
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 6th November, 1962.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (*Speaker*); Mr. L.E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. E. St.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. S. E. SEALEY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. G. V. BATSON, (*Chairman of Committees*) and Mr. N. W. BOXILL.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meeting which was held on the 16th October, 1962, have been printed and circulated amongst hon. members, and unless there be any objection, those Minutes will be taken as read and confirmed. (*After a pause*). There being no objection, those Minutes are now taken as read and confirmed.

Mr COWARD entered the House and took his seat.

AMENDMENTS FROM THE OTHER PLACE

Mr. SPEAKER: I also have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Other Place amendments in respect of the following Bills:-

The Bill to amend the Local Government Act, 1958, to exempt from the payment of rates certain institutions established for charitable, educational or scientific purposes of a public nature.

The Bill to empower the Housing Authority to issue insurance policies in respect of loans secured by mortgages of dwelling houses and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I am commanded to lay Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for the seven months ended 31st October, 1962.

On my behalf, I am commanded to lay Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Account-

ant General, and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 31st August, 1962.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:-

Resolution to place the sum of \$92,528 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. 25, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD entered the House and took his seat.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 26/1962 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas on the 6th March, 1962, is now ready.

On behalf of the Hon. Minister of Education, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 69/1962 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph on the 14th August, 1962, is now ready.

On my own behalf, I beg to give notice that the following Oral Replies to Questions are also ready:-

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 13/1962 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Peter on the 23rd January, 1962.

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 49/1962 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas on the 29th May, 1962.

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 53/1962 asked by the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown on the 5th June, 1962.

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 64/1962 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas on the 31st July, 1962.

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 70/1962 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James on the 14th August, 1962.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting in order to consider the money Resolution of which notice was given today.

QUESTIONS

The following Notices of Questions were given:

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

Will Government explore the possibility of erecting a Fire Station at some central spot in the parish of St. Thomas in view of the number of fires that have been taking place in the said parish?

Mr. CORBIN: To enquire of the Honourable Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:

Is the Minister aware of the fact that Archibald Hunte, formerly employed by the Department of Highways and Transport in the capacity of a watchman, has been dismissed from the said post without consideration of his 17 years' service?

2. Will the Honourable Minister take steps to cause immediate investigation into the matter of the said Archibald Hunte who resides at Walkers, in the parish of St. Andrew? 12.20 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Question stands in the name of the hon. senior member for Bridgetown who, I observe, is not in his place, but I would be prepared to accept that any hon. member put the question on his behalf.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. senior member for the City, I beg to ask the following Question:-

To enquire of the Premier and Minister of Finance:

Is Government aware that the Income Tax Act of Barbados does not authorise or permit deductions from the taxable income of a taxpayer of payments made for alimony or maintenance under an Order of a Court of competent jurisdiction?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government introduce amending legislation as a matter of urgency to permit such deductions to be made?

Mr. SPEAKER: The next notice is a Resolution in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip.

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

"WHEREAS there is a large number of tenantry roads as yet to be built within the Southern area;

AND WHEREAS the amount which has been granted to the Southern District Council for its tenantry road programme for the year 1962-63 is entirely inadequate;

BE IT RESOLVED that Government include an adequate amount in the 1963-4 Estimates for allocation to the Southern District Council, so as to provide for the construction of a minimum of three or four such roads in each parish within the Southern area; and that such funds be made available in order that the said development can commence immediately after the close of the 1963 sugar crop season."

Mr. SPEAKER: I would remind hon. members that notices for any Tuesday's meeting of the House should be handed in not later than the Friday preceding. I am afraid that that long-standing Rule or convention has not been observed by hon. members. I counsel them to observe it in future; otherwise their notices may have to stand over until the following Tuesday.

The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1962-63 No. 23

HEAD 7 - REGISTRATION - was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, the amount required here of \$4,059 under Registration for Clerical Assistance is, I think, very appropriately explained in the Addendum. As the notes point out, the fees payable to Copyists for recording or copying any document has been increased from 13¢ to 16¢ per folio of 90 words, and this amount is required to meet the additional expenditure consequent on the increase in the rate of pay. The increase here is effective from 1st April, the beginning of the current financial year, and it is more or less in line with the increases applicable to Government employees in Government Departments within the current financial year.

I beg to move that Head 7 stand part.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is only one point which I want to raise here. In the explanatory note (e), the Chairman will be paid a fee of \$30 a day. I am sorry, Sir, that is the wrong item.

The question that Head 7 - Registration stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 29 - TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, Head 29 is to provide the sum of \$2,000 for appeals against Town and Country Planning decisions. Normally the position, as you are aware, Mr. Chairman, was that persons who were aggrieved by the Town and Country Planning Officer's decisions have the right currently to appeal to the Governor-in-Executive Committee, and under the Act the Governor-in-Executive Committee has the power to demand such additional information as may be considered necessary in order to determine the appeal. Now in the past it was not necessary for either the appellant or his legal representative to be heard on an appeal, and the recent amendment to the Act now permits either the appellant or his lawyer or solicitor to be heard on the appeal. In order to set the procedure for their appeals, what the Government has done is to provide two persons to be known as Reporters to be appointed by the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing from a panel of names already approved by the Governor-in-Executive Committee, and these persons will hold enquiries into the facts connected with the appeals, and then submit their recommendations to the Governor-in-Executive Committee for its decision. One of these persons appointed as Reporters is designated as Chairman and the other is designated as a member, and the appellants will be given an opportunity to be heard at such enquiries and be represented, if desired, by their legal advisers. The fee to be paid to the Chairman is \$30 a day for each day on which he sits, and the member gets a fee of \$15 a day for each day upon which he sits. 12.30 p.m.

It is estimated that a sum of \$2,000 is required to meet the cost during the current financial year. There is only one other point, and that is the Town and Country Planning Officer or his representative will be present during the enquiry.

I beg to move that Head 29 stand part.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I notice in the Note to the item that two members will be appointed: one as a Chairman and the other as an ordinary member. I would like to know from the Hon. Introducer if the Chairman would be

a legal man because the difference in the rate of pay between the ordinary member and the Chairman is very great; the Chairman is to be paid at \$30 and the ordinary man at \$15. It must also be borne in mind that he will be Chairman of only two members.

I would like to know if the Chairman would be a legal person. I cannot see your having two members officiating as Reporters — I take it that Reporter is someone taking down notes — but anyhow one of them will be a Chairman who will be paid at the rate of \$30 and the other an ordinary member who will be paid at the rate of \$15. As it appears to me, this Chairman must be someone coming from the Almighty, and the other person someone coming from the earth; the margin of difference in pay is really so wide.

I take it that these two persons will make a report after listening to the appeals from the various persons and that they will be reporting back to somebody, possibly the Cabinet. The Hon. Minister did not explain it fully to me so as to make me understand. Anyhow, the rate of \$30 is a good distance away from the rate of \$15 a day. I do not think the person appointed to be an ordinary member will be a top notch person like the Chairman.

I want the Hon. Minister also to explain to me what are the real duties of these two persons to be known as Reporters. Are these Reporters to take down notes from the various people and then pass them on? If so, do you want a Chairman for that? Let the Hon. Minister explain it more fully. I really do not understand it yet.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, since I was designated as Leader of the Opposition, it has often been said that all I do is to pay tribute to the Government. When I sat over there during the regime of the last Government, I pleaded for over an hour with the other Government not to pass this Act as it stood without giving the right to the citizen of appeal to somebody else, but only allowing him to appeal from Caesar to Caesar, that is to say, allowing an appeal from the official back to the Minister — something which we in Barbados or what people living under the British Government were not accustomed to.

Sir, everything I said then fell on deaf ears. What can I do today as regards this Government which is so wise as to see within a year, after having over 100 appeals lying on their desks and the applicants were not even given the opportunity to be heard, but to shower congratulations on it for bringing this measure here?

I am paying a further tribute to the Hon. Minister of Communications for keeping his word which he had given on the floor of the House that he would see that the galvanized palings which were put up around the Y.M.P.C. grounds would be pulled down. Thank God, those palings have been pulled down and he has possibly saved me from going to jail. I just want to let him know that in passing.

As far as this Resolution is concerned, as I see it, I cannot pretend to answer questions which the hon. member who spoke before me has just put, but I too wonder why the word "Reporters" is used in the Schedule. That word does not go down very well because the average man who would be bringing these appeals would think that his appeal is being tried by an average Reporter. As Your Honour knows, what is colloquially known as "Reporter" and is rightly so, is a person who is just taking down notes; and it would appear to persons bringing appeals that such a person as "Reporter" would have no authority at all. I am wondering for the sake of these people why you have called them Reporters.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I do not want to interrupt the hon. senior member for Bridgetown. This is a matter which does not really concern my Ministry and the hon. junior member for St. Michael who is in charge of this portfolio will reply to the criticisms and answer the information asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

However, just to avoid a prolongation of debate on this question, may I explain that the word "Reporters" is not to

be construed in its true journalistic sense. It is to be construed according to the connotation of "reportare": one who reports a decision of a conference to a higher authority. It is nothing to do with that of a journalist or newspaper reporter.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, I realise that the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing will reply. However, it is not what hon. members of this Chamber feel or what the Hon. Minister of Trade feels. I personally know that the word "Reporters" does not mean a reporter in the same sense as a journalist; but it is not what I think; it is what the general mass of people think. Do not think of what I would think because I have been a legislator for some years, or what the Hon. Minister thinks because he has been a legislator of so many years also, but it is what the man in Belle Gully or the man in Hothersal Turning thinks. He thinks that a "Reporter" means merely one who goes some place and takes notes.

I wonder if the Hon. Minister would think of giving greater satisfaction to the general mass of people. I am sure that the Minister would say that your case is not going just before Reporters. I take it upon myself to say that of the two persons sitting, one person would be taking notes though not necessarily in shorthand but similar to what Magistrates sitting in other countries do. You have the position in other countries where a Magistrate actually sits and takes the notes as is done in Jamaica, and another Magistrate is also sitting. The actual Magistrate sits and his Chief Clerk who is also a Barrister sits and takes the notes. That is what I think is the position.
12.40 p.m.

In this case, it may mean that of the two persons sitting — I prefer not to call them Reporters; I suggest that a better name could be found for them. It is a matter of giving satisfaction to the people; otherwise it is like telling people in Barbados that the final decision in any case which you have rests with the Chief Justice of Barbados alone. I remember most distinctly when I had the honour of attending the Conference in England that one of the things which the delegates agreed with immediately was that whatever change you may have in these islands, the top judiciary should be the Privy Council. As a matter of fact, the Deputy Premier appreciates that in some Dominions and in some parts of the Commonwealth they still say: "For us to obtain justice as we would like it, we want to go to the Privy Council." That is how we have known British justice in these parts.

Note (h) of this explanatory note states this:-

"One of the two persons appointed as "Reporters" should be designated Chairman and the other designated member".

I take it that this will be like a Magistrate taking his own notes. I am Chairman of this particular Committee in the Municipality, and I have to do more with these applications than my counterparts in the other two areas. I would like to draw most forcibly to the attention of the Hon. Minister that heretofore — I want the Hon. Minister to pay great attention to this matter because it is causing some anxiety and apprehension. In the beginning of the operation of this Act Mr. Stevens himself would, in his interpretation of the Act, send all applications which he received, whether he agreed with them or not to the various Councils — the Northern District Council, the Southern District Council and the Bridgetown City Council. Within recent months there is an interpretation — I am not saying whether it is right, whether it is given by the Government or not, but I am asking the Government to see that it is amended. If Mr. Stevens left Mr. West in office and Mr. West says: "I have granted this right to Esso Standard Oil Company; I am not sending it to you;" but next week he decides: "I am not granting this right, I am sending it to you", I maintain that the only way in which you can do your job efficiently is to be able to decide if an officer who is drawing public funds is partial or impartial. In other words, we were in a position to hold the Town and Country Planning Officer up to say "This has been your policy in granting an application to people whether it is a question of a filling station or

for bringing this Resolution down, most particularly at this time, but I prefer you to use another designation to that of "Reporters". The type of persons who would be making these appeals would feel that his case would be heard by just ordinary reporters. Let me go so far as to say this. Let us suppose that these two persons are Judge Fergusson and Judge Ward and you call them Reporters, we know that they would not be reporters in the sense as people know reporters. I do not mean anything personal, but for the benefit of the average man they should not be called "Reporters". We know that they would not be Reporters, but people who understand and not only understand but who can interpret this law and who can see that this is working a hardship. The Hon. Minister should have a certain amount of discretion. As the Act itself gives to Mr. Stevens, the Town and Country Planning Officer or whoever is in office a certain amount of discretion, how much so should the Minister be given discretion? And he should see that that discretion is passed on to the Reporters who I take it would be men of judicial standing.

Sir, as I have said, I do not like the word "Reporters"; but otherwise than that, I commend the Hon. Minister for expediting this matter in such a way. As it stands now, the Act is entailing a hardship on the people. What I want to make abundantly clear is that I think you should amend the law from what it stands at present. You say, according to the law, that the Town and Country Planning Officer should send to a Council matters with which he agrees, but he need not send matters with which he does not agree. Amend the Act so that he would have to send to the Council not only those matters with which he agrees but also those in respect of which he refused to grant applications. If not, we would not know how to compare. We would not know if there had been any partiality. If I see that in Lower Broad Street he has approved of Mr. Goddard carrying his building up four stories and I did not have the opportunity of seeing what he said of Mr. Rollock, I would not know why it was that Mr. Rollock's application has not been granted. A Councillor's strongest point would be this: "You have just granted Goddard's the authority to put up a building; why is it that you have not granted Mr. Rollock? But he can only say that if he knew the facts. In the absence of that, that document would be hidden and put away in a pigeon hole."

Sir, I have nothing against Mr. Stevens. Whenever he differed with us he would tell us his reasons. Whenever we asked him to meet us, he met us. He showed people what they could do to reduce expenditure and also gave advice. As regards the other man in that office, I do not pay him any mind. He has a certificate in Geography and they call him a surveyor.

I commend the Government for bringing in this Resolution.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I am glad that the Government has brought down this Resolution. I was looking for this for a long time and it has now come. I would even like to see an officer appointed to go between the Town and Country Planning Officer and the Governor-in-Executive Committee, in order that the people could make their appeals to him; I think people would feel justified.

I am Chairman of a sub-Committee of the Northern District Council which sits on these matters. There are many applications which have come to the Northern District Council which this Committee has had to sit on, and in the case of one of these applications I asked the Committee to enquire into it because I saw that it was inadequate. In Speightstown by the Supermarket there was an existing road and the Supermarket apparently sold off some of their land to somebody to erect a gasoline station. In erecting the gasoline station they blocked off the road, not leaving as much space as that for a donkey cart to pass. After I heard of the situation, I called on Mr. West and the two of us went down to Speightstown. When I got there, I saw that there was no way to pass. The people said that there was a former road there but it was now blocked off. When I enquired of Mr. West he said that it was the person's land. I turned to the contractor and asked him about it and he said to me that if I say nothing, they would cut it off. I asked

him if they had made application to Mr. West to erect this gas station but I was informed that no application was made. I am saying that there are too many dropped stitches in the Town and Country Planning Office. There should be no partiality existing. All that disease should be wiped out. If you cannot stop partiality, it is better that we do without Town and Country Planning. Where justice is concerned, anyone who is called upon to administer it should execute it.

I do not like the word "Reporter". I agree with the hon. senior member for Bridgetown. There should be an office set up with officers investigating the matter and then refer it to the Governor-in-Executive Committee after they have sat and approved of it.

