

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 29th May, 1962.

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

PRESENT

Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Mr. F. E. MILLER; Mr. E. St.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (*Minister of Education*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. S. E. SEALY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (*Minister of Communications, Works, Housing and Tourism*); Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. L. A. LYNCH, J.P.; Mr. G. V. BATSON, (*Chairman of Committees*); Mr. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (*Minister of Social Services*).

Mr. CLERK: I regret to inform this Honourable House that His Honour the Speaker is unavoidably absent through illness.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms bearing the Mace entered the House.

Prayers were read.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have been directed by His Honour the Speaker to inform this Honourable House of an accident which took place the day before yesterday of which he had been a victim, and which has rendered him unable to be in this Honourable House today. He regrets that very much.

I am sure all hon. members will receive this news with much regret for His Honour the Speaker, and will hope and pray that he meets a speedy recovery so that he may be able to carry on with his activities both in this Honourable House and in the community generally.

MINUTES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meetings held on 13th and 20th March, 1962 respectively, have been printed and circulated amongst hon. members, and unless there be any objection, these Minutes will be taken as read and confirmed.

There being no objection, the Minutes of those meetings are taken as read and confirmed.

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Report of the Accountant General for the month ended 31st January, 1962.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, who is not now in his place, I am com-

manded to lay Message No. 5/1962 regarding the appointment of Honourable Sir Kenneth Stoby, Chief Justice, to act as Governor's Deputy during the absence from the Island of His Excellency the Governor.

The Message reads as follows:-

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR
TO
THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to inform the Honourable the House of Assembly that at the request of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, he will be attending the Conference of the Chief Ministers of the Windward and Leeward Islands with the Premier of Barbados due to commence in London on Wednesday, 9th May. His Excellency will proceed to the United Kingdom by air on Monday, 7th May.

2. During His Excellency's absence, the Honourable Sir Kenneth Stoby, Chief Justice, will act as Governor's Deputy in accordance with Clause XXI A of the Letters Patent.

JOHN STOW.

Also, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Premier and Minister of Finance who is not now in his place I am commanded to lay the following:-

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1962.

The Approved Estimates of Current Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 1962-63.

The Approved Estimates of Capital Expenditure for the financial year 1962-63.

Barbados Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Port Department for the financial year 1962-63.

Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for eleven months ended 28th February, 1962.

Statement showing Gross Customs and Excise Receipts for twelve months ended 31st March, 1962.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for the month ended 30th April, 1962.

Report of the Standing Insurance Committee and Statement of Accounts of the General Insurance Fund for the period 1st April, 1960 to 31st March, 1961.

Barbados Statistical Service Selected Monthly Indicators - December, 1961.

Also, on behalf of the Minister of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Report of the Public Utilities Board to the Governor-in-Executive Committee under section 52 of the Public Utilities Act, 1951 for the year 1961.

The Customs Duties (Barbados Museum and Historical Society) Order, 1962.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Statement from the Barbados General Agricultural Society regarding the appropriation of the Legislative Grant for the year 1961.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

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 by the various Post Offices to 28th February, 1962.

Also, 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 by the various Post Offices to 31st March, 1962, 2.45 p.m.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to present a Petition from members of the Young Women's Christian Association praying the House to pass a Bill to incorporate the Young Women's Christian Association of Barbados.

The Petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:-

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On behalf of the Hon. Premier:

Resolution to place the sum of \$140,200 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1962-63, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1962-63, No. 2, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution;

Also, Resolution to place the sum of \$50,000 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1962-63, Part II - Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1962-63, No. 3 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution;

Also, Resolution to place the sum of \$3,158 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1962-63, Part I - Current as shown in the supplementary Estimate, 1962-63, No. 4 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution;

Also, Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1962" made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the twenty-fourth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two under the provisions of section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949;

Also, A Bill further to amend the Registration (Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials) Act, 1891;

Also, A Bill to amend the Highways Act, 1900 and certain other enactments relating to the period of notice required to be given to road authorities by the Public Utilities before opening up public roads;

Also, A Bill further to amend the Local Government Service Commission Act, 1959;

Also, A Bill further to amend the Savings Bank Act, 1914;

Also, A Bill to amend the Local Government Act, 1958.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: A Bill to amend the Offences against the Person Act, 1868.

Also, A Bill to provide for the Punishment of Incest.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also give notice of the intention of the Hon. Leader of the House to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to consider the Money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to give notice that Replies to the following Parliamentary Questions are now ready:-

On behalf of the Hon. Premier, Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 17/1962 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas on 6th February, 1962;

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour, Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 2/1962 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph on 16th January, 1962;

Also, Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 8/1962 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter on 16th January, 1962;

Also Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 15/1962 asked by the hon. junior member for St. John, on the 23rd January, 1962;

Also Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 16/1962 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, on 30th January, 1962;

On behalf of myself, Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 28/1962 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, on 6th March, 1962.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 36/1962 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph on the 10th April, 1962 is now ready.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 22/1962 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph on the 20th February, 1962, is now ready.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to incorporate the Young Women's Christian Association.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

WHEREAS the Domestic Science Class at St. John's Mixed School has been closed;

AND WHEREAS because of the cessation of such classes young women in the parish of St. John have no opportunity to avail themselves of the training necessary to qualify for the scheme of emigration as domestics to Canada sponsored by the Government through the agency of the Labour Department;

BE IT RESOLVED that Government recommence such Domestic Science Classes as soon as possible.

Mr. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

WHEREAS grave dissatisfaction exists among Civil Servants over the operation of the Widows & Orphans Pension Scheme and the meagre benefits derived therefrom;

BE IT RESOLVED that Government take steps to carry out a thorough investigation into the operation of the said

Scheme and if possible have its scope of operation extended to include:-

- (a) a Medical Aid Scheme to contributors and/or their dependents;
- (b) a Scheme further to assist contributors and/or their dependents in the construction or purchase of homes.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

WHEREAS the Northern District Council has found it rather difficult to provide any sort of employment for the past two months for the road workers in the parish of Saint Thomas employed by them;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Government take steps to incorporate the road workers of St. Thomas into the central body of Highways and Transport.
2.55 p.m.

QUESTIONS

The following Notices of Questions were given:-

Mr. BATSON: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that St. Thomas Boys' School is in an acute state of disrepair?

