Order, I do not think that the Select Committee which was appointed to consider and reported on this Bill has reported as yet. Accordingly, the hon. member does not desire to proceed with this Bill.

As far as the next Order is concerned also standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter: To move the third reading of a Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1957, a similar observation applies. That Bill has been referred to a Select Committee and that Select Committee has not yet been reported. I take it therefore that the hon. member is not yet ready to proceed with this Order.

Order No. 7 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. George:- To move the passing of a Resolution re teaching of Civics in Schools. I observe that the hon. member is not in his place.

Order No. 8 also stands in the name of the same hon. member:- To move the passing of a Resolution *re* Schemes for Workmen's Compensation, Pensions for Agricultural workers and Mortgage Insurance for housing. Again the hon. member is not in his place.

4.15 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, who I observe is not in his place. Order No. 10 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John to move the passing of a Resolution re the undertaking by Government of Third Party Risk Insurance. Is the hon. junior member for St. John now prepared to proceed?

Mr. YEARWOOD: No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 11 stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for St. James. I observe the vacant seat of his Honour the Deputy Speaker.

Order No. 12 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for the City, who, I regret to observe, is not in his place.

Order No. 13 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, who is in his place, to move the passing of the Resolution *re* the extension of Carrington's Village Tenantry Road, St. Thomas. Is the hon. member ready now to proceed?

Mr. BOXILL: No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 14 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John, who is in his place, to move the passing of a Resolution re the public transportation service in the parish of St. John. Is the hon. junior member for St. John ready now to proceed?

Mr. YEARWOOD: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

RESOLUTION *re* PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE IN SAINT JOHN

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution reads as follows:-

WHEREAS the public transportation service in the parish of Saint John is irregular and inadequate:

AND WHEREAS there is urgent need to remedy this situation;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request Government to issue directions through the appropriate channels to the private concessionaires plying in the said parish so as to ensure greater efficiency in the Routes under their respective controls.

Mr. Speaker, transportation in the parish of St. John especially on Route 6 and Route 9 is very unsatisfactory.

Mr. COWARD: On a point of order, I do not think I could sit here and allow the hon. junior member for St. John to go in the wrong direction. He mentioned Route 6, and I may mention that Route 6 is on the highway between Bathsheba and Bridgetown and no part of Highway 6 is in St. John.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Speaker, I am dealing with that particular Route that goes to Martins Bay, St. John and the one which should go to Glenburny and Foster Hall which we do not today have. The service is very inadequate and the people of St. John have been asking the hon. senior member for St. Joseph to make these Routes more adequate, but nothing has been done about them. I am sure that he has had letters from some of the people on these Routes asking him to measure up, but he has not even answered the letters, far more make a better service available.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member mean that answers have not been received?

Mr. YEARWOOD: Let us say that answers have not been received, I should like the hon. senior member for St. Joseph to measure up especially the Martins Bay Route. There are a number of workers who have to walk more than a mile from Martins Bay to Church View in order to catch a bus to get to work on mornings. The hon. member has transportation leaving Bridgetown to Clifton Hill which is a matter of two miles or so from Martins Bay, and I see no reason why transportation of the same sort could not be provided for the people at Martins Bay. There is absolutely no reason why this same transportation could not go straight to Martins Bay which is a matter of two miles away under the same Route.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether it has struck your attention, but the hon. member, in a Resolution like this which he is asking Government to take notice of, cannot be making reference to the hon. member who is a member of this Chamber. It is a question that he is passing a Resolution asking the Government to do something, but he continuously refers to having told the hon. member something about his Route. I think it would be very improper to become too personal by reducing the debate to two persons.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was merely allowing the hon. member the little extra latitude which I normally give to new members which I trust he will not attempt further to transgress upon. It is the duty of the Ministry and the Board to allocate the Routes. Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, there are supposed to be about 88 homes between Glenburny and Foster Hall and that Route does not have a daily bus service at all.