As I was saying, when I called on the Town and Country Planning Officer for an explanation, before I received the explanation the Chief Clerk of the Northern District Council told me that it is only a matter of courtesy that the Town and Country Planning Officer was sending these applications to us and that they can decide on them. If we do not decide on them, they can pass them. I asked him then what was the reason for having this Town and Country Planning Committee. What would be the reason of having this Committee if we objected against something and returned it to the Town and Country Planning Office and the officer in charge could pass the matter. If it was only a matter of courtesy that they were sending the applications to us, then I say you should abolish these sub-Committees in the various Councils.

Sir, as long as I am elected a member of one of these Councils, I will look out for the people's rights. People over the whole of Barbados from one end to the other, I am going to represent because I want to see justice carried out. 1.10 p.m.

I do not like to see the word "Reporter" used here. I am appealing to the Government to set up an office of appeal between the Town and Country Planning Officer and the Executive Committee, an office where persons can go into an appeal and give justice. I think that if we have such an office we will be much better off. I am not against the money which is being asked for in this Resolution being granted; I am only asking the Government to see that they have an office set up between these two bodies in order to have a proper investigation carried out and so help the poor people of Barbados.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I do not know I need say very much on this matter. What the Government seeks to do is not to create an authority, but to give the right of appeal to an authority capable of disposing of appeals. In Note 2 of the explanatory notes this is what is said: "It is also provided under Sub-section (3) of this section that the Governor-in-Executive Committee may require such further information as is considered necessary in order to determine the appeal."

That means that the final appeal will rest with the Governor-in-Executive Committee as it is today. The use of the word "Reporter" is causing hon. members some irritation and I am wondering whether the use of that word is proper or not. I do not think it is and I am agreeing with my colleague in this matter. A Board is required to deal with these matters since the Governor-in-Executive Committee is not expected to meet from day to day to deal with them. It is not reasonable to expect that you will want the Governor-in-Executive Committee to meet from time to time in order to deal with these appeals. It is true that you want this information: but you want a panel of people who have been trained in the technique of taking evidence. It is not a question of hearing somebody on one side and then hearing somebody on the other side; you need somebody who is trained in the technique of taking evidence, somebody like a solicitor or a lawyer and that should be specifically stated rather than have these Reporters.

It is true that these people are expected to take evidence, but you cannot take the rank and file of any community and give them that title because you want to do

that; they may only report in that sense of the word. You want the Cabinet to make the decision which is final. If the Governor-in-Executive Committee has to deal with these appeals, you must have somebody who is trained in taking evidence. I want to agree with the Government that they cannot handle all these appeals in Governor-in-Executive Committee. It is now more or less the Cabinet. The Governor-in-Executive Committee includes the Governor and two other members and we have actually felt little or no need for that. The Cabinet is a rather busy unit operating once or twice per week to handle matters like these. Why can't these matters be handled by the Appeal Court? You have judges who have a wealth of information and knowledge in this field, people who have been trained in the technique of taking evidence. Then you may let the Governor-in-Executive Committee decide whether they will be able to award the appeal or not. I do not know why you should want to reduce this matter to be dealt with by Reporters. It is true that a body can report through the Executive Committee, but would it be good enough to regard these people as a body or a panel of Reporters? As soon as you want to control the entire surface of the island, there will be a greater need for this Appeal body, but you are not giving this panel whom you are designating as reporters the right to deal with appeals. If there is one thing to which I will object, it is a panel of Reporters reporting to the Governor-in-Executive Committee. I think that there is some sympathy in asking for a change from this. This will entail nothing more than a week; you could ask for a change and the Cabinet could decide to use one of the Appeal Courts or appoint a body or a panel which would handle this matter as some sort of a side issue; but you must have someone with the knowledge and technique of taking evidence, somebody who has been trained in these matters. This sum of \$30 a day is a tremendous salary to pay to someone whom you are designating as a Reporter. We want to be satisfied with the information which is released to the Governor-in-Executive Committee and to the Cabinet; we want to be satisfied that that information is taken by someone who has that specialised training in the matter of taking evidence.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, this is just a Resolution for the purpose of appointing these Reporters. I agree with the previous speakers that this is wrong. What we have in mind is an Appeals Committee. We all agreed, not today, but years ago, that we needed some regulation as to Town and Country Development Planning. In the majority of cases, the Officers have done an excellent job and let us give them credit for that. We have seen no buildings coming on to streets as we used to have before, and that is what we envisaged when the first appointments were made. However, these architects come from big countries and they think into the great future of industrial development. They may see in twenty or thirty years' time that the streets have to be wider and they often see that through another pair of glasses. Although we need control, we thought that we should not go to the extremes which are existing here. These are officials who are trained in their job; they are doing a good job; but the desire to have an Appeals Committee which will have the Barbadian touch which will go between the arbiter and the Committee to make a final decision, saves the row. That is what we need; when our Committee and the City Council pointed out to them that their views were too harsh and stringent, they have amended them.

1.20 p.m.

We got on extremely well with them, but I will say that in the beginning there had to be a certain amount of breaking in for them to see our point of view, because we felt we were responsible. The former acting Town and Country Planning Officer a few weeks ago interpreted the Regulations to mean that he had to send to the City Council only those cases which he agreed with; he felt that those he rejected were no concern of ours, but we did not see it that way and approached him pointing out that it would be useless if we could not see each and every one in order to be able to assess what was happening in the development of the City. He amended the Regulation although he had the power to refuse sending them. Those are little adjustments which have to be made. I agree with this Resolution, and I disagree very much with what the last speaker said of sending these applications to an Appeals Court, because we do not

wish any further delays in this development. We need some other Body that will sit regularly and hear appeals on these cases that are in dispute. As a matter of fact, people are complaining bitterly now that there is a holdup in development because of these disputes. They need to be settled.

Mr. MILLER: If the hon. member would give way, on a point of order, I do not know that I made myself clear when I talked about an Appeals Court. What I meant was that you could establish an Appeals Court in the true sense and meaning of the word "Court" where you would have a panel with the necessary knowledge that could handle 100 cases a day and sit as frequently as you want.

Mr. GODDARD: The mere fact of going to an Appeals Court is a costly business which many of the applicants would refrain from doing. We in Barbados know how to get things done better. We could have the proper selection of trained and legal men and good builders who could give the necessary information to the Governor-in-Executive Committee for their final decision.

I do not see, however, how you can call them Reporters. To me it seems a misnomer, and an Appeals Committee seems to be a better term. However I do feel that the development of this Island can go on a pace faster, but I will repeat that in the vast majority of cases the Town and Country Planning Officer or Officers are doing an extremely good job, though there are few cases that could easily be settled with a Barbadian point of view thrown in at the same time; and I think this Appeals Committee is what is needed to meet that purpose. I heartily agree with this Resolution because we wish something to speed up these appeals; but for goodness' sake, keep them out of the Courts, and I am sure that, having this Committee sitting frequently, those cases which appear unjustifiable will be solved.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not criticising this Resolution as far as Town and Country Planning is concerned, but I feel that this is a very important matter and it should be considered carefully and dispassionately. Appeals like these should be placed before a panel of at least four persons with a Chairman. I have been having several rows on the Bridgetown City Council with the Town and Country Planning Officer. My view is that from the beginning the Town and Country Planning Officer was given too much power and has been taking advantage of the poor and underprivileged people of this Island. When I first started at the Bridgetown City Council, I thought I was too busy to work on the Committee, but this year I asked to be allowed to sit on that Committee, because it is there that I saw I was doing something for the good of my people.

A number of cases has come before us, and we have travelled throughout the length and breadth of this Island to go to the rescue of people. I do not agree with putting a matter like this before an Appeals Court, because this is exactly what the Town and Country Planning Officer is doing. He has been constantly putting off cases, and for these cases now to go before an Appeals Court, it would mean another year or two before these cases are settled. These cases to me can better be handled by an Appeals Committee.

I have nothing against Town and Country Planning, Mr. Chairman, and in my opinion it should have started fifteen or twenty years ago. Let us take the corner of Eagle Hall now. If you see the traffic going around Eagle Hall, you would feel that you are in Broadway; but in contrast when you come to the bottom of Roebuck Street, you will see a big building going up on the Johnson and Redman site. That building is merely ten inches in from the corner of one of the busiest roads in the Island. For the longest time the Town and Country Planning Officer has been causing masons, carpenters and painters to suffer, although there are a lot of people who are quite willing to keep the Island moving, but whose applications have been turned down. I commend the Government for the manner in which they have approached this Town and Country Planning, and I feel that a matter of this kind should not be rushed, but should be taken slowly.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, for the information of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, the three gentlemen who have been appointed by the Cabinet to act as Chairmen are gentlemen who have distinguished themselves in the legal profession.
1.30 p.m.

The gentlemen are Mr. Erskine Ward, Sir Eric Hallinan and Sir Frank Holder. The Government felt that there should be somebody as Chairman to the Committee with legal training. Under the Town and Country Planning Act there are certain violations which might be of a legal aspect and that would take a lawyer. Then it may also be a matter of policy and the Government should be able to deal with a matter of policy. Policy should be left in the hands of the Government and not in legal hands, and that is one of the reasons why these matters should be referred back to the Governor-in-Executive Committee. It should be either for that or for leniency. I feel the Government would be the best body to decide policy or leniency.

For the information of the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, this legislation was taken from Scottish legislation and these type of people were referred to as Reporters. It was not that this Government just decided to call them Reporters. That is the term used under Town and Country Planning for Boards set up for this reason. They have always been called Reporters and we are just keeping in line with the English and Scottish legislation.

The hon. senior member for St. Andrew referred to some case in St. Peter. For his information, I would like to state that the entire Island is not yet under the control of the Town and Country Planning Officer. There are certain districts over which he has no control.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. That part of St. Peter which I spoke of is under the control of the Town and Country Planning Officer.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Sir, when I mentioned that the hon. senior member for St. Andrew referred to things, I happened to know that St. Peter is under the control of the Town and Country Planning Officer but the entire Island is not under his control. There are certain districts to which you can go and see buildings going up and those districts are not under the control of the Town and Country Planning Officer yet.

This is also for the information of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew. If the Town and Country Planning Officer disagrees with any information of any Council he does not have to say anything to them. The Town and Country Planning Officer has no jurisdiction to overrule a Council's decision. What he has to do is to refer the matter to the Ministry.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order, Sir, the point which I made and which I want the Hon. Minister to clarify is this. Under the Act, what I attempted to say is that even speaking for myself, the Town and Country Planning Officer is actually right, that is to say, if he disagrees with the granting of an application, he need not send it to the Council at all. It is only those applications to which he agrees that he needs to send to a Council. Legally, I think that interpretation is right; but I am asking you to get that part amended not only if he agrees that he sends it to us, but also that he sends to us those applications to which he disagrees. I think that should be done because if it were not so, the Reporters would be at a great disadvantage because they would not have anything with which they can make comparison. If they have the applications to which he has agreed, they will be able to say: "Yesterday, you disagreed with that, but today you agree with this, and therefore we are drawing it to you."

When we read it, it looks as if he is right when he says that "I am sending this to you because I agree with it; but I disagree with that and the information is not your business". We feel that he should also send to us those applications with which he disagrees. We know that he does not have the last word; we know that he has to send it to the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, when I made reference to the Town and Country Planning Officer not having the last word, that was not in reference to what the hon. senior member for the City said in his speech. That was in reference to what the hon. senior member for St. Andrew said when he said that if the Northern District Council did not agree with the Town and Country Planning Officer, the Town and Country Planning Officer could go straight to the Governor-in-Executive Committee without any regard for them. The Town and Country Planning Officer does not have that power; he must refer it back to the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

With regard to the whole Town and Country Planning Act in this Island of Barbados, sufficient time has passed to show how it is working and very soon legislation will be drafted to change the entire Act. In the meantime, while there are not 90 appeals, as I have just heard from the hon. senior member for Bridgetown but there are 23 now, that is one of the reasons why we are having this Board or Committee of Reporters. While legislation is being prepared this Committee of Reporters can function so that these applications should not be held up much longer. The Governor-in-Executive Committee has tried about ten cases and disposed of those applications, but we do not want to hold up people much longer and to keep them waiting until this new legislation is brought down and passed. And that is the reason why we have appointed a Board of Reporters so that they can deal with the 25 cases which we have and dispose of them as soon as possible as well as all other cases which may come in before we bring down the Bill to change the entire Town and Country Planning Act.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I have to thank the Hon. Minister of Communications very much for explaining to hon. members of this Committee what are "Reporters", but I still feel that the word "Reporters" is not the right word to use, especially when you come to make reference of it with a person of the calibre of Sir Frank Holder and Sir Eric Hallinan and the Hon. E. R. L. Ward. They are not boys in the yard.
1.40 p.m.

He has told us that he is following the Scottish Law but it really does not suit us over here. As the hon. senior member for the City has said, anybody who does not read the names of the members - as a matter of fact, if I had not queried the matter nobody would know who the members were because the Hon. Minister who introduced the Resolution hid them from us; he did not mention them. I was thinking that this might be an appointment like an appointment to the Housing Authority; I was thinking along those lines; but since I have heard the membership of this Committee there is nothing more that I can say at the moment. Anyhow, this is a very important job to be done but I still maintain that the difference between the fee for the Chairman and that for the ordinary member is too far away. The fee for the Chairman is \$30 a day and that for the ordinary member is \$15 a day. You can give the Chairman \$30 a day and if you give the other man \$15 a day, that is not good enough. The Chairman can ask the other man for advice and he is qualified to advise the Chairman; when he has to ask for advice then he is too low down the ladder.

Mr. Chairman, these are not boys in the yard; these are all No. 1 people. Reading from the notes I see that one of these two people will be the Chairman. The note says: "One of the two persons appointed as Reporters, should be designated Chairman and the other designated member". You have two of them appearing today; you select one of them and make him Chairman, both of them know the ropes. I say that the difference in the remuneration is too far apart but since I know who the members are, I will not go any further in the matter.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I just want to explain this: the important thing to explain in this matter is that for the first time in any case arising out of the decision of the Town and Country Planning Officer, will a person who feels himself aggrieved have the right of appeal. Having enshrined the principle of

appeal you pass on to the question of the manner in which the appeal will be carried out. It must be carefully understood that this Committee will not make any final decision in any matter; they hear the evidence. A person who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Town and Country Planning Officer will submit evidence either by himself or by his legal representative. The Reporters hear the evidence and report back to the Governor-in-Executive Committee, but they cannot, on their own, give any decision; they report the evidence given by the aggrieved party to the Governor-in-Executive Committee and in this context the word "Reporter" is accurate. With regard to the fee, the Chairman will receive \$30 for each day he sits. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph should be told that the Chairman alone does not comprise the entire panel; along with the Chairman you have two others - you have Sir Eric Hallinan, Sir Frank Holder and Mr. Erskine Ward. As I was saying, the Chairman will receive \$30 for each day he sits and the other members of the panel will get \$15. It is only that at some time either of them will get \$30.

(Mr. MILLER: You can alternate....)

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: There are alternate Chairmen and alternate members.

Mr. MILLER: On a point of order. The Hon. Minister is misleading the Committee. You want three of them to form a panel; one is Chairman who will get \$30 a day and the others will get \$15 a day. You can very well alternate. The Chairman today will not be the Chairman tomorrow.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I object to the hon. member talking absolute nonsense and accusing me of misleading the Committee. I am saying that there are two panels, one panel from which you can make your Chairman.

Mr. MILLER: On a point of order. The hon. member went on to say that you can have an alternate member as Chairman. How can you reconcile that with commonsense?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: If the hon. member can understand English, the Chairman comes from a panel of three and the ordinary member comes from a panel of four.