2. Will the Minister take all necessary steps to have this hazard repaired as soon as possible?

Mr. BATSON: To enquire of the Minister of Education:

Will the Minister thoroughly explore the possibility of erecting a Modern Secondary School in the parish of St. Thomas at the best site available?

Mr. SMITH: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is it a fact that washers at the Mental Hospital wash and clean more than 500 pieces of clothing and linen during a single day?

2. Is it a fact that there is general dissatisfaction at the Mental Hospital over the washing, linen keeping, and clothes making?

3. Is it a fact that washers at that Institution are complaining in this respect and their grievances are not being listened to?

4. Will Government investigate these complaints without delay?

Mr. SMITH: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will Government set up an impartial commission of enquiry with proper terms of reference to establish the facts as to the running of the Transport Board?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Question stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter relative to overhanging galleries at Speightstown.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the light of recent information which I have received, I am asking leave to have that question temporarily withdrawn.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking leave to have this question temporarily withdrawn, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted the hon. member. (After a pause.) There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. member.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Question also stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter relative to raising the age-limit of pupils attending Modern Secondary Schools.

Mr. HUSBANDS: To enquire of the Minister of Education:

Will the Minister consider raising the age-limit of pupils attending Modern Secondary Schools to the age of 18 years?

2. If the answer to No. (1) is in the negative, will the Minister state why?

Mr. BOXILL: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Is the Minister of Communications, Works, Housing and Tourism aware of the fact that Highways and Transport, who formerly charged the Waterworks 30 cents per square foot for road repairs after laying of water services is now charging the Waterworks \$1.50 per square foot?

2. Is the Minister aware that this extra burden has been placed on the unfortunate consumer?

3. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state why. If not, will the Minister please investigate this sore spot immediately?

Mr. BOXILL: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Is the Government aware of the growing dissatisfaction at Highways and Transport in all sections of the Staff?

2. Will Government enquire into these accusations by means of investigations immediately?

Mr. BOXILL: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware of the growing dissatisfaction among members of the Police Force because of working conditions, and the attitude of certain Officers towards the constables?

2. Will Government enquire why it is that the Bridge, Hastings, Brittons Hill, Worthing and Oistins Stations have not got a constable of 20 years' standing?

3. Will Government please set up a Commission to investigate and recommend better conditions for this most important segment of the Island?

Mr. CORBIN entered the House and took his seat.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA in each case, the following Bills were read a first time:-

A Bill further to amend the Registration (Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials) Act, 1891.

A Bill to amend the Highways Act, 1900 and certain other enactments relating to the period of notice required to be given to road authorities by the Public Utilities before opening up public roads.

A Bill further to amend the Local Government Service Commission Act, 1959.

A Bill further to amend the Savings Bank Act, 1914.

A Bill to amend the Local Government Act, 1958.

On motions of Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, seconded in each case by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the following Bills were read a first time:-

A Bill to amend the Offences against the Person Act, 1868.

A Bill to provide for the punishment of Incest.
3.05 p.m.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill intituled an Act to incorporate the Young Women's Christian Association be now read a first time.

Mr. SMITH: I beg to second that.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave of absence from the House for two months from 3rd June, 1962.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for Christ Church is asking leave of the House for two months' leave of absence commencing from 3rd June, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave was granted the hon member

QUESTION TIME

Question Time was called.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Oral Reply is to Parliamentary Question No. 17/1962, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, on the 6th February, 1962.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question reads as follows:-

"To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will Government take steps at its earliest opportunity to have the Debates of this Chamber broadcast for the information and convenience of the general public?"

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reply is as follows:

"The Government is actively considering the question of the broadcasting of Parliamentary Debates."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Oral Reply is to Parliamentary Question No. 2/1962 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question reads as follows:-

"To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware of the difficulty experienced by villagers in this Island who do not live adjacent to the public highways in having an electric service in their homes owing to the high cost of the installation fees charged by the Barbados Light and Power Co., Ltd.?

2. Will Government take steps to subsidise the installation of such services in areas where the residents are unable to meet the cost in full?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the reply is as follows:-

"(1) Yes, Sir. But difficulty is also experienced by some villagers who live adjacent to the highway in having an electricity service installed in their homes.

(2) The Ministry of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour has begun discussions with the Company with a view to arriving at some satisfactory arrangements for the extension of electricity services in those areas which are not presently supplied."

Mr. SMITH: As a subsidiary, I wonder if the Minister is in a position to let us know how long these negotiations will last, and if there is any possibility of getting to some final decision during this year.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I would like to assure the hon. member that there is always a possibility of getting to a decision; whether this year or not, I am not in a position to say. But the hon. member will appreciate that the absence of the Minister of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour from the Colony at this moment will delay certain matters to some extent; but I am certain that as soon as

my colleague returns, he will give his attention to the matter again, and perhaps the hon. member would like to raise it with him at some future date when he is in his place.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. members will appreciate that the time has now come for Private Members' Business.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, before you call the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business, I would like to draw to Your Honour's attention that at the last sitting of the House I gave notice of a Resolution which is No. 18 on the Order Paper under Private Members' Business, and at that time I asked His Honour the Speaker to have the Report printed. Four weeks have elapsed, and I have not yet received a copy of that Report. I think it is important that the Report should be printed, because it was laid in the House and I asked that steps be taken to have it printed as it is my intention to debate that Report.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am instructed that the Report is in the hands of the Printers, and I further understand that it will be in the member's hands by the next meeting.

Mr. WALCOTT: I thank you, Sir.

RESOLUTION *re* PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICE IN ST. JOHN

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order No. 1 under Private Members' Business is to resume debate on a Resolution *re* the public transportation service in the parish of St. John.

On the last occasion, the hon. senior member for the City was speaking, and as hon. members will appreciate, that hon. member is not in his seat today. It is left now to be decided if hon. members are willing to carry on with this debate. If no other hon. member is willing to contribute to the debate, it will be necessary then to direct the matter to the hon. junior member for St. John as to what course he himself will take.
3.15 p.m.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are few Resolutions which may come before this House on which I will be able to speak with greater authority than this one. I rise, not in any personal self opinion, but to ensure that this House may not be misled or misguided, as I fear the hon. junior member for St. John who has brought this Resolution has been misled.