Mr. COWARD: On a point of order, if the hon. member would give way, I would just like to give one explanation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. senior member for St. Joseph realise he is entitled to speak at length. He can even second the motion of the hon. junior member for St. John. Let him make a note of the various points which occur to him and in his speech deal with them as he thinks fit within, of course, the confines of Parliamentary debate.

Mr. COWARD: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. YEARWOOD: As I was saying, Sir, there are approximately 88 houses between Foster Hall and Glenburny, and we do not have a bus service there at all, and I am asking the Government to look into this matter. Transportation today is a very important issue in human lives and without proper transportation the public must suffer.
4.25 p.m.

I want an improvement to all the other routes in St. John. Honestly, I would say this. About five years ago, the bus route on which I now live, had a number of buses running on it. On mornings, you got a bus coming from College at 6.30, and then you got another at 7.30, another at 8.30 and another at 10 o'clock.

Lots of people said that the routes could not pay, but after I was permitted to live on that route, I can say that we enjoy today a bus service in which a bus leaves College at 6. a.m. instead of 6.30 a.m. as before, then we get one at 6.30, one at 7.30, about three at 8 a.m., one at 8.30 a.m., one at 9.30 a.m. and one at 10 a.m. On evenings, they continue to run an hourly service from Bridgetown from 11 a.m. there until 6 o'clock and because of competition among the concessionaires, you will find that the service is extended even until 8 o'clock in the evenings.

I would like to see in the other parts of St. John the same type of service which I see throughout the parish of St. George. With these comments, Mr. Speaker, I hereby ask that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. LOWE: Sir, in seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution, with your permission, I would like to make a few remarks. I am well aware that there is very much more to be done about transportation where private concessionaires are concerned. But I would never like to feel that this Government should try to force the hands of private concessionaires to do anything whatsoever to the detriment of themselves.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that we would have to forego until the next meeting of this House the rest of the hon. member's address on this matter. As it is now 4.30 o'clock, Private Members' Business automatically concludes and Government Business commences.

The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House.

To move the passing of a Resolution to sanction the Regulations entitled "Customs (Petroleum Products Bulk Storage) (Amendment) Regulations, 1961 made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 10th November, 1961, under the Provisions of Section 2 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1921.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the position which this Resolution seeks to remedy, is quite clear. The Customs (Petroleum Products Bulk Storage) Amendments, 1955, prescribe conditions for the storage of petroleum products in the Bulk Storage Installation at Spring Garden and Mount Ararat. What has given occasion to this Resolution is the fact that these regulations do not prescribe any conditions for bulk storage of marine oil and fuel in so far as bunkering is concerned.

Hon. members are aware that with the coming into operation of the Deep Water Harbour, permission is given to the oil companies operating in Barbados to bunker ships now calling at Carlisle Bay and all the Resolution before us now seeks to do is to prescribe the conditions under which bulk storage of petroleum products would be in so far as marine fuel is concerned.

I do not think, Sir, that there is any necessity to dilate on such a straightforward matter as this.

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

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I want to draw to the attention of the Government that I do not know who is responsible for awarding these contracts, and I do not know what conditions the minds of people in awarding contracts; but in a place like Barbados where you have a company doing refinery and employing a greater number of people than another company in a similar capacity, I do not understand how you are asking for employment opportunities and you are not assisting the people who are employing workers and instead, you are giving contracts to people who are not employing people in a similar way.

I think the time has come when people in Barbados must know that people who make any effort in Barbados to increase the employment opportunities of this community should be given priority in any matter like this and I say that without fear or favour to anyone. If a company has a refinery and is employing people of this country, that company should have the first contract and anybody else can come after. Any person who is going to the expense of expanding their business to employ more workers should be given priority in a matter like this and I hope a word of warning is sufficient to the wise. I hope that this Government would take this warning in the spirit in which it should be taken; otherwise in the process of time, more would be heard about it.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, before you put the question, I told the hon. senior member for St. Peter that he is fully aware that on our assumption of office in December last year, the question of the awarding of this contract of bunkering was already *au fait accompli*. We had nothing at all to do with the award. Like him, we were just as ignorant of the facts leading up to the award for bunkering at the Deep Water Harbour since at no time during the negotiations did the Government in making the award see fit to lay on the Table of this House any of the matters dealing with the negotiations, the contract or any statement under which the award was made.
4.35 p.m.