Mr. MILLER: Will the Hon. Minister then enlighten us as to the names of the other people just as he gave the hon. junior member for St. Joseph the names in the first instance?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am getting confused myself. With your panel of three - Sir Eric Hallinan, Sir Frank Holder and Mr. Erskine Ward - they will be alternate Chairmen; in other words, you will select as your Chairman any one of those three. None of these three will be the ordinary Reporters. You will have another panel from which to select.....

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The Chairman is also a Reporter; he reports back to the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The Chairman is a Reporter. You will have another panel of four from which you can select one to sit with Sir Frank Holder, one to sit with Sir Eric Hallinan and one to sit with Mr. Ward. Is that correct? If that is so, I understand that quite clearly now.
1.50 p.m.

Mr. MILLER: I want to know about this new panel.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The panel of four comprises Mr. F. H. Carew, Mr. C. V. Chandler, Dr. Crawford and Mr. N. E. Wilson.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Before you put the question, I am entirely in agreement with the Government whose right it is to make the selection of the three gentlemen whom they call Reporters, Sir Frank Holder, Mr. Erskine Ward and Sir Eric Hallinan, because they are three gentlemen trained in the law, in taking evidence and in knowing what is relevant from what is irrelevant and would not have time

wasted; but on the floor of this House I must express my view that the names just called are those of mere men. As a matter of fact, one of the men is a member of the Bridgetown City Council with me. I personally feel that the Government should select a carpenter, a master mason or master-builder who could give advice on this Committee. Both Ward and Hallinan as well as Sir Frank Holder know about law, but a Government of your type should appoint a master carpenter, master mason or somebody of that type to the Committee. I have had four years' experience in dealing with these men, and I express that opinion and who does not like it can do what he likes.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the panel of men who have been trained in taking evidence. I will throw out as a challenge that none of the members here has had people come to him with these applications which he has had to sit down and read. I have to do it every Friday morning when I go to the Bridgetown City Council, and it is not the type of thing that either Mr. Wilson or Dr. Crawford would have to deal with. I would say "yes" as far as Mr. Chandler is concerned because he has been in the hardware business; but I suggest to you strongly that you should go in the parish of St. George where you will find some of the best workmen in this Island who have retired or who are not working every day and select one of them for this Committee, because I am not really satisfied that the selection of these four people is the right one. I know where good masons come from because I have had experience in building in my way.

The kind of applications you will get is from people who want to do something to their boarded and shingled home by putting on some wall, and you will need a man with that experience to advise Sir Eric Hallinan, Mr. Erskine Ward or Sir Frank Holder, and you can find those men all over the Island. It is for you to say whom you want, but you are selecting one set of people half of whom were opposing you a few weeks ago. I do not mince matters in what I am saying, and I feel that one of these men should be a workman who has come through the rank and file. I believe there are men sitting around the Table on the opposite side who know exactly what I am saying is true. I have nothing personal against anybody, but from my experience in handling this matter, you should look around St. George or St. Philip and select a man for this Committee.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The position is this, Mr. Chairman. Firstly, I want to deny the allegations by the hon. senior member for Bridgetown that none of us has had similar experience to him with regard to these appeals. He was Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the City Council for Town and Country Planning; I was the Chairman of the Southern District Council's Advisory Committee to Town and Country Planning, and during my tenure of office as Chairman of the Southern District's Town and Country Planning Committee, we have never yet had a similar appeal of a matter referred to us in which the special services of a carpenter, mason or builder would have been necessary. This is a matter of interpretation of the Act. The Town and Country Planning Officer makes a decision; the other District Councils or the City Council in its advisory capacity tells him whether or not they think the decision is right.

In the context of this matter before the House today, we go further. The person who made the application wants to make an appeal against the decision of the Town and Country Officer, and we have appointed a Committee to sift the evidence involved. This is more a question of legal interpretation and decision on commonsense grounds to some extent than a question of building or construction. There may be occasional instances on which the special services of a builder or contractor may be useful, and we have no objection to including in the panel of advisers the name of a builder, contractor or mason. If the hon. member says that one of these people should be appointed, I will approach the Cabinet, but I want to say that in so far as these appointments are concerned, the special services of contractors are not necessary.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being after 2 o'clock, p.m., this Sitting now stands suspended until 2.30 o'clock p.m. 2.02 p.m.

On resumption,

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, the time has passed for the suspension and I ask that the Bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum obtained.

QUESTION TIME

DISSATISFACTION OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT STAFF

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Question is Question No 49, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

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

Is 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?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: The Oral Reply to Question No. 49/1962 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas on the 29th May, is as follows:-

The Government is aware that discontent has been expressed from certain sections of the Highways and Transport Department. Government has ascertained by investigation that the cause of such discontent stems chiefly from certain claims of unfair practices in the engagement of Casual Employees. Government has directed that any general questions or grievances outstanding between the administration of the Department and its staff shall be referred to the Departmental Whitley Council. Further, in order that no question of partiality in the engagement of labour may arise, the Government has directed that all casual employees shall in future be engaged through the Employment Exchange but that priority should be given to those employees of the Department who had previously been laid off.

Mr. BOXILL: As a supplementary to that, as the Hon. Minister has said that priority would be given to those who worked there, will the Hon. Minister find out whether quite a number of people from the particular area of St. Thomas have been refused employment although they formerly worked with that Department and were laid off as a matter of redundancy?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: If the hon. member will submit the names of any members of the parish of St. Thomas who have been laid off that previously worked with that Department, I will gladly carry out an investigation for him.

Mr. BOXILL: I beg to thank the Hon. Minister.

INCONVENIENCES AND HARDSHIPS INCURRED BY PEASANTS IN ST. ANDREW

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Question is No. 41/1962, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew.

Mr. CORBIN: To enquire of the Minister of Communications, Works, Housing and Tourism:-

Is the Minister aware of the inconvenience and hardships incurred by the peasants who rely on the following roads in St. Andrew for the transportation of their canes:-

- (a) Harewoods Road, Hillaby, St. Andrew;
- (b) Work Hall Road, Cambridge, St. Andrew; and
- (c) King Street Road, St. Simons, St. Andrew?

If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government try as soon as convenient to cause these roads to be done?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: The Oral Reply to Question No. 41/1962 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Andrew on the 6th March, 1962 is as follows:-

The Minister is aware of the condition of these roads.

2. An extension to Harewoods Road will be included in the Government's 1963/64 Road Works Programme.

3. As the Work Hall and King Street Roads are situated in the Scotland District soil Conservation Area, it is not proposed to carry out work on these roads until comprehensive plans by the Soil Conservation Officer have been prepared.

Mr. CORBIN: As a supplementary to that question, is the Government aware that the present surface of the road near King Street needs resurfacing for the people to get in and out?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, from the question asked by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, I would like to know if all the inhabitants in that road are marooned there. If they cannot get in or out they must be marooned.
2.40 p.m.

Mr. CORBIN: I would like the Hon. Minister to realise that the road in King Street has no gutters and the water....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member must put a supplementary question.

Mr. CORBIN: Will the Hon. Minister make an investigation into the condition of the road, which would be a help to the poor people?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, there are several roads throughout the entire island of Barbados which require resurfacing and rebuilding, but under the present conditions the Government can only carry on work with the amount of finance received in one year. We are aware that several roads in the island of Barbados need repairing, resurfacing and rebuilding. Rome was not built in a day, and therefore we have got to do this work bit by bit. However, as soon as the financial position of the colony is improved, with this road as a priority in that district, then we will carry out the necessary repairs.

Mr. CORBIN: Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that the present road was under reconstruction for the past several years?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that that road was under re-construction for the past several years.

DISMISSAL OF FEMALE CIVIL SERVANT

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Question is Question No. 26, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, and it is enquired of the Hon. Premier.

Mr. BATSON: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that a female Civil Servant employed with the Department of Highways and Transport has been dismissed on the 28th February, 1962, without being given an opportunity to state her case?

2. Would the Minister initiate immediate steps to investigate the circumstance with the intention of remedying the situation and to protect female and other employees working with the said Department, and that the said employee be allowed to give evidence?

3. Would the Minister also enquire into the administration of the said Department, as many other employees are working with similar fear of dismissal?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The reply is as follows:-

Sir, on the 28th February the probationary period of a female Civil Servant employed at the Department of High-

ways and Transport was terminated by the Governor on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission in accordance with Colonial Regulations which were in use at the time. The Public Service Regulations were not made until 5th May. May I emphasize that the appointment was probationary?

2. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that the appointment and dismissal of Civil Servants are vested in the Governor acting on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission. The Civil Service Association and the machinery of Departmental and General Whitley Councils ensure that Civil Servants are fairly treated.

3. In the circumstances, it would be improper for a Minister to intervene and the Honourable Member may be assured that disciplinary procedure is covered by the Public Service Commission Act, 1961, and the Public Service Regulations, 1962.

Mr. BATSON: I thank the Hon. Premier for the answer which he has given.

DANGEROUS PEDESTRIAN ROAD CROSSING

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Question is Question No. 64, also standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, and enquired of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing.

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

Is Government aware that the road junction from Barbados General Hospital, Jemmotts Lane, crossing to the highway, Bay Street, is very dangerous to Doctors, Nurses and other persons who cross the road from east to west?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will Government immediately take steps to have same remedied, particularly as the meals, etc., for the inmates of the Eye Ward are also endangered because of this hazardous crossing?

3. Will Government either place signs marked "Pedestrians please cross", or provide a lane for such crossing as the vehicular traffic is very heavy in that area?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's question is as follows:-

"Government is aware that the junction at the corner of Jemmotts Lane and Bay Street needs to be improved and has included it amongst the projects for the improvements of Highways scheduled to be carried out within the Government's three-year Development Programme.

2. It is expected that when this has been done, the present hazard to pedestrians will be reduced to a minimum and that when the new General Hospital is opened, the hazard to employees of that institution will disappear entirely.

3. In the meantime policemen have been provided to assist at this junction during peak traffic hours.

DISSATISFACTION AMONG STAFF AT THE DEEP WATER HARBOUR

Mr. SPEAKER: The next question is Question No. 69 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and enquired also of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing.

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

Is it a fact that grave dissatisfaction exists among the Staff at the Deep Water Harbour, due to alleged delay in making the appointments necessary for the complete establishment of the Port?

(A MEMBER: That is the wrong question, The Reply to Question No. 68 is ready.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I was informed earlier today that the Reply to question No. 69 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was ready. I understand now that the Reply to that Question is not ready but that the Reply to Question No. 68 is ready. An error has been made.
2.50 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: Is that correct now, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: So I am advised.

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

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Will Government consider the advisability of converting some of the Government-owned buildings at the Garrison, known as the "Barracks", into secondary schools?

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

"In accordance with the terms of a Resolution tabled in 1961 in the House of Assembly by the Senior Member for Christ Church, now Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, Government is actively considering plans for conversion of one or more of these blocks at the Garrison into school rooms."

Mr. SMITH: As a supplementary, would the Minister be in a position to say about when he would be able to start?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I appreciate the hon. member's interest, but I am not now in a position to answer the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Oral Question No. 71/1962 also stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

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

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware that there are a great number of applications made to the Waterworks Department for the installation of Water Services for as long as two years ago or longer, which have not been met due to insufficient plumbers to do the job?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government increase the number of plumbers with the object of relieving this unsatisfactory state of affairs?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows:-

"1. Government is aware that there are approximately 2,000 applications for water services outstanding for the past two years.

2. The Government has investigated the cause of this delay and has ascertained that it was due to a lack of adequate transportation and staff. The Government has accordingly authorised the purchase of four (4) additional lorries and the engagement of the necessary staff, including plumbers, to enable the Waterworks Department to complete the installation of all outstanding services, in respect of which applications have been made, by the 31st March, 1963."

Mr. SPEAKER: The other answers which have been laid are to Questions by the Hon and learned member for St. James who is not in his place, and the hon. junior member for St. Peter who likewise is not in his place, and I will allow them to stand over until the next meeting of this House. Likewise there is a Question in the name of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown who also is not now in his place, and a similar indulgence would apply in his case.

We now revert to Private Members' Business where the First Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon.

senior member for St. George: to move the third reading of a Bill to authorise the sale of certain lands at Saint George's Rectory, St. George.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, I am not yet ready to proceed with this Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip: to move the passing of a Resolution relative to the enactment of legislation to provide pensions and gratuities to casual employees of the Local Government Councils.

When this matter was last under discussion the hon. senior member for St. Andrew was speaking, and he was on his feet when Private Members' Business came to an end. Will the hon. member proceed?

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I apologise; I was wrong. On that occasion the hon. junior member for St. Philip spoke, and with leave postponed further consideration of the Resolution.

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

WHEREAS this Government has deemed it necessary to assist its casual employees by amending the Casual Employees Pensions Act, 1961;

AND WHEREAS a large number of casual employees of Local Government has rendered thirty (30) to forty (40) years' service in the now defunct Vestries and the present Councils, and should be entitled to receive similar benefits;

BE IT RESOLVED that Government enact legislation without delay to amend the Local Government Act in order to legalise pensions and gratuities to casual employees in such service.

Sir, during the year 1959 the Vestry system was abolished and Local Government was introduced in place of the defunct Vestries. In the days of the Vestries, private auditors were appointed to audit their books, but the Government having introduced the system of Local Government decided that the Auditor General of Barbados must audit the books of the Councils. This appointment has brought about certain changes in dealing with the Estimates. In the days of the Vestries there were two methods used in dealing with pensions. Firstly if an employee was considered as skilled, the Vestry would approach the House of Assembly through a representative of a parish asking for permission to pay a pension and gratuity, and in most cases permission would be granted.
3.00 p.m.

Secondly, if an employee was considered as unskilled, the Vestry would give a meagre amount and include it in their annual Estimates. It is these casual employees whom I am speaking about today. It has been found out that to include the meagre amount which the Vestries would put in the estimates is illegal. From that point of view, I am asking that legislation be enacted.

In the parish which I have the honour to represent, there are a small number of people who have rendered inestimable service to the defunct Vestries and subsequently to the Council. These people are entitled to pensions and gratuities but at present it is illegal for us to pay them. Considering that these employees have rendered yeoman service to the community, I feel, Sir, that something should be done to help them and it can only be done through legislation.

As you know, Sir, the councils took over in the year 1958, and I am asking that legislation be made retroactive for these people, that is to say, from the time the Councils took over. They are employees who have worked in the highways and through no fault of theirs, they were employed for approximately six to eight months of a year, but some of them have rendered thirty to forty years' service in the defunct Vestries and they are entitled to pensions and gratuities. However, as I have aforesaid mentioned, it is illegal to pay them. I know that there are hon. members in here who belonged to some of the defunct Vestries and some are subsequently members of Councils

and I have no doubt that they will support this Resolution and speak on it.

I now ask, Sir, that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in seconding this Resolution. I know for a fact that there are a number of people in this Island of Barbados who worked with the past Vestries and up to the present time they are still working with the Councils. However, there is no law for us to give them a pension. We are asking now for permission to give them a gratuity and pension. I know of a certain man who has worked for the last forty or fifty years under the Vestry system. He is now 70 years of age and at the threshold of retirement, but he has to hold on because he does not know what to do. I hope there will be a law so that these people would get recompense.

In Barbados, on one side you will find that people who work in Vestries and such organisations are protected and people on the other side are not protected. That is because the people on the other side do not have an organisation to protect them such as a Social Security Organisation. If the Government should bring such an organisation into effect, it would relieve the whole mass of poor people and we would not have to come here to ask for legislation to give them a pension or gratuity. As a matter of fact, all that would stop, The Civil Servants in Barbados are secured in every respect. If they retire, they will get a pension and gratuity; if they are leaving the Island or if they are going on leave, they are secured. You cannot want any better security for those people than what they are getting, but what of the poor inhabitants? There is no alternate help for them at all. Many have retired without consideration and the only possible means of their future existence is that Government bring into existence a Social Security Organisation to protect and preserve the people of this Island and I am sure by so doing it would relieve the pressure on Government.