I happen, Sir, to be the concessionaire of the bus route in question and I would be lacking in my duty to the community if I failed to reply to the hon. junior member for St. John. I may begin by saying that the hon. junior member for St. John, like other members of the community, feel that transport is so simple that any and all and sundry can direct it.

As long as I happen to be a member of this Assembly, I will try to make myself conversant with matters before I attempt to speak. It is well known that quite a number of people like to use buses as they use a private car and much of the waste of the Transport Board is as a result of such services. I have every reason to believe that a person who is responsible for this complaint is a school teacher who feels that by virtue of her calling she is entitled to preferential treatment, regardless of how it operates against the bus company and so long as a bus is made available to take her to and from school.

There are people in the parish of Saint John who operate "pirate" buses in such a manner as to take the cream of the concession and leave the hard part for the bus owners.

This complaint, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I may tell you, is not a complaint in the interest of the public, nor is it a general complaint; it is a special complaint. As I have said, relative to these "pirate" buses which operate in the parish of St. John, their owners are only there to see that

they are always running full of passengers and some people feel that a 31-passenger bus or 50-passenger bus which costs all over \$25,000 is there only for the purpose of carrying a school teacher to her job.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. junior member for St. John could hardly refrain from making personal references to me as a concessionaire. The hon. member should know that Martins Bay is only a poor fishing area and after passengers have come to town on mornings, there are no passengers coming from Martins Bay.

The hon. member also said that the Island's transport should revert to competition. It is not that the Island's transport wants reverting to competition at all. If a man is able to go and buy an old motor van best suited for carrying merchandise and runs it on a concessionaire's route to take passengers off the route, Mr. Deputy Speaker, what more competition can you want than that? It is possible for a man to take an old motor van and run it on a concessionaire's route and see that that motor van is always running full of passengers.

Sir, transport in this Island is operated under the direction of the Director of Highways and Transport who has on every concession he gives out a scheduled service by which the concessionaire has to operate. If you are operating a bus from Bridgetown to Martins Bay and there is not a single passenger going on that trip at that time, there are Inspectors to see that that bus leaves the terminus of Bridgetown for its destination at that time even although there is not a single passenger in the bus. That is not so with the "pirates". If there are no passengers, he would not go; he would wait until such time as he gets enough passengers to go.

Under the agreement with the Transport Board, concessionaires are called on to keep at the disposal of the public spare buses and a staff of mechanics. If something is wrong with a motor omnibus on the route, the conductor or driver just has to ring to the garage and a bus would have to leave with a qualified mechanic to bring it to the place where the other one broke down. Concessionaires are also called on to have drivers and conductors and these workers must be properly uniformed with forest cap and badge, unlike the "pirate" who does not have to pay one single person except himself. Then, the service which a "pirate" operates is not operated on a time schedule and all that is unfair to concessionaires.

However, Sir, the point which I want to make clear and which the hon. junior member for St. John has raised, that the service to Martins Bay is inadequate is this: I would like the hon. junior member for St. John when he is making his reply to say whether he knows of a 31-passenger bus travelling from Martins Bay having more than twelve passengers to bring to Bridgetown. I remember some time ago that this complaint went to one of the past representatives of the parish of Saint John who, in my opinion, had more intelligence than the hon. member who has brought this Resolution in, because that representative when this matter was brought to him went to the appropriate quarters and asked that the service be improved for those people. 3.25 p.m.

That service was put on by the Director of Transport and after the running of the service for a short period, the passengers who called for it did not make use of it and therefore that service had to be stopped. I would like to say that the hon. member who brought down this Resolution did not first try to seek information from the proper authorities; he just brought it down because he could bring it down. I am saying, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that there is no concessionaire in this Island who will be able to run an adequate service in this Island with these pick-up vans running at any time and at all times. Even if the transport service is inadequate, you cannot blame the concessionaire for that. In this House I heard the hon. senior member for St. Peter say that today is not the day when the transport service can be operated by "fly" buses, pick-ups and vehicles of that sort.

When the hon. junior member for St. John gets up to make his reply I would like him to be able to tell me if,

at any time during the year, the buses which service the Martins Bay district have left any passengers, or if at any time he had a load of passengers for which there had not been a schedule. The bus service at Martins Bay had to be reduced because the passengers were inadequate for the running of a bus service of that size. I will not stress that point for too long because it is useless to be fighting against something which is not necessary. I am only trying to make that explanation in order to show hon. members that before bringing a Resolution to this House they should know something more about the matter. An elector may come to an hon. member and put up something to him and he may be stupid enough to come here and waste the time of this Honourable House in debating something which is not necessary to be debated in this House. In my opinion, if the hon. member had gone to the proper authorities, they would have been able to tell him that the proposal has been tried out, it has been a failure, and therefore it is not necessary to have such a service or services as that for which the hon. junior member for St. John is now asking.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Resolution which is before us today deals with the inadequacy of the bus service in St. John; however, it is not only a matter of St. John, but the whole Island of Barbados. Concerning the transportation of passengers, I would say that there is the need for scheduled hours when buses should be run whether they have two passengers, three passengers or one hundred passengers. If a bus leaves Bridgetown and goes to Belleplaine or anywhere else, at a scheduled hour, when that bus reaches that destination and passengers are not ready to be transported, then they have to be left; therefore such passengers cannot say that they are not getting an adequate bus service. The bus service to the country district is not like that in the City where the buses run every quarter of an hour or every half an hour. I know that the buses run at 7 o'clock or 8 o'clock and they return back to the City; they leave at 11 o'clock and reach their destination at 12 o'clock. These scheduled hours are adequate for anyone who has to go on a long journey, but I may say that there is no bus which has to go a long journey which can have scheduled hours just as those which are being run in the City. (Asides).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot refrain from hearing voices on both sides of the House; I would therefore be glad if hon. members would whisper to each other in softer tones.