As a matter of fact, Sir, it is on record that in Jamaica when the Government decided to award a contract to an Oil Company for the establishment in Jamaica of a refinery, the terms and conditions under which the award was made, were made public by their being presented on the floor of the House. It would be crying over spilt milk at this stage to discuss the manner in which this contract was awarded by the last Government, but I can assure the hon. senior member for St. Peter that in so far as we are concerned, we heartily endorse his sentiments with regard to supporting in every possible way companies of any sort which operate in this country. Like the hon. member, I myself would have preferred to have seen the award, under normal circumstances, in respect of the refining of oil on the spot. We have our own unemployed people to see after and anything which can be done to absorb some of the colony's labour force is heartily to be welcomed. It is public knowledge that the Government has under active consideration now, legislative and other assistance for helping a local refinery to expand. We hope to see the day come when all of our petroleum products, diesel, kerosene and petrol, are refined in Barbados. Imports of these commodities now total $1 million a year and that is a sizeable amount of money which is now leaving the island. If a refinery could be erected on the spot, by the importation of crude oil and the refining being done here so as to supply the colony's requirements and at the same time provide employment for some of the colony's labour force, there is no earthly rea-

son why, in my opinion, any Government should not give every possible assistance to it.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter can therefore rest assured that, under the existing regime, every single effort will be made towards implementing the proposal which has been suggested in his remarks. I do not think I need say anything further in assuring the hon. member that the sentiments he has expressed constitute the principles already endorsed by the Government at present in office.

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

RESOLUTION *re* ACQUISITION OF LAND LEADING TO THE DEEP WATER HARBOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works, Housing and Tourism: To move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition by the Governor-in-Executive Committee of the parcel of land described in the schedule for public purposes; namely, the provision of a road leading to the Deep Water Harbour.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution reads as follows:-

"RESOLVED that the House of Assembly approve of the compulsory acquisition by the Governor-in-Executive Committee of the parcel of land described in the Schedule for public purposes; namely, the provision of a road leading to the Deep Water Harbour, and that the Legislative Council be invited to concur herein, and if concurred in:

RESOLVED that His Excellency the Governor be asked to assent and take the necessary steps to give effect to this Resolution."

The Schedule reads as follows:-

"All that certain piece or parcel of land situate at Kensington Tenantry in the parish of Saint Michael containing by admeasurement 3,300 square feet or thereabouts Abutting and bounding on lands of S.M. St. John on lands formerly of Edna Prescod but now of the Executive Committee on lands formerly of Muriel Payne but now of the Executive Committee and on lands formerly of Eldica Clarke but now of the Executive Committee or however else the same may abut and bound."

As hon. members will see, the Addendum to this Resolution is set out as follows:-

"Negotiations for the acquisition of this parcel of land had been taking place through the Solicitors for the owner who is out of the Island. Agreement had been reached on the purchase price and permission was granted for Government to take possession pending completion of legal formalities. The owner has failed for a long time to return the documents which had been sent to him and it is necessary to invoke the Land Acquisition Act, 1949 in order that the Government may be able to obtain an indefeasible title."