Our old people, our foreparents and even some who are working today, when they retire from work, will have to come at our door to beg for a dollar or fifty cents in order to eke out an existence. It is a shock to humanity to think that such things are still in existence today. I see in Barbados people who are boasting of the great buildings we have erected today and other things like that; but have they made provision for securing poor people? When they have secured the poor people, then they can boast. I say that a Social Security Organisation should have been in operation over the last fifty years. If an organisation of that kind was in existence, we would not have to be continually coming here and asking Government to grant us this or that for old people because those people as a whole would be secured.

Even a few months ago, if I give you an indication, I received a letter from my brother who is in the U. S. A. asking me to send him his birth certificate. I saw from it that he was 65 years of age. Now, he is asking for it because there is a pension for him. He can come to Barbados or remain in the U.S.A. and sit down and eat depending on that pension because he has contributed a little of what he worked for to social security and he is going to get it back now. Not until this Government brings into operation such an organisation will the needs of poor people be solved. Other than that they will go from bad to worse.

Sir, I look at a Resolution like this as being of great help to these people. It is what the people have sent us here to do for them. We are here to see after the blind.
3.10 p.m.

It is our duty as members of Parliament to look after these poor people who are unable to help themselves. They have entrusted us to look out for them and we are in a position to look out for them. I trust that in the earliest future the Government will see fit to bring about an organization such as a social security scheme for the benefit of the community as a whole. It may look tedious when it comes into operation because people may have to contribute towards their social security for the future; it may not appear to be

pleasant at first, but afterwards it will yield the peaceful fruits of righteousness to those who are exercised thereby. I hope that hon. members will support a Resolution of this kind. No matter which Government comes into power, whether this Party remains in power or another Party comes into power, I hope that it will be in a position to put into effect a scheme of social security for the benefit of the people of this island. With those remarks, I have much pleasure in supporting this Resolution.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to add my voice to those of hon. members who have already spoken in support of this Resolution. I quite agree with the hon. mover of the passing of this Resolution when he says that there are employees who have worked for the Highways Department for over 20 years and they are still deemed to be casual employees through no fault of their own. I know of an instance where a man has worked for over 25 years as a casual employee at the Highways Department and at the end of that period he received nothing. It was no fault of his own because he was employed at the Department for a period of eight months out of twelve months, and although he was not employed otherwise he was still deemed to be a casual employee. Because of that he received nothing after his retirement. I sincerely hope that the Government will see fit to do something along the lines suggested for these people who are deemed to be casual employees.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does any other hon. member want to contribute to this debate? If no other hon. member is desirous of contributing to the debate, the hon. junior member for St. Philip may care to wind up the debate. *(After a pause)* The question is that this Resolution do now pass. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. This Resolution is now passed.

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter:- To resume debate on a Resolution *re* the Report of the Committee appointed to report on the Farm Labour Programme in the United States. The hon. member is on leave and consequently he is not in his place.

RESOLUTION *re* REDUCTION OF INSTALMENTS PAYABLE BY FISHERMEN ON PURCHASE OF BOATS

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph:- To resume debate on a Resolution *re* the reduction of instalments payable by fishermen on the purchase of their boats. It was in respect of this Resolution that the hon. senior member for St. Andrew was speaking when Private Members' Business came to an end on the last occasion when the Resolution was under debate. I do not see the hon. member instantly in this Chamber. If any other hon. member desires to speak on this Resolution he may do so now. *(After a pause)* Does the hon. junior member for St. Joseph want to finalise his remarks on this Resolution?

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir, I will refresh the minds of hon. members as to this Resolution because it would appear that they have forgotten all about it. I will read the Resolution so that hon. members can make up their minds as to whether they will vote for it or not. This Resolution reads as follows:-

WHEREAS fishermen experience great difficulty in meeting the cost of repairs to their boats as well as paying the instalments they are required to pay on the purchase of the said boats,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government take immediate steps by legislation, if necessary, to have the amount of the instalments reduced by 50% so as to enable fishermen to meet their commitments and be able to maintain their families.

These fishermen have obtained loans from the Government of amounts as high as \$2,160 for the purpose of sup-

plying engines to be installed in their boats. They have to repay this money at the rate of about \$30 a month. It is only a certain time that these men have to work. The catching season is not every day, every week or every month, and so the fishermen find it very difficult to meet their instalments. I do not know what the position is in your parish, Mr. Speaker, but in the parish which I have the honour to represent some of these boats have been sold out because the fishermen are unable to pay off their instalments. It is very hard on these people who have to get their children into secondary schools and the fishing season or the catching season is not always there. I am appealing to hon. members to give this Resolution their favourable consideration and allow these people to maintain these boats so that they can provide a living for themselves and their families. The replacements and repairs to these boats are very expensive; every now and then these people have to spend money in order to keep their boats running and to keep themselves running too. I therefore commend the passing of this Resolution to hon. members.

The question that this Resolution do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 3.20 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter who, it is known, has been granted leave of absence, and that applies also to No. 6 under Private Members' Business. We then go on to Order No. 7 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. George in connection with the teaching of civics in schools.

Mr. MILLER: I am not yet ready to proceed, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking the indulgence of the House not to proceed with this matter today. The next Order also stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. George: to move the passing of a Resolution *re* schemes for Workmen's Compensation, Pensions for agricultural workers, Mortgage Insurance for housing.

Mr. MILLER: I am not ready yet to proceed, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Again the hon. junior member for St. George is not ready to proceed.

I would just like to draw to the attention of hon. members Standing Order No. 24 (3) which reads as follows:-

"If an interval of three calendar months has elapsed after notice of a motion has been given without further action having been taken on the motion, the motion shall be deemed to have been withdrawn unless the House otherwise orders."

I am reminding hon. members of that Standing Order, and it is well that they recall it to mind because certain of these notices under Private Members' Business were given notice of as long ago as December of last year.

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph: to move the passing of a Resolution *re* contracts for the supply of stones for the repairs or construction of roads in Local Government areas. Is that hon. member ready to proceed?

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, hearing what you have just said relative to the Standing Orders, and awaiting the actions of the Local Government Council in the North and the activities of Quarry Products before carrying on, I will ask leave to withdraw this Resolution from the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: That actually is unnecessary, because under Standing Order No. 24 (3) which I have just read, I shall deem that motion to have been withdrawn.

I will now proceed to Order No. 10 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John who is not in his place. Order No. 10 stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for St. James who is not in his place. Order No. 12 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am not yet ready to proceed.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I remind that hon. member that notice of this Resolution was given on the 13th March, and three months have expired? I take it that the hon. member is asking leave to let it remain, like that of the hon. junior member for St. George, and that the House has acquiesced in respect of both.

Order No. 13 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John, and that was given notice of in May; to move the passing of a Resolution re the reduction in the initial payment by the factories to peasants for cane harvested during the present crop. I observe the hon. member is not in his place.

Order No. 14 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. George, and that was given notice of on 29th May: to move the second reading of a Bill to incorporate the Young Women's Christian Association of Barbados.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the second reading of a Bill entitled an Act to incorporate the Young Women's Christian Association. I have no doubt, Sir, that this Bill will meet with the acceptance of the House and be sent to Select Committee which is the procedure in Parliament on matters of this type.

Mr. SMITH: I beg to second that.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House agree in principle with the Bill on condition that certain amendments are made.

Mr. SPEAKER: The matter has to go to Select Committee when these amendments will no doubt be proposed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, when this Bill goes to Select Committee, I will bring forward the necessary amendments at that time.

The question that this Bill be now read a second time was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

3.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the following hon. members to serve on this Committee:-

The hon. junior member for St. George (Mr. Miller); the hon. junior member for St. Joseph (Mr. Smith); the hon. junior member for St. Andrew, the Hon. Minister of Social Services (Hon. A. DaC. Edwards); the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown (Mr. Mottley); and the hon. senior member for St. Thomas (Mr. Batson).

LEAVE TO POSTPONE ORDER No. 16

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John, who is not in his place. We will now proceed to Order No. 16 which stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael: To move the passing of a Resolution re the operation of the Widows and Orphans Pension Scheme.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I did not expect to deal with this Resolution today and I ask for postponement of it until next week.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has noted what I have said earlier of the period of three months, but I take it that the House will agree to the postponement of that Order.

ORDER NO. 17 WITHDRAWN

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas: To move the passing of a Resolution re the integration of road workers in the parish of St. Thomas into the Department of Highways and Transport.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I am asking permission to withdraw that Resolution from the Order Paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not necessary. In view of the fact that it has been on the Order Paper for over three months, I deem that it is withdrawn.

RESOLUTION re INCREASED COST TO PEASANTS IN HARVESTING THEIR CROPS

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Resolution stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph: To move the passing of a Resolution relative to the increased cost to peasants of the harvesting of their crops and assistance to such peasants with payments from the Price Stabilization Fund.

Mr. MOTTLEY: That fund is not for that purpose.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown is putting words in the mouth of the Government. Is he a member of the Government? He is a little too fast. He does not mind his own business.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. What is it the hon. member is saying?

Mr. SMITH: What is it before the House?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I appreciate that. Therefore, out of nothing you can get nothing.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. junior member for St. Joseph proceed with his Resolution.

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

WHEREAS the cost of labour for reaping canes has considerably increased over last year, and peasant cane growers have had to meet these increases to reap their canes;

AND WHEREAS no increased price for sugar has been paid this year;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call on Government to assist Peasant cane growers of the Island with payments from the Price Stabilization Fund.

Sir, it is a fact that peasants of this Island have to pay more for reaping a ton of canes than plantations do. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Always did.) The hon. member said that they always did. As you will know, the Price Stabilization Fund is there to help in cases of the sort when one is not able to meet the reaping cost of everything of that sort. That Fund is there to provide help in those cases. They are very needy cases because, as you know, the class of workers who work on plantations reaping canes, would not work with a peasant grower because they always say: "I cannot work with you because I cannot get my back pay; I will not get my holidays with pay from the plantation if I work with you."

A peasant grower is not able to do that and so they have to pay more to the workers. In some cases, the people whom they employ are not the hard and fast agricultural workers. They have to get people from the domestic side to reap their canes and they cannot talk too hard to them. It is a fact that when, say, a peasant is reaping his canes and he ties up a bundle with fifty pounds of canes, the workers whom he employs open up the bundle and take out some of the canes. Peasants have to undergo all that sort of thing and they also have to give them perquisites so that they can come and help them; therefore, the price for cutting and transporting their canes is more than what an owner of a plantation pays and these peasants stand to lose. To the plantation owner, it is so much per ton of canes; but to the peasant grower, it is not reaped at so much per ton; he has to pay by the day. I do not think much can be done about it because the peasants are not in a position to employ la-

bourers year in and year out. Peasants more or less have to do the weeding and so on to help themselves, but they cannot cut and reap canes themselves. Some peasants only count on the reaping; they do not count on the planting, weeding and so on and even then they lose money.

I feel, Sir, if we have this Price Stabilisation Fund there for the occasion when everybody suffers, then this is an occasion when help can be obtained for these peasants. That Fund is there for occasions when we do not have a kind year, when nobody is able to grow a good crop. Then that money is there to be distributed to them. However, at the same time, when we are blessed with good crops, the peasants are suffering and losing money, and therefore we should do something to help them. They are still employing labour and are still helping to contribute to the agricultural community; therefore we should do everything possible to help them.

Take for instance, some of the peasants from the southern side of the country. There are some peasants who, even when you get good rainfalls in St. Joseph, get very little. I am speaking of parts of St. Philip and Christ Church. They suffer terribly and they should be entitled to some assistance too.

3.40 p.m.

During some years the crop is not as rosy as it is at other times, and therefore the time has come when these people are asking for assistance. Although my people have a chance they are still crying out owing to the difficult growing is better in St. Joseph or in St. Thomas than in other parts of the country, but the loading is very difficult. You have to pay labourers something like \$3 a day for heading canes, and they have to head these canes up these hills. I am asking the House to be more considerate with the peasants today and do all they can to help them. I am not asking for anything that is impossible. There is money in the Rehabilitation Fund and you can go into figures and see how you can relieve these people and make them feel happy. One may say that you can grow other crops such as greens, but it is not in every place that you can grow beans because the soil is too heavy for them. It is not all over the island that you can grow these things and obtain a good market for them. Owing to the high cost of reaping their crop it is really disheartening to the cane growers to carry on. You have the Price Stabilization Fund, you have the Rehabilitation Fund; and the peasants should be given assistance rather than allow the money to be piled up there while nobody gets anything. I think that the Government should see fit to distribute even 10% to those peasants who cannot carry on. The peasants play a great part in this matter; they grow at least 10% of the canes and they should be helped in the same manner as you have to consider the plantation owners. I think that everybody should be considered at the same time. The peasants are in dire need of help. Mr. Speaker, I do not think I need say anything more on this Resolution. It speaks for itself and I respectfully beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution, it is with the greatest alacrity that I rise to do so. I have much pleasure in rising to support a Resolution of this sort and I commend the hon. member in bringing such a Resolution before this House. As a parishioner of St. Joseph for many years, I know from experience the sufferings of the poor peasants in the parishes of St. Joseph and St. Andrew. The position is unlike the other parishes where, when the canes are being reaped, people can get transportation in the sense that one person can pick all the canes which have been cut. In the parish of St. Joseph, however, there are some peasants who have to employ about eight people to take up the canes which have been cut. I feel therefore that we should do everything possible so as to encourage these peasants to continue to plant canes. I myself do not know how some of these peasants continue to plant canes and reap them under the conditions which they now experience. Finally, I would like to appeal to all hon. members to support this Resolution in the interest of the poor and under-privileged people in the parish of St. Joseph who suffer from this very expensive way of reaping their canes.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I must say that there should be some means of helping the poor people who are suffering so much especially in the parishes of St. Andrew and St. Joseph. I can assure you that they are in need of assistance. I can remember speaking in this same House about a man named Mr. Bailey who lived at Cambridge. He reaped 16 tons of canes and because he did not have a proper road whereby he could transport those canes, he had to pay for every ton of canes which was loaded from his land to a point some distance away. He told me that he had reaped 16 tons of canes and after he had paid for the transportation of those canes he only got \$12 which would go to pay his taxes and for the manure. He said that he had about 16 more tons to cut but he was not going to cut them. I told him that he could still cut those canes because he would still get something.

We want to provide roads for the relief of these people or we should give them the use of bulldozers; otherwise they cannot continue to plant canes. Mr. Speaker, it is as hard as hard can be for the poor people who have to get their canes headed out from these lands. These people will plant their canes, but I can assure you that they do not get much more than the preference money. Some of the very best canes produced in this island of Barbados are those which are produced in some parts of St. Andrew.

3.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that some of the acres up there produce 48 or 50 tons per acre, and the canes have to be headed from the fields to the public road. From the time I was a boy, people were asking for roads to get out their canes, and I trust that the Government will make it possible to provide roads for these people. They do not mind if the roads are not tarred so long as the trucks can get in. In St. Joseph and in St. Andrew the canes have to be headed to the road, and at the end of the crop the peasants do not receive one cent. I look forward to Government helping the people, especially those in these parishes, so as to encourage them to continue planting canes.