Mr. CORBIN: I am saying, Sir, that what is needed is a scheduled hour to meet the long distances which are being travelled so that passengers in these districts will know the exact hour at which they will meet the buses. If passengers cannot get the buses because they do not arrive on time, then any of us can bring a complaint. I should like to say that, as to those persons who run buses to Martins Bay and to St. Andrew, they should be subsidised by the Government. I say that because the profit which they make cannot compensate for the wear and tear on the engines of the buses or the tyres, gasoline or anything else when these buses go up and down those hills. As long as the concessionaires can run their buses on scheduled hours in order to meet the passengers, the service will be all right; otherwise the matter should be brought before the House at any time. I cannot complain about the transport service where the "Rocklyn" buses are concerned. If it is said that run time is any time and Miss Rock's time is any time, I do not agree with that at all. (Asides).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member who is on his feet is speaking in louder tones than those who are talking in asides; but on both sides of the House those who are talking will not allow me to hear what is being said by the hon. member who is on his feet. I would be grateful if hon. members would whisper to each other in softer tones.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I quite agree with you. Members on both sides of the House know the Rules of the House; they should therefore abide by the Rules. Hon. members are not babies so that they cannot abide by the Rules of this House; they should be able to set an example and do not allow me to have to pass sentence on them. 3.35 p.m.

I do not want to be long on this Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I should like to say finally that if concessionaires in this Island, especially those who have the difficult routes, set up their scheduled hours and can run their buses according to the schedule, that should be satisfactory to the community.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was not in the House at the time when the hon. junior member for St. John introduced this Resolution; so I do not know what was said during that time. What I am wondering, Sir, is whether, as a Party man he had taken up this question with his Party, and also whether he took up this matter with the concessionaires before he proceeded to bring it into this Honourable House. As a true and honest representative of the people, I feel that he first should have taken up this matter with the concessionaires if there are any grievances, because I doubt whether he may not have heard complaints. He should have taken up the matter first with the concessionaire, and if the concessionaire did not give any heed, he should then have taken it up with his Party since his Party is now the Government, and, if his Party gave him the O.K., then bring this Address on the floor of the House. I feel that if he had done both these things, he would have saved time in debating it here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I say that to say this: after I heard about it, I began to investigate, and this is what I have discovered. I have found out that the hon. junior member for St. John is a colleague of the concessionaire up there, because he has a concession. I have heard that, and I am sure that if it is not so, he will deny it when his time comes. What actually happens, Sir, is that he runs off his route at times — that is what I have heard because I have never seen him — and robs the other concessionaires of their fares. Well truly, Sir, I would have to make some kind of talk, or as a certain member would say, I would have to make a "bassa-bassa". The hon. member has taken it upon himself to use the good offices of being a representative of the people to bring this matter here, and I have heard that he even made threats to the conductors, drivers and concessionaires, threatening them to have the route taken away. That is what was revealed to me during my investigations.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I object strenuously to those remarks made by the hon. member.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member can object as much as he likes. I am not out of order; I am only saying what I have understood. I have also heard that he has been so far as to stop a bus and check the passengers, and make the police report them too. Now, Sir, it is no wonder that the hon. junior member for St. John wanted to lock up every person who has to do with transport, because he said in here that the members of the Transport Board should be locked up. I have now come to find out why.

Now, Sir, you have heard my colleague say in his remarks that they are called upon to keep to their routes, and move off at scheduled times, whether the bus has one person or one hundred persons. The conductors have to be decently clad and wear badges and things of that sort, and yet one is allowed to run a pirate bus. Sir, when you become a representative of the people, things that you used to do you must do no more. You must go to the pool of politics and wash and become clean. You have to be stainless when you want to represent people, and not try to be clean here and dirty yonder. That is the duty of a politician. The other concessionaire has to cry out because he cannot go on the hon. member's route. I did not even know that pirate buses had routes; I thought they were only stealing a chance when I see them running around and getting a passenger here and there. I thought they were only hanging around to eke out a living.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the route which the hon. junior member for St. John has was pointed out to me, but I cannot remember it, and sometimes he is seen on other routes. I am sure that if he had taken up this matter with the Hon. Minister who is in charge and let him know that he has a route, and at some times things might not be bright his

way and he has to go on other people's route, the Minister would have told him not to bring this Resolution. I would not be surprised if the Hon. Minister said he is unaware that the hon. member runs here and there. I understand that sometimes he runs on Route 6 and sometimes on Route 7. As a politician and as a representative of the people of St. John, the member should be the last person to bring a Resolution of this sort, because he is also interested in transport; and although he may be right, anybody would think that it is only because he runs around sometimes on the other routes that he has brought this Resolution before the House.

3.45 p.m.

I am drawing to his attention that he is in here through the people of St. John and he should look to represent them more fully than what he is doing today. I say that because I could not call this proper representation of the people when he is responsible for representing the owner of a bus route in his parish and he is trying to get some person from the other route to come in and take over that route and is also trying from the reading of this Resolution, because it is possible if this Resolution should pass today or some time later, that this concessionaire may lose out. This is serious business; this is just like when you are playing with a gun and pulling the trigger and do not know where the shot would lodge. This is no sport. How can this be any sport after you have brought a matter of this sort to this House and you are asking hon. members to support you and there is the possibility as an outcome of this Resolution that the present concessionaire is liable to lose and there is also the possibility that the hon. junior member for St. John may be the winner because if he is in the same line of business, if he is operating in St. John, and the concessionaire whom I am talking about or the other concessionaires lose their concession, I would not call him a business man, as I know him to be, if he were to let somebody else come in and get a concession to operate the route. Therefore, it is a possibility if hon. members in his Party — in other words, the present Government — support this Resolution, that some people in St. John or some others may suffer and bear a heavy loss. I say that because I know that a concessionaire in that parish is a lady who has just lost her husband who has left her with a lot of children to support, and I have also heard that she recently lost her residence by fire and it was not even properly insured. Even if it were insured, she still would have lost and the representative whom she is responsible for putting in this House is causing her another fire because he would cause her now to lose out as a result of this Resolution. Well, it would be through the kindness of the people of St. John who voted for the representative that has caused others or this lady to meet another catastrophe, because, as I have just said, there is the possibility that she may lose out because it is a question of numbers. This Resolution may pass through numbers and I cannot save it.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like the hon. member to understand that this Resolution is dealing with concessionaires and not one concessionaire in the parish of St. John.

Mr. SMITH: Well, Sir, I really do not know how many concessionaires there are in St. John. If the hon. member would just point out to me how many are there, I would be glad because I have just heard my colleague speaking and as far as I gather from him, he has a part of the service in St. John; therefore, he would be one.