Mr. Speaker, the owner of this land, Mr. S. M. St. John, was a seaman. During the time that negotiations were going on, he sailed on a Harrison Line ship to the United Kingdom. The Solicitors have sent him all the documents and after a very long time they heard nothing from him. This land is being acquired for the purpose of building a North access or part of the access road to the Deep Water Harbour. As I say, the documents which have been sent by the Solicitors to the owner of this land have never been returned; therefore it is necessary for the Government to have legislation passed by way of the Land Acquisition Act in order to acquire this land.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier:- To move the second reading of a Bill the Casual Employees Pension Act, 1961.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Government does not intend to proceed with any further items on the Order Paper today, but with your permission, the Hon. Premier would like to have permission to lay a Statement.
4.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave is being asked for by the Hon. Leader of the House on behalf of the Hon. Premier now to lay a statement, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted.

There is absolutely no objection. Let the statement be laid.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the statement reads as follows:-

STATEMENT BY PREMIER ABOUT BANKING AND INSURANCE

On the 6th March 1962, I made a statement in the House reaffirming the Government's policy in regard to the security of person and property in the Island. In view of what has happened elsewhere, it is necessary for me now to make a clear statement of the Government's intention on certain aspects of the protection of property in this Island.

The Government proposes at an early date to introduce legislation for the purpose of regulating the business of banking in Barbados. The drafting of this legislation is already in progress and various details are being studied with expert assistance. The Government considers it highly necessary that depositors in banks should be protected.

The Government is also considering the introduction of legislation to regulate the business of insurance in the Island with a view to the protection of persons who pay premiums to insurance companies.

I do not want to say anything more at the present moment except to indicate that very early in the year - in January this year - the learned Attorney General had already gone a long way towards completing the draft of the legislation to regulate banking and insurance companies. As you know, Sir, in our manifesto we promised that we would establish central banking facilities, and it is only that aspect of the matter which is causing some delay. There is no banking legislation in Barbados at all. A statement was made in here the other day by the hon. senior member for St. Peter about a bank getting permission from the Government to open. It is only necessary for a foreign bank under the very brief Act of this Colony to get a licence to operate in this country.

As far as the Insurance Companies are concerned, I do not want to say too much about the type of legislation which is contemplated, but we are not at all satisfied with the operation of Insurance Companies in Barbados, or some of them, and the ease with which people can come here and establish insurance business without giving any security at all, and the large amount of money to the extent of perhaps $4 million a year which is being drained away from this country in the way of insurance premiums. Over $4 million in insurance premiums leave this country every year. That is a state of affairs that should not be allowed to continue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear that we have no intention of doing what a neighbouring colony did, of preventing the free convertibility of sterling, but we certainly will have to insist that foreign companies like Insurance Companies which come here to operate not only must deposit substantial security in the Treasury of Barbados, but also that they should re-invest a considerable proportion of the premiums collected in the Island of Barbados whether it is in Government securities or in private investment. I do not want, Sir, to enlarge on the statement anymore, but I only wanted to make it clear that this is not the result of any Bank closing down, because this legislation has been drafted now for some time. We are just now doing the tidying up of the legislation, and our investigations on the

activities of certain banks in this colony indicate that we must consider not only civil sanctions but perhaps penal sanctions as well.

Mr. MILLER: Are we permitted, Mr. Speaker, to debate the statement? I know, Sir, that the Hon. Premier was laying a statement.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The statement has been duly laid.

Mr. MILLER: But there was considerable discussion.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Discussion by whom?

Mr. SPEAKER: There may be no discussion at this stage. Permission was granted for a statement to be laid. I assume that what the Hon. Premier was saying was put down in the statement which will be duly printed and circulated. Any hon. member may give notice in the usual way through the Clerk to have a Resolution tabled in this House for the purpose of discussing this Statement.

Mr. MILLER: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House intimated that there is no further Government Business proposed to be dealt with at this meeting, there being no other business on the Order Paper.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg Your Honour's pardon. There is still a single Item.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no other business on the Order Paper which it is proposed to deal with this afternoon.

ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: As is customary, Sir, after the passing of the Estimates, we are going to propose the adjournment for a fortnight.

I therefore beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 10th April at 3 o'clock p.m.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

4.55 p.m.