Mr. Speaker, though there are other industries now beside the sugar industry, we still have to depend on cane for our revenue, and in these parishes the peasants plant more canes than any other parish. For some time now people have requested the use of the Government's plough for cultivation of the land without success, and they have to pay high charges to Mrs. Rock and other estates for the ploughing of their land. The land in St. Andrew can be ploughed every day because it is always moist and will produce crops at any time. I trust that the Minister will give instructions for the plough to be sent to St. Andrew to assist the poor people. Only a few weeks ago I tried to engage it without success. There needs to be proper representation and supervision for carrying out the affairs of the people in this particular respect.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: At this stage, I am going to ask that further discussion of this matter be postponed in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture who would have the most accurate and up-to-date information on the matter under discussion. As a matter of fact, contrary to the allegations made by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, our information is that twice within the last four weeks the Minister of Agriculture had given specific instructions to send the plough to St. Andrew. The last instruction to so do was on Thursday of last week, and therefore the hon. senior member for St. Andrew must of necessity have been misinformed on the matter. In the absence of the Minister who is in charge of the portfolio and in order for the House to be given accurate information, I beg to move that further discussion on this matter be postponed at this stage.

I think I should observe in passing, Sir, that acquiescence on the part of the Government to some of these Resolutions does not necessarily mean that the Government is completely committed to the implementation in the precise form in which the Resolution is passed or in which the Government is asked to act in the matter. The Government's policy on the matter is naturally over-riding. It has been made clear that we are committed to it, and these matters

will be considered and action taken on them in the over-riding light of our own policy in the matter.

Hon. A. DaC. Edwards: I beg to second the motion.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown who I observe is not in his place. In any event, the matter has been referred to a Select Committee.

Order No. 20 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph: to move the passing of a Resolution re. the establishment of a Small Industries Loan Board.

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

"WHEREAS small business men find it difficult to raise the required amount of Capital to carry on with their business;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government establish a Small Industries Loan Board under the direction of the Ministry of Trade & Industry for the purpose of financing small businesses especially those of a Manufacturing nature and including Artisans, Cabinet-makers, Upholsterers and other trades."

Sir, this is a Resolution that should be supported by every member in this House. But as you are aware, Sir, there is a lot of small business men who have the ability to carry on a business, but the wherewithal is not there. 4.00 p.m.

We have some first-class joiners in this country who through the lack of just as much money as to buy mahogany are left to walk the streets and do everything except work at their trade. You have some shoemakers who have the ability to manufacture shoes and would be able to do it, and in my opinion, to compete with the big manufacturers in this small colony, but, there again, the wherewithal is not there. All that they want, as the old people say, is a push off. Sir, you may not know of the old "Ford" but we had some old motor cars before called a "Ford" which you had to push a good distance before you got them to start: but when you got them started, you could not get them to stop.

We have some people in this country who can do the job, but it is a question of their getting a little money to start them off in the business. We have some large furniture factories operating but you still have room for that small man so as to help him to get along, and he will be able to get along if you just give him a push off. He needs a little help. I know that, given a little financial help, he will be able to work and maintain his family and will also be able to employ others. The large furniture factories and all of the other factories cannot employ everyone. When one takes upon himself to do a job, it is only because the person whom he is working for does not have the ready cash to pay him off or he does not have the cash to buy the material that he would not be able to do the job. The person who wanted the job done would be able to go elsewhere and get it.

If you take the Indians whom we have living in our community, they come into this country and make a living and I am sure that some of our Barbadians would be able to do the same thing, but they do not have the ready cash to do it.

I feel that this is a progressive Government, this is progressive representation, and it should do like other progressive Governments. A scheme of this sort is operated in Jamaica and it is going through well there. I have a Report in front of me from Jamaica as regards this Small Business Loan Board: and from what I see written in the Report, these small businesses are getting on fine and this Board is helping a lot of people. You will pardon me if I ask

that you give me permission to read a little from it. Here are some of the things with which the Small Business Loan Board is helping Jamaicans; baking, bag, cap and hat manufacturing, block making, clay and concrete, curio, confectionery, cold storage operators, electrical repairs, garment manufacturing, laundering and dry cleaning, mechanical engineering, publishing and printing, radio technicians, restaurants, shoe manufacturing, stone crushing, sawmilling, tile manufacturing, upholstering, woodworking, battery servicing, cosmetic manufacturing, jewellery, machine servicing, mirror and ink manufacturing, aerated waters.

Many more of these things which this Board is helping them with I can name, but we have not yet begun to do anything at all about them. One of the small businesses to which we can give a little help is block making. There is a big demand today for concrete blocks. Although we have the Clay Products Factory in St. Andrew, you still get the small man who would be able to supply small people around him with these blocks if he had the wherewithal to do it: but it is a question of his getting a little money to start the job. In order to manufacture concrete blocks he has to get money to buy stone, even if he manages to move a little sand by night. He also has to buy cement. He does not have the money to do it; therefore, he cannot go in for doing the job.

We would be doing a first class job if we are more considerate and helpful to people who are thinking along these lines. You have young upholsterers who have left their master-workmen and who cannot get anything to do. They will like to make mattresses, but their parents do not have money to lend them and some who have it may say that if they lend them the money, they would take it to do the wrong thing with it. It is that fear that they have. They feel that these youngsters would take it and throw it away or gamble it out. I know that the majority of these youngsters will be only too willing to get it to give them a start.

I feel this Government should set up a scheme here under the Ministry of Trade such as this Small Business Loan Board in Jamaica. The Ministry of Trade should bring into being a similar scheme so as to help people who cannot get work. There are people in Jamaica to whom they make small loans who do not have anything at all. They have a small marginal loan Fund, and the Board is set up to deal with applications from persons, and even an applicant who cannot find a suitable guarantor or has security can obtain a loan of up to £100 to which the Board allocates three per cent of its grant to deal with. You have here some people who do not have anything at all, but they have business acumen: and you should have a similar scheme established, with a small marginal Loan Fund, so that the one who does not have security and cannot get a guarantor would be able to get a loan. 4.10 p.m.

Sometimes it is harder for a person to get a guarantor than it is to get the money. That is one of the snags especially in respect of a small loan up to £100. This sum of £100 for a small shoe maker or cabinet maker is a lot of money and it will give him a good start. One may think that I am blowing my own tune now but even small garages make small loans. If I speak like that, one may think that I am blowing my own trumpet and forgetting that I am not a small garage owner now. (Laughter). Looking at the faces on the lower side, the only thing I may be liable to hear is the old time song: "Where is the money to come from?"

Mr. SPEAKER: What does the hon. member mean by the faces on the lower side?

Mr. SMITH: I mean the faces of those hon. members on the opposite side of the House. I feel that a scheme of this sort should have been brought about long ago; but, like everything else, nothing happens before the time. The time is now ripe when we should reconsider the small tradesman. If we were to take a leaf out of the book of the Indians - these people have come here and I may say that they are not going back to their own country. Everything is in their favour; they are a hard-working and honest lot

of people and they are giving a lot of help to the poorest classes of people in the country. I know of a home with eight children in it; the children are fatherless and the mother was unable to send those children to school. However, one of these Indians gave her as much clothes as would clothe all eight of those children and they went to school. The mother of those children paid that Indian what she could afford to pay him every week. If that Indian had not done that, those children would have grown up without being able to read their own names. That is what I call a push off; it is like the old "Ford"; it is hard to start; but when you push it off, it starts and it does not want to stop. I may say that sometimes when you switch off the engine, it does not want to stop.

These Indians are quite a lot of help to the people of this country. If I want to get a suit for \$20 and somebody gives it to me for \$35 and I only have to pay down \$1.00, I can be the same spree-boy in my new suit as anybody else in his new suit, and I only paid \$1.00 on it. Nobody would know how I got my suit and I may wear it out before I have finished paying for it; but as I say, nobody would know how I got my suit. A cabinet maker told me: "Skipper, I have the wood but the glass is for \$75; you must help me with that \$75 and I will give it back to you in two weeks' time. If I cannot get that money you cannot get the job for Christmas." I have promised to help that cabinet maker so that I can get my job. You want to help people to make a start. If you do not put gasoline in the tank of a car, then the car will not start up. It is not everybody who is fortunate enough to go out and get a job; and even if you get a job, when you go home in the afternoon you can still do something. If you are working at a furniture shop, when you go home in the afternoon you can still do something. You must remember that everyone of these people are contributing to the country either in one way or in the other. There are very few of these people who do not "fire one" and as soon as a person does that he is paying taxes.

I feel that a step in the direction I have suggested is a right one so as to help these poor people. As to the dress-makers, even they would be glad to be able to buy some cloth and make dresses; but they cannot do that. People are not always able to pay for the suit or the dress at once, especially if there are children in the homes and they are going to school. I am sure that some homes in this island are very hard put and the more you try to be decent, the harder it is for you. You will keep your hardships to yourself, however, and try to get along, but help is needed. Hon. members should agree to the passing of this Resolution and then the Government will be able to do their best in order to help the people of this country.

We have spent quite a lot of money in helping the hotel industry and other industries. We have loaned out some money and I am sure that we will not get back all of it; but whatever business you go into you must lose something. Even if you are eating a biscuit a piece of it will drop and you cannot eat all of it. You must close your eyes to all of these things, however, and try to help the people of this Island. I feel that this is but one of the last things that the Government can do in this country.

4.20 p.m.

You cannot do everything at one time. You have to start at No. 1 and carry on until you get to 100, but you must really try to do the things that need doing. A chap who was speaking to me last week, though he did not know that I had a Resolution of this sort on the Order Paper, told me that he sees the need for some of these small people getting assistance so that they can help themselves. He is a clerk working with one of the stores, and the owner of the store lent him money to buy a van in which to go around selling soaps, perfumes, and other items, and in a short space of time he was able to repay the money for the van. The owner of the store then asked him why he does not get another van and take another route as he is working too hard in trying to cover the Island alone. He told the man that he knew he was telling him that in good faith, but that he wanted to get rid of him because if he engaged somebody else with him, he did not know what was liable to happen. The owner of the store told him that he has to trust somebody, and that if he

took over another van, two persons more would be employed, a driver and an assistant.

Mr. Speaker, you try to help a country by expanding; you have to forget the losses although they can be very great sometimes; but if you think of the losses, you would not make any profits. I think we can start off on a very small scale by trying to help all the businesses I have just called here. You should try as soon as possible to help cabinet-makers, shoemakers, dressmakers, tailors and people who would be catering to the public. People have to wear shoes and clothes every day, and I am sure that the makers of these articles would be able to get along so long as they charge reasonable prices and not compete with the big stores. If you want to make a living, as the old people said, you must live and let live, because it is better for you to do something in a small way at your home and be able to put aside something for Christmas.

The 5th November is only one day, but fireworks makers have to employ people to assist them in preparing for that day, because they cannot do everything themselves.

It gives me great pleasure, Sir, in moving that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion, and in doing so support the remarks of the hon. member. I could not agree with him more. As a matter of fact, I am more than familiar with all this, because we have discussed it a number of times when I was in the Ministry, and there was so much in history to support the argument of assistance to small businessmen in a community such as ours. There is no mistake about it that there is an over-growing need for this type of operation in the community. It is true that the commercial banks have liberalised their policy in the last three or five years, but it is also against the guarantor that it is sometimes difficult for the small industrialist to get through.

In a community like ours with a quarter of a million souls pressing against 166 square miles, it is still the survival of the fittest, and we have got a number of continental countries to look at us. In Germany I believe a small sum of \$50,000 or \$100,000 could provide a small portion of development for these small industrialists. We know what he is up against, and if you make a simple study of it, sometimes a fraction of 1 h.p. motor could trippe his output, and again it is a question of funds and whether or not he would have the collateral to ask for a loan from one of the commercial banks. The question is where can he get some ready cash. We know that this would involve a good deal of risk capital, because it is always a small industrialist with a hope, and we need Sir,.....

HOUSE REVERTS TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 4.30 p.m. o'clock, this House will revert to Government Business.

It will be recalled that at 2 o'clock the House was in Committee of Supply when the Sitting was suspended.

HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I did not know that you were going to put the question so quickly. You will remember that we were querying the members of this particular Board and I have discovered that there will be two panels. I never expected there would be two, because the Resolution spoke about one. I feel that the members of this other panel are nearly all from one category.

4.30 p.m.

Now, I am not in a position, nor would I be so rude as to tell the Government what they should do or should not do,

but we are dealing with the Town and Country Planning Resolution and this is something to do with building. This is something to do with the removing and the putting up of a building; therefore, you should get as many of its members who know something about it on this Board so that when the complaints come before them, they would be able to argue their points even with the witnesses or other people who come to give evidence. They will be sitting on that Board to form their opinion. Although the final word does not rest with them, they still have something to do with it. They have to listen to the complaints and report back. That is an important job and it is an important job because we have people all about from whom you can hear: "I want to get ahead with putting up this building and I cannot get the O. K. to start it from the Town and Country Planning Office."

Building is important today and we should not try to put all carpenters' tools in all masons' hands, neither should we put all masons' tools in all carpenters' hands. We should even it out. You do not put a man on the Bench because you feel he can try a case; he should have the knowledge to try the case. As the hon. senior member for Bridgetown has said, you should have at least one carpenter or mason and I say that you should have a competent contractor. A real contractor would know of carpentry and masonry and he would be able to put the local case too.

I do not know all the people whom you have here on the Committee. I notice the name of a doctor. Why have you put a doctor on this Committee? Do you mean a member is going to take sick and have stiff joints and you want somebody to massage him? What do you want a doctor to do? What are you putting these people on this Board to do? You have Mr. Wilson. He may be all right but he does not know everything.

You are the Government and a government can do as it likes. You can put a sailor as far as I am concerned; but it would not look right. This is an important Committee; this is an important panel. People are applying to put up a little home and these people whom you have selected have a very hard job to do.

I am sorry that I do not remember exactly what a man came to me the other day and told me. He said he wanted to do something with his home and he had applied to the Town and Country Planning Officer but did not hear anything. I told him to go back to him and ask him to come and see the spot. Anyhow, he must have got through with what he wanted to do because I have not seen him since.

Now, Sir, since you are setting up these things where people can appeal and go to, it is all right; but what is the point if you are going before men who do not really and truly have any knowledge about the matter. You cannot tell me that a doctor would know something about building unless he came up in that line before he went out to study. Some of these doctors are brought up gentlemanly like; some of them cannot even talk very loudly. If a real robust man goes in to give evidence he may use some strong language which might cause the doctor to run out. You must get people on these things who can do the job.

I am glad that you have set up this Board. As a matter of fact, I was looking for something to stir up as a result of these things hanging fire. A contractor told me recently that he had everything ready, but the Town and Country Planning Officer was holding things up. Really and truly the composition of this Board does not meet with my approval. I do not know the members, but a doctor has no right to be put in this particular job. If it were a Hospital Committee, it would be all right. But not with anything dealing with buildings. In this case, you are putting mason tools in carpenters' hands, which is not fair to the people of the country.

Mr. COWARD: Before you put the question, Sir, I would like to add my voice to members who have spoken already. I do agree with the Government setting up this panel so that there would be somebody for one to go to other than the Town and Country Planning Officer. As I have often said, I do not agree with putting all this power in one man's

hands because when you put all this power into one man's hands, generally it rises to his head.

I feel that the first lot on the panel comprises of all capable men and people who will be able to judge a case; but when it comes to the second lot I am in almost complete agreement with the hon. senior member for Bridgetown and the junior member for St. Joseph because I do not see why we should put a carpenter to do mason work. That is exactly what is now happening because this panel comprises of three merchants and a doctor. I have never seen a building made out of cloth. If that were so, I would say that these merchants would do a good job; but you make a building out of stone and wood.