I do not think the hon. junior member for St. John was thinking of saving my colleague because my colleague did not have either fire or more children than he can work for. Even if you take away the concession from him, he is a man like me who can work very hard. If it appears to the hon. junior member for St. John that I am a bit heavy on him, it is because I am trying to protect the lady who has recently lost her husband and then her residence. I understand that she could not go into town after the fire to try and borrow a penny because she lost all her clothing. She had to wait until her seamstress went into town to buy something for her and then come back and make it up. I do not think the hon. junior member for St. John knew this; if not,

he would not have pressed this case so hard even if she were wrong.

You will always meet complaints coming to you about concessionaires. I, too, have made complaints about concessionaires but I go to them and tell them about my complaint before telling anybody else. When I go to concessionaires and put my case, in some cases it is not that the concessionaire is wholly wrong but the cause may be due to some of his employees, and very often the concessionaire promises me that he would remedy it. Sometimes, I go to my honourable colleague and take up matters with him. I do not go to my Party and try to penalise any concessionaire. I take the matter up with the concessionaire first.

Sir, you just cannot please everybody. There are some people who go into a bus and do anything to make a noise. In this case, what is worrying me is this. I do not know if the hon. junior member for St. John has taken his duty so seriously by first of all going to the concessionaire and putting his case. I do not know if this concessionaire, being a woman, ignored him, probably because she has just lost her husband and is afraid of a man. I do not know if she was afraid of him which caused her to ignore him; but even if that were so, then he could have taken the matter up with members of his Party before bringing it here. The hon. member's colleague is the Premier of this country and is also a member of the same Party. Imagine such a small thing as this coming before the House concerning that parish when you have the Hon. Premier representing that parish! I do not know how the hon. junior member for St. John is thinking. I hope he will take this in the spirit in which I am giving him and it will be a lesson for him not to jump up too quickly to do these things before, as the old people tell you, you have taken counsel. This is a matter which should have been taken up at the right level, first of all with the concessionaire, and then with members of his Party before coming in here with it. However, because he has brought it in here, he has left it open for those of us who have a heart and soul to work according to our consciences.

3.55 p.m.

Now, as I have said, I do not know what the reason is because I was not here when the hon. member introduced the Resolution. But this is the wording of the Resolution:-

"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. Deputy Speaker, inasmuch as this Resolution is before us, I understand - I do not live in St. John although I may pass up there - that the hon. member was going around with a petition asking people to sign as a mark of protest against the services which are rendered by the buses up there. That is what I have heard; that is what was told to me. Some man's name was called to me; I am very sorry that I did not write down the name. A man in a particular area is doing the same thing and trying to work out the concessionaires. What must we do here this afternoon in order to save the concessionaires, even including the hon. junior member for St. John, because he is one of them? We must do one thing and that is to reject this Resolution. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you have to protect some people from themselves. If we should do our duty relative to this Resolution, there may be the possibility of the hon. junior member for St. John coming out on top and if he does not come out on top somebody belonging to him will do so. I can only say that the hon. member is in the "do" and he is responsible for this Resolution being before us this afternoon when he is one of the concessionaires.

I have also heard - and what I am saying I think I can verify - in some cases, even if not in all cases. Even at

the Highways and Transport Board I have heard that the hon. member is giving some trouble up there. If the hon. member is going to deny that, then I will call upon them to give me the Minutes and I will get a chance to discuss the matter. I am told that the hon. member is giving no end of trouble with the route up there. He will not keep to his route; he is always running on other people's routes and he is the first to make the complaints. That is what I am told. I feel that in the interest of the travelling public they should know what is happening. In the interest of the electors of the parish of St. John they should know what they have done and they may be able to say: "Forgive him, Oh my Father; for he knows not what he has done". Some of the Electors may say that, but we will still know what we have to do. This is a serious matter; we, as legislators, should not try to use our good offices in order to penalise people. We should not do that. I am a garage proprietor and the last thing I would do is to bring something here which would penalise other garage proprietors. If the matter should come here and they are wrong I will bring down the hammer on them by all means; but I will not do it otherwise, because it will be said that Smith wants all the trade and he is trying to penalise his colleagues.

The hon. junior member for St. John is a very honest man; he did not cover up anything. He is trying to do his duty in representing the travelling public of St. John; he is trying to do that, yes, but how is he trying to do it? These people are annoyed because he is trying to take a berry out of their mouths. This route is light, my colleague's route is heavy and so the hon. member will try to run over and get a bite. It is not fair for one man to die from starvation while another man is living happily and has everything in order. At the same time it must be borne in mind that the concessionaires are tied down to routes; they cannot run buses wherever they like, whereas in the case of the "pirate" drivers I have seen them not properly clad. They must understand that there is the law, and whereas if one man does not carry out the letter of the law he will be punished, the other man can do as he likes. That is hard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, before I sit down I will move that this Resolution be rejected regardless of whatever will be the consequences. I do not have the numbers in here but I will not allow the lack of numbers to cause me to be lacking in my duty. However, Sir, I will not move that this Resolution be rejected. *(Laughter)*. I want the Government members to vote for it. I will not do anything about it and I know what is going to happen whether this Resolution is rejected or not.

4.05 p.m.

The people of St. John have seen the intention of the present Government, because I believe the Government knows about it; otherwise a backbencher could not bring this here so easily. If the Party is working along the right lines, and if they are doing what they should do as a ruling Party and not allow a backbencher to "mash up" a good spree - and I know you have all brains over there.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not understand the expression "mash up a good spree". If the hon. junior member for St. Joseph would give the House the language expected of the House, I would understand better.

Mr. SMITH: Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you know the meaning of a spree, because I have met you at sprees. You know that a good spree is when everything is going off nicely. I have just understood, Sir, - and this will support me - that the hon. junior member for St. John wanted the buses to go back on the competition line again. I would not like to see that, and that is the meaning of "mashing up" a good spree, because more lives would be lost.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand that now.

Mr. SMITH: Well, Sir, the people of St. John understand that too, and I am going to sit here and see the present Government hang themselves by passing a Resolution of this sort with one of the members trying to penalise one of the concessionaires - a poor widow of the parish of St. John by the name of Mrs. Simpson - only because she would not

keep her mouth closed and allow him to take bread out of her mouth. I am hoping, Sir, that nothing more like this will happen again where a member of this House tries to take his office to penalise people in this country.

Mr. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I honestly regret a Resolution of this sort coming before this House. I can assure you that when the hon. junior member for St. John criticised the Transport Board, I backed him 100%, but when on the 10th April he said that the Transport service in the parish of St. John was inadequate, it meant that he was saying one thing in one breath and saying something else in another breath, thus strengthening the hands of the hon. senior member for St. Peter when he said that no transportation could run successfully without public funds.

I can tell you, Sir, that I have travelled through St. John on several occasions on business, and I have heard the feelings of the people, and I can tell you now, Sir, that the hon. junior member for St. John is making fun. As a matter of fact, he is looking for trouble. He is interfering with one of the most decent and honest-minded persons in the parish of St. John by the name of Iris Wilkinson.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I object to the hon. senior member for St. Michael making reference to any particular concessionaire operating in St. John, with whom I am interfering and for whom I am making trouble.

Mr. SEALY: I can say that with bold assurance, because I cannot imagine that the hon. member who represents the people of St. John would get on his bus and drive down the road and get a policeman to report the bus and put off school children. I will go further and say that the hon. member is interfering with one of the most decent and respectable persons in the parish of St. John by the name of Iris Wilkinson.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would be glad if the hon. senior member for St. Michael would try to direct.....

Mr. SEALY: The lady, Miss Iris Wilkinson or Mrs. Simpson is one of the most respectable persons in the parish of St. John, and her name is not only Wilkinson or Simpson, but all the names you can think of in the parish of St. John, and he is only involving himself and the hon. senior member for St. John. It is said that there is a pirate bus which runs around on the same route. He is using his route and other routes too, so that this Resolution before this House is only a personal matter which I regret has come before this House. That particular lady lost her husband not long ago, and the majority of members would know that her house was burnt and she saved nothing. Her entire savings have gone up in flames. She is the mother of nine children, all of whom are at secondary school. What do you expect her to do? Do you want to take away her buses, run competition and let her depend on public charity?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wonder if the hon. member would care to wait a bit while the children leave the House. Now that there is silence, the hon. member may resume.

Mr. SEALY: I thank you, Sir. As you will see, Sir, there is a pirate bus run by one particular individual who is complaining that the transportation service in the parish is inadequate. The person to whom he is referring is a lady who has nine children all of whom are at Secondary School.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Again on a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I object to the hon. senior member for St. Michael referring to one person as the concessionaire in St. John.

Mr. SEALY: I can do it without fear of contradiction, and I can say that the lady's brother, Oscar Wilkinson, went to the representative and complained, and because he had his hands on his hips, the hon. member asked him if he knew to whom he was talking, and told him that he was talking to the junior member for St. John.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will have to ask that those words be withdrawn, because they are very far from the truth.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, if the hon. member would give way, I understand from the tenor of the debate that it is quite controversial, and I myself have no knowledge of all the facets of the case under dispute; but I would appeal to the hon. member who is now speaking, if possible, to save mentioning the names of any residents of St. John, since they are not substantively the subject of the debate. He may, if he wishes to, criticise the hon. member as much as he likes, but it is, I think, quite unnecessary for the lady's name to be mentioned, in as much as she is not a party to this dispute between the two sides of this House.

Mr. SEALY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the names to which I am referring are those of concessionaires in the parish of St. John, and I make reference to the lady's name because it appears that the hon. junior member for St. John would like to see that lady, who is without a husband and who has nine children at secondary school, and whose house was burnt, come in for public charity.
4.15 p.m.

Mr. MILLER: Before Your Honour closes the debate and puts the question I would like to make a little contribution to the debate and support my honourable colleague, the senior member for St. Joseph. The Resolution before the House has taken up considerable time and if it provided any argument at all, what I can see from it is that the entire bus service of this Island should come under public ownership. We are up against the transport services of this Island being provided in part by the Transport Board and then by private concessionaires. I think we have reached the stage where the community service is desired to be run by public ownership. No substitute would answer what should be the essential service.

I am hoping that the hon. junior member for St. John would be willing to withdraw this Resolution so as to save it from strife and misery. It would really save it from this strife and misery. Tuesday after Tuesday, we have been discussing this matter and it seems to me that it would go on for many more Tuesdays unless the hon. member is willing to persuade his Government and get the sanction of the House that the entire passenger service should be brought under public ownership. I am simply asking the hon. member to treat this Resolution with the grace which it deserves by withdrawing it thus saving it from strife and misery.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I did not want to be drawn into this debate on the question of public transportation in the parish of St. John as I thought it to be at first.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am hearing two voices - one standing and one sitting.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I was saying, Sir, that I thought at first that this was a matter concerning public transportation in the parish of St. John. I see according to the Resolution it is stated: "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."

That is what is being requested by the Resolution; but, Sir, from what I have been hearing - and members are certainly waxing warm about it - it appears to me that the issuing of directions by Government is not the answer; it seems to me as if matters are rather personal. I do not know from what I have heard of the debate if, when this Resolution came before the House, certain members were not directly involved. As I have said, I think it is more than the issuing of directions which should be gone into. I think from what I have heard that this matter should be the subject of an inquiry and I do hope that the hon. junior member for St. John who knows a lot about this matter would ask the House to resolve itself upon the setting up of a Board of Enquiry to go into this matter because of what has been divulged today.

I do not know how true it is, but from what little has been divulged it seems to me so personal and delicate and

affecting directly hon. members of this Chamber that we should not be a judge of our own case.

Sir, I regret very much indeed that this Resolution does not seek the setting up of a public enquiry. I do not think the Resolution as it stands goes far enough. I am not knowledgeable about the transportation affairs in the parish of St. John and I believe that there are other hon. members who are in my position. The part of the debate on this matter to which I have listened has taken such a turn and has involved members of this House to such an extent that I think it has gone beyond the wording of the Resolution which is requesting Government to issue directions through the appropriate channels to the private concessionaires concerned. I am glad that I have been in here to hear the last hon. member who spoke. I did not expect that this debate would have assumed the proportions which it has assumed and as it has turned in this direction, I think the Resolution should go beyond the terms of issuing directions and there should be a public enquiry. I think that would satisfy the travelling public of St. John and all those who are interested in the transportation facilities in the parish of St. John.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member who desires to speak on this Resolution before the hon. junior member for St. John replies? *(A Pause)*.