The hon. senior member for Bridgetown recommended an artisan. I would appeal to the Government to consider the matter and at least withdraw one or two of the members—I am not specifying any particular individual—but you can withdraw two of the four and make use of, if possible two contractors whether they are masons or carpenters because they would have an idea of what they are called on to do. Along with that, when people go to make their appeal, they would have more confidence in such a panel than they would have in a merchant. That is all I have to say and I hope the Government would give consideration to a matter of this sort.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to associate myself with the previous speakers, especially the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown. A matter of this kind is very important to the people of this Island. 4.40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I wholeheartedly agree with the panel of four and the Chairman; however, I cannot see that the panel of four which we have heard can be of any great use to the Town and Country Planning Officer. The panel which we have heard is composed of men who can afford to purchase properties and do anything without appearing before the Town and Country Planning Officer. You have three merchants on this panel; but I want to see on this panel men from among the people who have suffered and who have seen people suffer at the hands of the Town and Country Planning Officer. None of these people here have got the time to go around and see the people who have suffered at the hands of this Officer. I would like to see a longshoreman on this panel, one who knows to have his foot in the shoe. I am asking that there be put on this panel even a mason, a carpenter, a cooper, a man who lives in a district, one who has been brought up among the poor people and who knows exactly what the poor people want.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I like to be rational in this matter. The trend which this debate has taken is to some extent irritating. Before the end of Government Business today the Hon. Leader of the House had given us an undertaking that he would consider some change. I agree with the panel which has been named by the Hon. Leader of the House. Every appeal which comes before this Body will have to be in respect of property owners, and the Town and Country Planning Officer is concerned with the question of development and improvement. I have been in trouble to know what doctor would have the time to sit on a Committee, but the other people are developers and property owners. Whenever there is the need for an appeal, it is always an appeal against the decision of the Town and Country Planning Officer and his development. I am not advocating that carpenter or mason be put on this panel because he would fail in his function. In the name of all that is decent, I want to ask the Hon. Minister—I quite appreciate that he will have to take the matter back to the Cabinet to make this change, but I am asking that this change be made. The Town and Country Planning Officer is concerned with construction inherently and you are bringing forward four laymen who are interested in building; but you will have to discuss the matter of construction with the Town and Country Planning Officer. The know-how is vital and important in this matter. I am asking the Minister to see that one of the recognised builders of this island should be a member of this Committee for the benefit of the person who is coming before the Committee with an appeal. I am won-

dering now if the Hon. Minister would be willing to withdraw this Resolution and see that he will have a recognised builder on this panel; otherwise you are going to fail in your function. You need a body of property owners because it is the property owners who will be appealing against the decision of the Town and Country Planning Officer. You have the Chief Justice and he will live and dwell happily within the four pillars of the Act; it is not his business to deal with any steel or stone construction unless he wants to make that his hobby. You want to provide the Governor-in-Executive Committee with evidence and information. In addition to the Chairman and one other member, you want a builder who is recognised and accepted in our community. Mr. Chairman, I would be more than happy if the Hon. Minister would give us an assurance that he would put our feelings on this side of the Table at ease.

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

Mr. MILLER: Before the question is put, the Hon. Minister must say something on this matter.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that this matter was exhaustively discussed before lunch, and that towards the end of the debate before lunch, the hon. senior member for the City suggested that a carpenter, mason or builder should have a place on the Committee. I pointed out to the hon. member that in actual practice we have not found that a carpenter or mason would serve any useful purpose in the hearing of these appeals. The Town and Country Planning Officer has certain functions to perform under the Act; he is empowered to make certain decisions. We are now giving the opportunity to persons who are aggrieved by the decision of the Town and Country Planning Officer to appeal to a Committee who will in turn report the evidence which they have obtained from the aggrieved person and/or his legal representative to the Governor-in-Executive Committee. I do not think you will find that an appeal against a decision of the Town and Country Planning Officer is based on the question of construction. In more cases than not, it is a question of the utilisation of land for the purpose of building or the utilisation of a specialised area for building purposes. 4.50 p.m.

It is not a question, say, of the design of a house or the style of construction or the building materials to be utilised or anything like that. These decisions are in an entirely different category, and as I said earlier — and I repeat — the Government has no special desire to resist the suggestion that the inclusion of a builder might be considered. From our experience of the matter, it has not been found imperative to include one, and so far as I am concerned, although I am not the Minister responsible for this portfolio, I am prepared to report to the Cabinet the suggestion made during the debate today. I might add further that in so far as technical knowledge or technical comment on either the application or the Town and Country Planning Officer's decision is concerned, the Minister before arriving at a decision will send for the Government's technical officers to comment on them. In other words, no Minister will arrive finally at a decision before the comments of the Public Works technical officers or any other technical officers of the Government concerned have been received, and fortified with the opinion and technical knowledge of the officer concerned plus the evidence and recommendations made by the Reporters, then the Minister makes his final decision.

The question that Head 29 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$6,059 do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1962-63 No. 24

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, this second Resolution is for the sum of \$6,947 to authorise the sup-

plementary provision included in the Supplementary Estimate, 1962-63 No. 24. In reality, Sir, it constitutes a re-vote of money already provided for. The amounts are required to provide funds to complete the installation of the Recorder for the Control Tower and Air Traffic Control Unit at Seawell Airport, and both these amounts were already provided in the Capital Estimates under Head 8, Items 11 and 12. The money was at first voted in the Estimates for 1961-62, and it was impossible to complete the work during that period; and in order that payment may be made for the installation which has now been completed, it has been necessary again to seek the permission of the Legislature to utilise the funds for this purpose.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded in each case by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 4 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

THE TEACHERS (SECONDARY SCHOOLS) PENSIONS ACT, 1962

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 4 stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: to move the second reading of a Bill to amend and consolidate the laws of this Island relating to pensions of teachers in secondary schools. 5.00 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, there was some delay in the moving of the second reading of this Bill for the reason that hon. members did not come into possession of the printed copies of the Bill until some time after the first reading was passed.

This Bill is a rather simple one, but it has very far reaching consequences to the teaching profession. In 1925, Mr. Speaker, we had two Pensions Acts, one which has its general application to members of the Public Service and the other one which was a Pensions Act for Teachers. In 1947, a new Pensions Act was introduced into and passed by the Legislature which to a very large extent rationalised the pensions entitlements of members of the Public Service. The members of the staffs of secondary schools continued to have their pensions controlled by the Teachers Pensions Act of 1925 with one or two amendments which did not substantially alter the position which they had enjoyed under the previous Act.

It is now felt that the time has arrived for the pensions of teachers in secondary schools to be brought in line with other pension legislation and this Bill will therefore replace the 1925 Teachers Pensions Act by more comprehensive legislation.

I do not want to go through all the Clauses of the Bill in detail, but if I may draw hon. members' attention to paragraph 7 of the Objects and Reasons of the Bill, members will see there the main benefits which teachers will enjoy alongside of their brothers in the Public Service of the Island.

What I think is remarkable about the Bill is that the Executive Committee of the past Government agreed to

these amendments some thirteen or fourteen years ago; and if this is any indication of how past Governments operate in this Island, it shows that it took thirteen or fourteen years for this Bill to be brought in. I do hear members of the public criticise this Government for not doing this or that, and you hear the hon. junior member for St. Joseph who instead of joining the public takes this Government's Party's Manifesto and asks us to do things which the people put us in here to do.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I want the Hon. Premier to know that I do not even know his Manifesto. I never saw one.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will not worry to say what the hon. member brought in, but at the Opening of the House, I saw the Clerk of the House on his instructions drafting a list of Resolutions approving our Manifesto and endorsing it. It is remarkable that he has a list completely taking all the things out of our Manifesto — actually word for word — in the form of Resolutions. However, this is not an exercise in the law of coincidences; this is an exercise in the benefits which members of the teaching service will get from this Bill.

I said that the Governor-in-Executive Committee of this Island some thirteen or fourteen years ago came to a decision on this Bill. Actually, the decision was taken in 1952. The effective date of this amendment should be 23rd October, 1947. The decision was made not only in 1947 but in 1952 when nothing was done to introduce the legislation.

I only mentioned that not as a criticism, but to show the terrific backlog of unfinished business of some ten or twelve years ago that this Government has had to undertake in order to put matters right where injustices have been created or remained by the sins of omission of our predecessors in office.

Sir, if I may go back to the main provisions of the Bill, hon. members will see that a teacher would now be entitled to the payment of a pension or gratuity if removed from office for inefficiency. This is found under Clauses 6 (1) (g) and (7). You will also find that under Clause 6 (2), regulation 13, that female teachers will be given marriage gratuities and under regulation 12, gratuities will also be given where pensionable service is too short to qualify for pension. If I may explain that in more detail, it is this. If a teacher has to retire for some private or personal reasons, say, on leaving the Island or on ordinary terms before the qualifying time to entitle a teacher for pension, it will now be competent for the Government to pay to that teacher a gratuity in lieu of the pension for the shorter period.

Under Clause 18, the dependents of a teacher is entitled to pension if the teacher is still on duty. I hope this will actually never happen but we came close to it with a teacher in a private secondary school when a gas oven exploded and the teacher received injury. Fortunately the injury was not fatal, though the teacher has not been able to teach since. This happened in the laboratory of a secondary school. These things can happen from one cause or the other, and when through unfortunate circumstances teachers come to an early demise, then under Clause 18 the dependents of that teacher would be entitled to the teacher's pensions rights.

If a teacher is injured on duty, that teacher is also entitled to an increased pension. If a teacher retires after ten years service but with less than twenty years' service, then that teacher can get an additional pension under regulation 23.

5.10 p.m.

If he retires on grounds of ill-health after ten years, he will get a full pension. If any member of the Public Service does ten years' service he gets a proportional part which is roughly — $33\frac{1}{3}$ years is considered to be the full entitlement for a pension, but it is not worked on the basis of $33\frac{1}{3}$. Let us say it is $33\frac{1}{3}$ years; under ten years he will get nothing; but under the provisions of this Bill he will

get a gratuity; he will not get any pension at all. After ten years he will be entitled to $\frac{10}{33\frac{1}{3}}$ which is $\frac{30}{100}$ which is $\frac{3}{10}$

of what his full pension would be. If his full pension would be \$100, he would be entitled to \$30. Under this Bill, if your retirement has been brought about by ill-health, you cannot get more than a proportional part of your pension when you put the number of years which you actually served over the number of years which will entitle you to a pension. I cannot give the details of that right now, but it would be an increased pension over and above what you would normally have enjoyed because in that case your ill-health may be deemed to have been brought about by the rigours of the teaching profession. The turnover mortality rate is fairly high especially in secondary schools, I mean the rate of replacement mortality.

Mr. Speaker, another major disadvantage of the Act of 1925 is the absence of reciprocal provision in respect of the service in Government-aided Schools and public service or recognised teaching service outside the Island. The present position is that if a teacher goes into the Government Service — we have had to recruit people by direct entry into the Government Service when we introduced the Ministerial System in order to find suitably qualified personnel, people with initiative and University degrees who would be able to apprehend the implications of the Ministerial System, which it is very difficult to get either legislative Civil Servants or the community to understand. You have all kinds of big anomalies where people consider that Ministers are part-time people — which, of course, is not true — and that a Minister can still carry on his trade, business or profession; that is equally untrue because, constitutionally, one is supposed to sever all connections with whatever profession or business one may have been carrying on. Those are the realities of the Ministerial system. I do not know what the last Government did; but you cannot even have a partnership in any of these matters. Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, that is only by the way. In order to recruit people who would be able to interpret and implement the proposals for the Ministerial System, it is necessary to recruit people from other sectors, from teaching, into the Government Service. As a matter of fact, some of our better Civil Servants have been recruited from the teaching profession. When you do come into the Service under this amendment, people will be entitled to have their pension entitlement carried forward towards their pensionable service in the Public Service of the island. If a Government servant decides that there is an opportunity for him to go into the teaching service, whether it be at a University or a secondary school or elsewhere, and he wants to be transferred from the Government Service into the teaching profession, his service in the Government Service does not count in the qualifying period in the service with the Governing Body of the School because it is calculated as pensionable entitlement. The converse of the case from the teaching service into the public service where a person is entitled, well, it is not so when he moves in the opposite direction. He does not get his period in the public service computed with his period of teaching when he goes into teaching. If you go from the teaching profession into the public service you will get your pension carried forward; but if you go from the Public Service into teaching profession you do not get your pension carried forward.

The whole purpose of this present exercise is to rationalise the pension entitlement of all members of the Government Service of the island, whether they are in the teaching profession or in the public service, so that you will get a certain amount of mobility between the teaching profession and the public service of the island in both directions. With those remarks, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, naturally it fell to the duty of the Hon. Premier to move the second reading of this Bill, because it is essentially an Establishment matter; and more so a matter of finance because it will lay, in effect, heavy charges on the Treasury of this island as well as call for a re-organisation of the Public Service in some cases.

5.20 p.m.

It falls to me to speak in support of the Bill from the strictly professional and administrative point of view as my Ministry sees it, I start first of all with the last point made by the Hon. Premier, that if there is at least only one benefit — and there is more than one benefit — which this Bill will confer, it is that it will provide for the free interplay of personnel in the general Public Service of this Island. Too often and with quite a lot of justification we have lamented the outflow from the secondary schools into the Public Service of real and competent men and women in the past few years, pointing out with justification that the secondary school system would not survive that outflow if nothing was done to check it. The facts were, of course, that employment in the Public Service outside of the teaching service was more lucrative than employment in the teaching service, and all the things which are now corrected in this Bill with respect to the pension rights of teachers were in those days the great barriers of enticing highly qualified teachers to remain in the teaching service.

By removing the barriers as we have sought to do comprehensively in this Bill, Mr. Speaker, we hope not only to stop the outflow of people from the schools who could better serve there, but possibly from time to time to attract back into the schools competent people who have given public service generally, but who could still work in a specified capacity in the teaching world.

The second point is this, Mr. Speaker: you cannot hope to introduce a measure of this sort and bring it to the stage which it has now reached on the floor of this Legislature without full consultation with those most intimately concerned. Since 1947 the primary school teachers of this Island have been fully integrated into the Public Service, and there were therefore, so far as they were concerned, no great outstanding questions to agitate their minds in this respect. There might be others, but not in respect to pensions and gratuities. It was the teachers in the secondary schools who suffered the greatest disadvantages, and it was therefore these teachers and their organisation with whom this consultation was done, and the Ministry did not particularly hurry to put it before the Cabinet until that consultation had been made. I think I can announce to the House that the secondary school teachers have offered no objection whatever, and have certainly found that the greatest bones of contention between themselves and the Ministry of Education have at long last been removed.

The third point, Mr. Speaker, is that the Government has given its consent to this Bill not only because it was long overdue, but because we regard this kind of measure which gives the fullest possible security to the teachers both as an incentive to young teachers to enter the profession without hesitation, and also as a consolation to those already inside the profession not to think that their years have been entirely wasted, because you see, Mr. Speaker, morale in any profession is nearly always the determining factor; and to be able with a measure like this to give the greatest measure of satisfaction and contentment in their work to a growing and now numerous body of professional people is something which is worthwhile doing.

One interesting point about this whole Bill is that it makes provision for teachers whose offices have been abolished, and this particularly was not necessarily put in at their request, because I do not think the teachers themselves quite understood the significance of this provision. We are coming to a point, Mr. Speaker, in educational administration in this Island — and certainly in the rest of the world — where we cannot afford a wastage of manpower whether in industry or in the teaching profession. It will therefore come about from time to time that in a particular school, re-organisation of the curricula and re-allocation of duties will have to be done in the interest of the pupil and in the interest of efficiency. Therefore in some cases posts which teachers may have held at the time of the re-organisation may be abolished, not through the teachers' inefficiency, but because one wants to get the greatest possible return for the money one is spending, and because one wants, even in a school more so than in any other place, to inculcate the virtues of efficiency; that makes it possible that some offices may be abolished.

The Bill comes to the rescue of the teacher in that circumstance by pointing out that abolition of office through no fault of the teacher will not be a bar to the reception of whatever gratuity and pension is due. Now there are comments I want to make, because I want to make it quite clear that we now expect from the teachers in this Island that they will show a greater sense of responsibility in some respects. I have been one myself and I know that quite often the grumbling and quarrelling which one hears from teachers come from a feeling of frustration that one's efforts are not always appreciated, and that the returns one gets for those efforts are very small and sometimes non-existent. This Government can now escape with this Bill a considerable amount of censure on that score, because no teacher henceforth need fear his or her future security because there is even provision in this Bill for loss of office through inefficiency. A Government might be expected to make provision for loss of office when it is no fault of your own; that would be expected; but to go even further and say there might be cases in which the inefficiency of the teacher might not be due to his or her fault, but to some unreasonable circumstance — the whole system itself which might cause inefficiency — and therefore in that case to have a sympathetic attitude towards the teacher, I think no Government should be asked to go further, and that is why I feel myself obligated to say that we will expect them to meet their obligations to the fullest, to discharge their responsibilities to their pupils in the highest and best possible way, and leave it to this Government and to the Ministry to take care of their just grievances whenever they make them known to us.

5.30 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, when I was much younger, I attended the Hustings once and I heard a now departed member of this House say that "small boats may venture more but 'Moses' boats should keep near the shore." I open in that way. I venture to say in the presence of the hon. learned and gallant member who introduced this Bill and even at the risk of the criticisms to come from the Hon. Minister of Education who himself was a teacher that this Bill has its advantages and its disadvantages.

I think I should first commend the Government for bringing down the Bill before I offer my criticisms. It was long overdue, I do know; but I do not believe it was wilfully withheld. I should have said that I am still surprised that this Bill has been brought down in this form by the present Government. As I have said, it has its advantages and disadvantages. I believe, myself, that this Bill perpetuates what is considered in Barbados and what was considered for a long time a system of intellectual snobbery and I make no apologies for saying that. The Hon. Minister of Education has now come from the big country of the U.S.A.. Believe me, Sir, I am not saying this because I want to belittle or decry education in any of its forms at all. I believe, myself, that persons educated, persons who have burnt the midnight oil, should be so paid for their service; but I hate to think that in a community like Barbados where you have over 20,000 children to be taught — and they have to be taught by your teachers — we are now describing here a Bill as the Teachers (Secondary Schools) Pensions Act, 1952.

We either have teachers or we do not have teachers. As I have said, I admire the Government in bringing down a Bill of this nature; but it must be borne in mind that the majority of teachers of this country teach children in elementary schools, and in my opinion they make up the great bulk of the citizens of this country.

What is this Bill intitled? It is intitled an Act to amend and consolidate the law of this Island relating to pensions of Teachers in secondary schools. Most of us realise, as the Hon. Premier has said, and I too appreciate the fact, that you have to take from your teaching fraternity not only in secondary schools but from your elementary schools also, some of your best teachers and put them in your clerical service. I do not think the Hon. Premier said "best" but he did say that some of our teachers were now working in the Ministries. That is a fact and you cannot deny it. I, for one, was a real critic of your policy of

spending money to send teachers out to do a course of teacher training either in infant methods or whatever it is and on their return you second them to a Ministry. However, I do know that as time went on, you found it difficult to get the type of person you wanted to work in the Ministries.

Sir, I think we have long passed the time when we in Barbados — and I am sure you will appreciate this with a Socialist Government in power — should be saying that we are having a Bill for secondary teachers and another Bill for other teachers.

As I have said just now, it is not that this Bill was just lying down, pigeon-holed after it was considered by the Governor-in-Executive Committee; it was left lying down because of the feeling existing among secondary teachers that they were secondary teachers and therefore they should have nothing to do with the other teachers. Long gone are the days that you should have people working for the Government's money and they are thinking of snobbery. Many of the teachers in secondary schools have been given assistance by the Government to go out on training, and the qualifications of many of the elementary school teachers befit them to teach in secondary schools. That is our difficulty. It has been brought to my notice that one chap will possess by passing the G.C.E. Examination at Advanced Level the necessary qualification to teach in a secondary school, but because he is not fortunate to get on the staff of the Alleyne School, the Foundation School or Harrison's College, he has to go and take a job of teaching at an elementary school — a school which we must not belittle. I do not think we should persist with that type of snobbery.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would give way, I would just like to say that whatever may be the position as regards that in the past, it is not so now.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Government this. Is it the intention of the Government to see that it is not so now or tell me whether it is so now? I accept the Hon. Minister's word that whatever may have been the position with them in the past, it is not so now.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I say that it is not the policy of the Government and I would be very grateful to hear the hon. member say of the cases which he knows of.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, I am glad to know that it is not the policy of the Government and therefore that practice will cease. I am sure the Hon. Minister appreciates the point I have been making that in 1947 when the Bill was amended to bring the teachers under the whole pensions scheme, this Bill was not brought down because there was, and still is, that wrangling between secondary teachers and elementary teachers. The Hon. Minister has assured us that it is not the policy of the Government. Is it their policy that a teacher with the necessary qualifications teaching at St. Leonard's Secondary Modern or at Bawdens Elementary School will receive the same salary or a similar salary to a teacher in that category teaching at Harrison's College?

5.40 p.m.

I accept the sincerity and integrity of the hon. member in this matter. If he says that that is the policy of this Government, then this Bill should not be entitled "An Act to amend and consolidate the law of this island relating to pensions of teachers in secondary schools". This Bill is for the purpose of bringing all teachers of the island on the stage of our development, would consider that a boy, because he has acquired subjects at Advanced Level at Combermere, because he has acquired his degree as an external from London and because he did not have the opportunity of wearing the school tie but burned the mid-night oil, would be relegated down to a school at Boscobelle and considered an elementary teacher, and therefore below the status of another although he had the same knowledge in his head and can give you good service within the Government.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order. So strong is this Government on the question of fair treatment that we have laid down in the island's Establishment that any en-

trants with Advanced Level subjects will get two increments when he is starting off his period as if he were teaching already in the school.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I hope you will appreciate my making you bring out this matter for the public to know it. The public must know what is the position today. Anyway, Sir, that is as far as I am concerned with the Act. Gone are the days when you would consider that you are a secondary school teacher and therefore you are superior to somebody else. You have people persisting in the idea that, because they had the opportunity of teaching at Harrison College, they are Secondary School Teachers. Some foolish boys have been saying that. Now the Hon. Minister has said that these people are all Government servants, they will enjoy the same advantages; and therefore this snobbery that you will have, that because I am teaching at the Alleyne School and you are teaching at the Bawdens School therefore I am superior to you, will be removed. The Hon. Minister has just come back from a place where teachers are teachers. It is a question of qualifications and not a question of snobbery.

Mr. Speaker, there is one question which I would like to raise. Naturally this Bill is very far-reaching and it is a money Bill; it is a charge on the Treasury; but I am going to say one or two things which I want to say. Will the Government tell me whether in this Bill they have any policy as to the question of teachers or people in the General Service having the right to retire at 55 years of age? This is a Pensions Bill and I want to know if the policy of the Government is still that of the retirement of people at 55 years of age where these people are still young at that age. We campaigned on that question; this is a terrific charge on the Treasury because people have retired at the age of 55 and they have gone into other jobs. If that is not going to be your policy, what are you going to do in respect of this matter? This is a question of consolidating all the rights which go along with the pension. I say that the retirement of people at the age of 55 years is placing a great burden on the already hard-pressed taxpayer. I will possibly make a few enemies for myself when I say what I am saying now. However, this Bill deals with the question of teachers being re-employed, but I will deal with that when we go into Committee on the Bill. There are many people in this country who are out of work and is it going to be your policy to re-employ teachers after they have all of these benefits when you can find suitably qualified young people to take their places? I have never been opposed to people who are technically trained — I have never been opposed to technically trained husbands and wives holding jobs in the Public Service; on the other hand, I have been unalterably opposed to people who get a certain salary and above that salary and the Government giving both them and their wives employment. That policy deprives a tremendous lot of young people of opportunities, young people who are pursuing their education and are roaming the streets looking for jobs. Where it was not possible to get technically trained people — if you had to have a teacher who did Science and his wife was there and you could not get any other person to do a job, I would not be opposed to that appointment; but I say that I am unalterably opposed to people who are drawing as high as \$600 a month and the Government is giving jobs to the wives of those people. I repeat; I am unalterably opposed to that policy.

5.50 p.m.

I am opposed to that even if I make 25 or 30 enemies tonight in Barbados, because I believe young people who are coming out of school are denied an opportunity under such circumstances of gaining employment. I feel, Sir, that while the Bill is one to consolidate and bring in line those secondary teachers — and I prefer not to use the word "secondary" — I am very happy to think that the Minister has said that this is their policy. In other words, while the Bill concerns secondary teachers, what the hon. member is giving us to understand is that this puts all teachers on the same footing whatever their circumstances might be. I hope I do not see this denied by secondary teachers through their organisation, because I am prepared under these circumstances to support this Bill.

As I said, Sir, one is very glad to learn from the Hon. Minister that such teachers can now like the other members of the Public Service get a marriage allowance. I think the Hon. Premier said that this will allow for marriage gratuity as in the general Civil Service where teachers retire for the purpose of marriage.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, it is not a gratuity to get married or an inducement to get married; it is a gratuity in case you resign after you get married.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I understand you have to prove to the Government or to the Auditor General that you resign for the purpose of getting married. If you resign and then see a boyfriend or sweetheart and get married, I do not think you are entitled to a pension. However, I am subject to the hon. and learned member's opinion, but that is how I have seen it and how I understand it works. I am not saying this is an inducement to get married, but I hope it will be because it would be much better for us all.

Mr. Speaker, while I support the Bill, I would like to hear the Minister, now that we are bringing these teachers in line with the general Civil Service, on the criticism I had at one time about sending persons to be trained along certain lines as teachers and when they return putting them into the Ministry. I appreciate from my experience that it was not merely because of their salaries, but because of the ability they possessed to be able to give the requisite and necessary service to the particular Ministry. There was quite a number of persons who were removed from Harrison College, Combermere and even from elementary schools and placed in these posts. However, Sir, the Bill is one which is long overdue, and I feel myself that the teachers were to be blamed, because they themselves were sticking out that they were different from other teachers. They are in my opinion no more important than the teachers in the elementary schools. I believe I have already told the Minister, and he has seen it, that the moment the Government changed the system of free secondary education, it was most surprising to see the overwhelming number of children who passed the exams from elementary schools. If therefore the teachers in the elementary schools have got to feed the secondary schools with pupils, I consider that the elementary teacher in his sphere is just as important to the community as the secondary teacher, though he might not of necessity have to possess the qualifications which the secondary teacher would carry. What was most glaring indeed was that the moment you made it abundantly clear that the entrance into secondary schools was free, — and I pointed this out to the Minister of Education himself and the Minister of Social Services who was holding the portfolio for him — the number of children who came out of these schools to feed the secondary schools increased; yet the teachers who taught the pupils in the elementary schools felt inferior to the secondary teachers.

I am going to support the Bill, but I would like to hear the Minister's policy on the question I have asked about allowing teachers to remain in the Service after the age of 55, or what is the general policy for the Service because this deals with consolidating the Pensions Act and making it similar to that of the general Service. I would like to hear the Minister on that.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member, Mr. Speaker, asked a lot of questions about what is Government's policy going to be on this, that and the other. I have an admonition to make to the hon. member. If he wants to find out Government's policy on anything, we have subscription forms to the Party, and if he pays, I think, a modest fee of \$3.25 he can find out all these things; but as long as he remains on the other side, he cannot know that. He has rambled all over the place, said nothing at all about the different clauses of the Bill, promised he would criticise it, and I was very disappointed that he really restricted his criticisms to the overall policy of the previous Government in relation to people's retirement and employing married people which is not under consideration here. If I appear to be churlish, I must ask Your Honour's indulgence at this stage, because I do not intend answering questions on what Government's policy is going to be.

One of the first rules that we learn, as you know, in the profession to which we both have the honour to belong is that I think the discipline of the Inns of Court is something which would have made the hon. member one of the luminaries of the profession in this Island had he been accepted to it, but we never leap until we come to the style. In other words, we do not cross our bridges before a precipice or a channel of water is put before us, and therefore I am not in position to answer the question of what Government's policy is going to be; but this information is vouchsafed to members of our Party which is open to the hon. member or anybody else on that side of the House.

The hon. member can deal with what I may have said in Committee, because we will be going into Committee shortly. There are only two things I think I omitted to mention, and the first one was the difficulty of recruitment of people into secondary schools in this Island. When we recruited someone from abroad who had already been teaching, immediately under the old dispensation the teacher's pension entitlements ceased wherever he may have been working and he had to start a new qualifying period of service. The second thing — and this of course we have now rectified — is that where there was a hiatus between the teacher's period of service either between Government and the teaching service, or alternatively between teaching in this Island and teaching in another Island or another territory or Public Service in this Island and teaching in another territory, — in either of these three events there could have been some hiatus of his service, — there is a set provision in Regulation 13 which would allow for a teacher to have his total emoluments computed as if there had been no interruption in the period of service. There is a fourth point which is most important, but which I always tend to forget.

6.00 p.m.

I may mention this; I started to make a note when the hon. member sat down. There is no discrimination against school teachers as far as this Government is concerned. The Hon. Minister of Education rose on one occasion and said that there is no such discrimination. If there was discrimination, it was discrimination against secondary school teachers in that elementary school teachers enjoy privileges which the members of the teaching staff of secondary schools do not enjoy. As I understand the situation, a long time ago the provisions of the Pensions Act, 1947, were drawn to the Governing Bodies of the secondary schools and the headteachers of the elementary schools and they were reluctant to come under the scheme because they felt it would put them on the same footing as members of the Public Service and they did not want to be treated in the same way; they wanted to maintain their independence.

I do not think they studied the implications of staying out of the scheme as thoroughly as they should have done or, as someone has said, those who have been on the Governing Bodies did not study it as thoroughly as they should and therefore, they did not understand it.

The position is that we have been getting the gloss removed in that although the teachers claim the same provision when there is a salary revision as members of the Public Service, we do not have them presenting the same objection to pensions schemes as they used to before; so we are putting them on an equal footing with the elementary school teachers for the first time. We are not discriminating against them.

There is just one other point and it is a point which was raised by the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown. You will remember when I introduced the second reading of the Bill, I mentioned that a long time ago it was proposed that the qualifying date should be the 3rd October, 1947. You will find in this Bill that a teacher who has retired since 1947 but before the date of commencement of this Bill — the date which would be published in the *Official Gazette*, which will probably be next month or in January, 1963 whether it be in 1962 or 1963, the teacher who has retired after 23rd October, 1947, will be entitled to have his or her pension re-computed as if this Bill had been in operation from 3rd October, 1947. This matter has

been under consideration for such a long time that we think that that is just fair.

This is the first measure which we have done to bring pensions up to the same level as people who are retiring in more recent time. I mention it in passing because it is significant to know that from 3rd October, 1947, teachers who had retired since that time, if this Bill had been in operation from that date would be normally entitled to these same pension rights as if this Bill was passed in 1947. Therefore, they will be entitled to have their pensions re-computed on the same basis. Hon. members will see on careful scrutiny that the teachers will not be entitled to backpay, but they will be entitled to draw their pensions and have it re-computed in the same way as if this Bill was in operation from that day and I hope that in most cases it will be to their advantage.