There being no other hon. member who is desirous of speaking, the hon. junior member for St. John is free to reply if he desires to do so.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am at a loss to hear such untruthful statements coming from hon. members on that side of the House towards this Resolution. In my opening remarks, I can remember stating clearly the reasons why this Resolution was being brought. I have the honour now to represent the constituency of St. John and if I get complaints from my electors, I think it is only fair that I should try to do my utmost to make sure that the electors are satisfied. I would not have attempted to bring a Resolution like this in this House unless I had complaints of the nature of dissatisfaction over the transportation services in St. John.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will first tell you and other hon. members that I have spoken first of all to one of the concessionaires of St. John - and that is the hon. senior member for St. Joseph - over this matter before I brought in this Resolution.
4.25 p.m.

Mr. COWARD: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the only conversation which the hon. member had with me is to tell me in this House that he is going to bring down this Resolution. He has not told me anything more.

Mr. YEARWOOD: If the hon. member were truthful he would tell you about letters sent to him about the dissatisfaction of the running of the routes, letters which he has not answered up to now.

Mr. COWARD: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying that the hon. member is lying; *(ASIDES)* he is a stranger to the truth. He has told me that he was going to bring down this Resolution to this House because a particular lady wrote him and he has not yet answered.

At this stage, it now being 4.30 p.m. of the clock,

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now 4.30 p.m. of the clock and the time for the consideration of Private Members' Business has come to an end. The House will now proceed to the consideration of Government Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Government Business stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour:—To move the third reading of a Bill further to amend the Bank Holidays Act, 1905. I observe that the Hon. Minister is not now in his place.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to ask leave to take Order No. 3 as the first Order of the Day under Government Business.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to take Order No. 3 as the first Order of the Day under Government Business. If there is no objection, leave will be granted the Hon. Minister. *(After a Pause.)* There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Minister.

RESOLUTION TO SANCTION THE CUSTOMS (PETROLEUM PRODUCTS BULK STORAGE) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Order in the absence of the Hon. Minister of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour who is not now in his place.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Government Business is to move the passing of a Resolution to sanction the Regulations entitled "Customs Petroleum 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. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in some measure hon. members are familiar with this Resolution. You may remember that it was passed, I believe, a month ago, but, unfortunately, on that occasion it was pointed out to Mr. Speaker that the Regulations which are ancillary to the Resolution had not then been laid and therefore the House had acted a little hastily in passing the Resolution without first having the Regulations laid. Consequently, that irregularity would be removed when the Regulations are laid and the Resolution re-introduced.

The Regulations have now been laid and the Resolution is now being re-introduced. As you will see, Sir, this Resolution is a Resolution which asks this House to sanction certain Regulations which have been made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 10th November, 1961, to deal with the petroleum products bulk storage. The House is certainly aware of the fact that under the Customs (Amendment) Regulations of 1955 which deal with the similar matter of petroleum products bulk storage, provision has already been made for the storage of petroleum products at Spring Garden and Mount Ararat. What has occasioned this new Resolution is the fact that in so far as Marine fuel and bunkering facilities at the Deep Water Harbour Site are concerned, there are no Regulations to cover them; that is why these Regulations have been introduced and that is why this Resolution is now before the House. With the coming into operation of the Deep Water Harbour, permission has been given by negotiating an Agreement to one of the oil companies operating in Barbados to bunker ships and the ships, of course, call at the Bridgetown Harbour and Carlisle Bay. This Resolution before us now seeks to give legal sanction to prescribing the conditions under which the bulk storage of petroleum products should be carried on in so far as marine fuel is concerned.

This Agreement has been made between the Governor-in-Executive Committee and Esso Standard Oil Company Ltd. One relative part of the Agreement would be interesting to the House, and that is Article 5 (a) of the bunkering Agreement which provides that the Government shall execute and do all such further instruments, acts and things including the introduction of legislation and the making of Regulations and subsidiary legislation as may be necessary or proper to give full effect to the Agreement. Hence this Resolution is before the House.

I should also like to remind hon. members that these Regulations are more up-to-date than the previous Regulations of 1955 because they take into account the new conditions arising out of the construction and operation of the Bridgetown Harbour. Therefore the amendments include such provision as including "Holborn - St. Michael" in the Schedule as a bulk storage installation and the permission for marine fuel to be delivered from any storage tank and also to treat marine fuel in the same way as aviation spirit. Provision is made to treat marine fuel as a bunkering pro-

duct and so exempt it from customs duty since it does not enter into local consumption. The new Regulations, as hon. members are aware, fix a reduction to cover loss from evaporation or leakage or any loss of delivery from the bunkering facilities to the ship.
4.35 p.m.

I thought hon. members would like to have had that additional information, because the Addendum, I must admit, is very scant in explanatory matter. If there are any other aspects of it about which hon. members feel uncertain, I am sure that I would try to help them as much as I can in the absence of the Hon. Minister of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour.

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

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very pleased to see the very able and gracious manner in which the Hon. Minister dealt with this matter and the full explanation he gave. I had expressed some views on this matter on the last occasion it was brought here, and an explanation was given. I do not intend on this occasion to go over that part, but I would just like to draw something to the Minister's attention and to the attention of the Government in a general way, not in a specific way to interfere with this Resolution - on the question of bunkering and also on the location of the bunkering facilities.

As the hon. member is aware, we have new bunkering facilities and bulk storage facilities in Fontabelle where Holborn was once located. I have been looking at that matter, and although I believe all the experts have approved of its safety so far as fire and the like are concerned, yet as a layman I would still like to draw to the Government's attention that that location is in a residential area. Some people do not like to be removed from danger, but it still appears to me that an area of land even wider than the one that at present surrounds the Esso Bunkering at Holborn should be bought by the Company.