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

On motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR; seconded by Hon. Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clause 1 was called. It reads as follows:-

"This Act may be cited as the Teachers (Secondary Schools) Pensions Act, 1962."

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that Clause 1 stand part.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, unlike the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, I will not say that I have not got your Manifesto. As a matter of fact, I would be a fool to be in politics and not to have your Manifesto. When I asked the question on the floor of the House or tried to extract from what now you are amending, what I said was this. I agree that this Bill in itself was bringing the teachers on the same level. I said that this Bill was kept back primarily because the secondary school teachers then could not get together even among themselves on it; therefore, it was kept back primarily by them. They felt they were removed from the type of school teacher who taught in the elementary schools. 6.10 p.m.

My criticism was that, as far as I am concerned, I knew what was happening up to this year. I cannot say if it is happening this month but there was that differentiation between teachers in secondary schools and teachers in elementary schools who possessed the same qualifications and the Hon. Minister of Education knows that that is so. I am happy to know that the Minister's policy is that that should not be so.

I have raised this question because it has been raised. All through the election campaign on the question of the retirement of persons at the age of 55 years, we have said that we have reached the stage where our resources cannot any longer afford a lot of things which we have been granting. We have to pay Civil Servants; we do not believe that some of them are overpaid. I am asking now that you are amending your Pension Bill, if it is the Government's policy to have teachers retiring at the age of 55 years, I am not asking the Party's Business; I am asking about Government's business which I have the right to do. With His Honour the Speaker in the Chair and anybody having the last word, he can say: "I am not answering that question". When this Island of Barbados fell into line with the other countries with teachers retiring at the age of 55 years, that sounded all right; but you now find that there are a lot of people who are retiring at the age of 55 and they are still working otherwise. We have to think of our slender resources. I have heard it said on several occasions by members of the Government Party that the age of 55 years is too early an age for people to retire. A man receives his pension after he retires at a given age, if he falls ill and var-

ious other things; but among other things, it is a question of retirement at a certain age. I am entitled to ask if it is going to be the policy of the Government to continue allowing people to retire at the age of 55 years and then give these same people jobs when there are so many young people looking for jobs. If you are dealing with a pension Bill which sets out various things as clear as a pikestaff — well, this Bill gives the teachers certain advantages. Some of these teachers feel superior to the others but you have these advantages; you have all these rights and privileges, you have this retirement age at 55 years; you have people who retire, they are drawing big gratuities and at the same time you have young people who are looking for work. I am not asking anybody's business; when I ask this question, I ask it for the benefit of the public.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I would like the hon. member to stick to Clause 1 of this Bill. I have indicated to the hon. member that we are dealing with secondary schools. The hon. member was a member of the Governing Body of a secondary school. I may say that the Government does not decide whether one man should go or whether another should go; that is purely within the competence of the members of the Governing Body of the School. We do not interfere with people going out and coming back in.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member's information is not correct. He says that I have been a member of the Governing Body of a secondary school; but as to the Governing Body of any secondary school in this island it must be a matter coming from the Director of Education and the Ministry before they can bring back anybody. The Hon. Minister of Education could tell the Premier that.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, no Governing Body has asked my permission to re-employ anybody.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Why should the Hon. Minister take refuge in that? Who said that you had been asked to re-employ anybody?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member has not said that in those words, but that is what he means.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The Hon. Premier can talk whatever he likes; even if what I say was not so, it is more so now.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must stick to this section.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The Hon. Premier says that he would like me to stick to the Section. Well, I will stick to the Section. Clause 1 says this:-

"This Act may be cited as the Teachers (Secondary School) Pensions Act, 1962."

This is a Pension Act and I am quite entitled to ask this question. Am I not entitled to ask you if it is your policy to allow people to retire at the age of 55 years? Whatever change must take place, it must take place with the approval of the Ministry. That is how I understand it. What I really want to get over is that the Hon. Premier should know better than thinking that I would get up here and ask about the Party's business. You can buy a Manifesto and read about the Party, but when you are in the Government you are running all the Parties; you are the Government of the people and not the Government of a Party. As a member of the Opposition, I have the right to ask this question and you have the right not to answer it because nobody can make you answer it. However, I am entitled to express my view. 6.20 p.m.

Throughout the election, I went all over the Island and criticised the policy of people retiring at 55 and going back and holding jobs until they were 65, thus depriving young people of employment. I am not going any further on this section. I only say that as far as I am concerned, it is unfortunate that the Premier replied in such a manner.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I wonder who would believe that the Clause we are de-

bating says "This Act may be cited as the Teachers (Secondary Schools) Pensions Act, 1962." The hon. member has not said one thing on those two lines, but is making a second reading speech.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am not standing for that. Don't do it, Mr. Chairman! You can play that with anybody else in here. I have as much respect for the Chair as anybody else in here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member speaking on Clause 1?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am; so do not try to railroad something in here and do not show that partiality.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, nobody is trying to push anything over on the hon. member. The Chairman really felt that the hon. member had finished.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I was not finished. The Hon. Premier rose on a point of order, and I sat down politely.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The Chairman assumed that you were finished. In any case, Mr. Chairman, I am sure the hon. member will realise that a misconception is bound to occur, but we need not lose our tempers. The hon. member has lost complete control of himself, and I am sure that the Chair has no desire to infringe upon his rights. I wish we could go on in a calmer atmosphere.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, one thing I deplore about this whole atmosphere which is being created is that you will find members of the hon. member's Party - I refer particularly to a man called Mr. Dear - writing all the time about members other than the members of the hon. member's Party and about their behaviour in the House of Assembly. I feel that if he could take the trouble to come here on one or two occasions to hear how members of the Conservative Party get on quite unnecessarily, he would refrain from writing such. I think it is quite unfair to accuse the Chairman of partiality. You would not find that in any part of the world anybody would get up and accuse the Chairman of partiality. We on this side have been the victims of partiality, and on one occasion we moved a vote of "no confidence" without at all reflecting on the Chair. So the hon. member need not behave as when he is at the Bridgetown City Council. This is an ancient Chamber and it has certain traditions which we would like to see upheld.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is an ancient Chamber but it is not a Chamber for fools. If I have been in any way insulting to the Chair, I would like to apologise; but I was speaking when the Hon. Premier rose on a point of order and I sat down; so no one could come to the conclusion that I had finished.

Clause 1 of the Bill says "This Act may be cited as the Teachers (Secondary Schools) Pensions Act, 1962" and if the Act has certain advantages, that is the only Clause on which I can speak, and not any particular section. You know that I would be the last person to go out of my way to be unnecessarily rude to the Chair, but when someone tries to put the question while I am speaking, it is unfair, because the hon. member can very well take the opportunity when the House is not in Committee to reply to what I have said when I would have no opportunity again to reply. The Hon. Premier said I was making a second reading speech, but after all, I could not speak on any particular section for you to rule me out of order; so I took Clause 1 which covers the entire Act.

The question that Clause 1 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 2 to 9 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 10 was called. It reads as follows:-

10. (1) A teacher shall not have an absolute right to compensation for past services or to pension, gratuity, or other allowance nor shall anything in this Act affect the right of a school authority, with the approval of the Governor acting in his discretion, to dismiss any teacher at any time and without compensation.

(2) Where it is established to the satisfaction of the Governor that a teacher has been guilty of negligence, irregularity or misconduct, the pension, gratuity, or other allowance may be reduced or altogether withheld.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that Clause 10 stand part.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would just like the hon. member to tell me if Clause 10 is in keeping with the general Pensions Act. The Clause says that a teacher shall not have an absolute right to compensation for past services or to pension, gratuity, or other allowance nor shall anything in this Act affect the right of a school authority, with the approval of the Governor acting in his discretion to dismiss any teacher at any time and without compensation. That is the part which worried me and I believe the Minister might have been asked about it. Now that there has been an entirely different system and there is a Minister responsible for Education, I wonder if this particular Clause actually applies. I am only seeking this information for enlightenment. You have an Educational Adviser instead of a Director of Education and the whole system has changed, and I should like to know if this wording is correct, because I understand this was drafted long ago. I have been asked this by several teachers, Mr. Chairman, but as I am not a lawyer, I would like to hear from the Minister himself. 6.30 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Sir, I believe the hon. member knows that the provision is on all fours with similar provisions of the 1947 Pension Act for the general Civil Service.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I quite understand that the position is on all fours with the provisions of the 1947 Act for the general Civil Service. It is the same provision by which the Auditor General, a Head of a Department or anybody, so to speak, can dismiss a person without compensation. What I am saying is that at the time of the Act you did not have your Cabinet System and I am wondering if now that it is drafted this way, it would still apply. You have a Cabinet system now. It says that a teacher shall not have an absolute right to compensation for past services or for pensions, gratuity or other allowance nor shall anything in this Act affect the right of a school authority, with the approval of the Governor acting in his discretion to dismiss any teacher at any time and without compensation. A Governing Body can dismiss any teacher at any time. I was thinking that with the Cabinet system, the order should be the other way.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the existence of the Ministerial system does not interfere in any way. We do not appoint; therefore, we do not dismiss.

The question that Clause 10 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 11 to 16 were called separately and passed.

Clause 17 was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that Clause 17 stand part.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, Clause 17 subsection (4) paragraph (b) reads as follows:-

"To cause the gratuity to be paid to the dependent or dependents of the teacher."

Does this refer back to what the Hon. Premier said of the 1947 Act?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Will the hon. member just read it again?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of Clause 17 reads as follows:-

"To cause a gratuity to be paid to the dependent or dependents of the teacher."

Would this Section apply in the same light as the Hon. Premier said? In other words, was it made clear that if a person retired in 1947 that they would get it now but without backpay?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is no mystery in this Section. It says where any such teacher to whom a pension, gratuity or other allowance has been granted under this Act dies after retirement from the teaching service of this Island and the sums paid or payable to him at his death on account of any pension, gratuity or other allowance in respect of any teaching service, other teaching service, or public service are less than the amount of the annual pensionable emoluments enjoyed by him at the date of his retirement, it shall be lawful for the Governor to grant to his legal personal representative equal to the efficiency. That is all there is to it.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Having said it applies to a commuted pension, I was wondering whether it would apply in the like manner if that was dated back from 1947. The simplicity of the first part is abundantly clear.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I do not think there is any difficulty. If any person received a gratuity, it becomes A1. If he received a pension, there is no regulation which would apply. The only difficulty which would arise in the interpretation is whether his gratuity would be taken into consideration, if that person took a gratuity in lieu of reduced pension.

There is one possibility I can see. I am not giving a legal opinion but a commuted pension under regulation 24 may take into consideration that a gratuity has been received. Does it answer the hon. member's question? I am not an expert on pension entitlements. I only know the broad principles. I never worked in places like the Treasury. There are cases - not strictly under this Bill but which has been drawn to my notice - where after a salaries revision and the consolidation of the cost of living allowance, a teacher drawing a pension was receiving 97 cents a year less than what he was receiving before the salaries revision. Under this he can get a pension computed which would be less, as has been told me. That shows how complicated pensions arrangements can be and that is why I refrain from making statements on what can happen. I can see no ambiguity in the Bill, but as to how it will work out I cannot predict.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I just honestly do not understand it and I just ask the Hon. Premier to explain it. The Hon. Premier has admitted that as to how it would work out he cannot predict, I referred to the regulation and it carried me no further.

I do not want it to appear that I am keeping the Bill back but I must confess that this is no conundrum or anything like that shared by myself. I do not believe any layman appreciates the clarity of this particular section and that is the reason why I ask a question to see if there was anything which could be explained.
6.40 p.m.

There is something in this particular section which, in the hon. member's saner moments, he will say: "We cannot explain this; he has asked something which we cannot explain".

The question that Clause 17 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 18 to 20 inclusive were called and passed.

Clause 21 was called. It reads as follows:-

21. (1) The Teachers Pension Act, 1925, and the Teachers Pension (Amendment) Act, 1943, shall cease to have effect except so far as they apply to -

(a) teachers who elect under section nineteen of this Act to remain subject to the provisions of the Teachers Pension Act, 1925 or any Act amending the same; and

(b) persons who have retired from teaching service before the twenty-third day of October, 1947.

(2) Nothing contained in subsection (1) of this section shall be construed as affecting the operation of sections three, four and five of the Teachers Pension (Amendment) Act, 1944.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that Clause 21 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, this is one of the Sections of this Bill on which I spoke when we were dealing with the second reading of the Bill. This Section amends the Act of 1925 and the Act of 1943. People have been enquiring of me as to what I know about this and if you are elected to a seat in this Chamber and you do not know about something, then you do not know about it. This Section says:-

"The Teachers Pension Act, 1925, and the Teachers Pension (Amendment) Act, 1943, shall cease to have effect except so far as they apply to -

(a) teachers who elect under section nineteen of this Act to remain subject to the provisions of the Teachers Pension Act, 1925 or any Act amending the same; and

(b) persons who have retired from teaching service before the twenty-third day of October, 1947."

Does that mean that before the 1925 Pension Act you had to go up to 65 years? Is the position that these people would not get back-pay but they would get their pension at the rate at which they would get it if they retired under the 1947 Act?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, before the hon. member sat down he made the statement that the teachers would not get back pay but they would get pension at the rate at which they would get it if they retired under the 1947 Act. The point is that the people who retired after 1947 would get their pension as if this Act had been in operation all the time. I do not like a statement like that to go unchallenged because if it is not challenged and it appears in the *Official Gazette*, it would be said that this was something which was not challenged. Under the Act of 1943 the teachers had to elect whether they wanted to remain under the old Regulations or come under the new Act. All that we have done under this Act is to preserve the rights which these teachers would have exercised at that time.

The question that Clause 21 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clause 22 was called and passed.

The two Schedules of the Bill were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

AMENDMENTS FROM THE OTHER PLACE

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I should like to inform the House that there are two slight amendments made by the Other Place dealing with two bits of legislation with which we have already dealt in this Chamber. Those bits of legislation are the Local Government (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill and the Mortgage Insurance Bill. 6.50 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to deal with amendments from the Other Place. If there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There is no objection, and accordingly leave is granted.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the first amendment is to a Bill to amend the Local Government Act, 1958, to exempt from the payment of rates certain institutions established for charitable, educational or scientific purposes of a public nature. The amendment appears in line 2 of section 2 (a) and is the substitution of a "semi-colon" for a "colon".

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD; seconded in each case by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the amendments were read a second time and agreed to.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The other amendment is in connection with the Bill to empower the Housing Authority to issue insurance policies in respect of loans secured by mortgages of dwelling houses and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The amendments occur on pages 4 and 10. The amendments are as follows:-

In sub-paragraph (b) (iii) of sub-clause 1 of Clause 4 insert the word "and" after the word "thereof". Also in sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph (c) of subsection 8 of Section 7 delete the words "whichever is the shorter period; and" put it on a new line so that those words apply to the whole of paragraph (c).

I beg to move that these amendments be now read a first time.

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

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

On the separate motions of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded in each case by Hon. J. C. TUDOR, the amendment was read a second time and agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, before we proceed further, I would like to ask for one month's leave of absence from his duties as a member of this House for the hon. junior member for Bridgetown.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is asking for one month's leave of absence from his duties as a member of this House for the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

I hear no objection. Accordingly leave is granted.

Before the motion for adjournment, I would like to discharge the Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill to authorise the Bishop of Barbados and the Rector of St. Michael to sell certain lands to the Trustees of Kensington Cricket Grounds. The Committee having reported, I thank them for their services, and they are duly discharged.

ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 13th November, at 2.30 p.m.

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

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

7.00 p.m.