I do not think that the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works, Housing and Tourism would like to be uprooted very easily, but there are other residents in Thomas Gap and other areas in Westbury Road who would not like to be removed, though there are some people who used to live near Westbury Cemetery who had to be removed eventually to provide more space for the burial of the dead. My own observation is that that is a crowded area, and I do not know what the authorities would ever say - we hope it would not happen - if anything happened there, because the residents in that area seem to be just a stone's throw away from these tanks.

From what I have seen in other countries, Mr. Deputy Speaker, usually when you see that type of operation, it is extremely far from any residential area, and the possibility of a fire stretching to houses is something in which you would have to use more than the imagination. I would also like the Hon. Minister and the Government to bear in mind that there are not enough facilities and precautions in Barbados for those trucks which travel with petroleum. I am sure the Minister will remember that in the United States of America one of those trucks collided with another truck and nearly killed everybody in its vicinity because it caught afire. I have seen too many of these trucks being driven about at night, and there are not enough lights and signals on them to indicate that they are dangerous vehicles on the road and to look out. There are not enough red lights and yellow lights on them. In the United States of America and in big countries this type of vehicle does not travel with petroleum and just pass you like that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I say that to draw to the Minister's attention the elements of danger, because in this Island something has gone unnoticed maybe because the person is not a high personality or a person of any known name. In the constituency of the Hon. Minister of Education, only about three months ago, one of the most careless things took place. A boy was killed in a triple, something that should

never have taken place with anybody who knows anything about a factory. The parents might have accepted workmen's compensation, but we in the Trade Union feel that an action should have been brought for damages against that factory. No boy has a right to be boiled in a triple. Similarly nobody should fall into a manhole without somebody knowing he is there. A very serious accident has taken place in which a man has been killed, and that has gone unnoticed.

I say that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, because there are too many careless accidents taking place here. There are not enough safety precautions and people take life for granted. It is true that in a place with a population like Barbados, you do not miss one, and sometimes you feel that that is a way of relieving some of the pressure on this side of the planet. I would like the Minister to know that I have no objection to the Resolution, because the Resolution in itself is a matter which is necessary, but I thought I should take this opportunity to draw these things to the Government's attention. Maybe they are considering them, but as I said, it does seem to me that unlike at Spring Gardens which is out of danger and the Rum Refinery, the bulk installation at Fontabelle which is adjacent to Richmond Gap, Pounders Gap and the surrounding areas can be a bit dangerous, and I hope all the authorities are aware of that. These Companies are not averse from making safety regulations, and sometimes they are the leaders in safety measures.

With regard to the petroleum trucks, I would pay compliment to the drivers here, because I think the incidence of accidents among drivers of that type of vehicle is extremely low, but it is still a question of taking the maximum precautions and safety measures, because you never know what dangers there may be. There are more children on the streets these days, and I would like to see the maximum safety measures provided in all of our public utility services.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member may rest assured that his remarks will be noted in the proper quarter, and I give him the undertaking that I shall draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister, when he returns, the substance of the contribution just made by the hon. senior member for St. Peter.

I think I ought to say, however, with my slight understanding of the matter, that the oil which is stored in these tanks is not of a very highly inflammable nature. That of course is no reason why the necessary precautions ought not to be taken against fire, bursting or anything like that, but I understand that the incidence of fire or explosion from combustion would not be as great as in the case of oil with a more highly inflammable gravity. Apart from that, there is another important aspect of the matter. The argument for safety precautions at all of these installations must always be taken seriously, because one hopes that these enterprises will expand in time.
4.45 p.m.

And, if for instance, as we are all looking forward with some pleasure at the manufacture of kerosene and other products here, then these future enterprises will be properly stationed in that area too and consequently the necessity for establishing this control with that development becomes perhaps even more necessary now so that no harm will be done by looking carefully at this matter of protection of human beings in areas where these installations are to be put.

Speaking personally, I had grave doubts and misgivings, being a near resident of that area, about the wisdom of permitting these installations where they are now; but I have since come to understand that every possible reasonable precaution has been taken so that the danger of fire is not likely, though of course it is as ever present there as it can be anywhere else. However, it is not as likely as it would be if the materials stored at this place were of a more inflammable nature. However, I have every reason to believe that the owners would take further precautions if in the view of the Government it was deemed desirable.

In respect to the trucks which convey petroleum products along the streets, I should certainly ask Government

to take cognizance of the suggestions made by the hon. member. That certainly is a case where you cannot be too careful because an accident on the road is possible. We are aware of what would be the consequences if one of these trucks were to collide either with a building or another vehicle with the resulting consequences; so that the concern which the hon. member feels about this matter would be shared by the members of the public and certainly are shared by this Government.

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

END OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is not my desire to proceed with Orders Nos. 1 & 2 in the absence of the substantive Ministers and therefore, this closes Government Business for the Day.

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, I have heard that an answer has come down today from the Appropriate Minister in respect of Question No. 8/1962 which I asked. I did not have the opportunity of hearing a reply and I am asking the Hon. Minister to give me the privilege of getting the reply to this question.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I suggest that these notices of replies should be treated as customary; that is to say, that the hon. member would be given the opportunity to put the question and then the answer will be given. Although replies are ready, they are treated as not yet being answered. Next week the hon. member will have the opportunity of asking the question and then the replies would be heard.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to move that Order No. 18 standing in my name under Private Members' Business be made Order No. 2. This is a very

important matter and I hope that the report would be printed by that time so that it should be dealt with as soon as possible.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have consulted the hon. junior member for the City, the hon. junior member for St. George, the hon. senior member for St. Peter as well as my colleagues on this side of the House and there is the unanimous desire that we should assemble next Tuesday at 12 o'clock noon. Therefore, I move that this House do now adjourn until next Tuesday, 5th June, 1962 at 12 o'clock noon.

Before I sit, I should like on behalf of the hon. members on this side of the House to ask Your Honour to convey to His Honour the Speaker our anxiety at the news that he has sustained an accident and our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery. We shall also follow his progress with great interest.

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

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Party which I represent I wish that you would convey to His Honour the Speaker the deep concern which we also feel at the news of the accident which he sustained and our earnest wishes for his speedy and complete recovery.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on behalf of hon. members of my Party, I wish to convey the same wishes for the speedy and complete recovery of His Honour the Speaker from the accident which he sustained.

The question that the House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 5th June, 1962 at 12 o'clock (noon), was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

4.55 p.m.