

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20th November, 1962.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (*Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Mr. E. St. A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. S. E. SEALEY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr. W. R. COWARD, Mr. R. St. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P. (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (*Minister of Social Services*).

Prayers were read.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

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

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier, I am commanded to lay the Barbados Statistical Service, Quarterly Digest of Statistics, No. 23, September, 1962.

PETITION

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a petition in the name of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. GODDARD: On behalf of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I beg to present a petition from the Bishop and Rector of St. Michael praying the House to authorise them to sell a parcel of land along with a property formerly known as the Church Village School.

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

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$348 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1962-63, Part I — Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1962-63, No. 27, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$1,378 at the

disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1962-63, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1962-63, No. 28, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to ask your permission to deal with this Resolution today in all its stages.

Mr. SPEAKER: Steps will therefore be taken to have sufficient copies available.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1962.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice that I am asking for leave to deal with this Resolution of which I have just given notice in all its stages today.

Copies of the Resolution are already in the Clerk's hands and I hope they will be circulated in due course.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Governor-in-Executive Committee of the parcel of land and hereditaments described in the Schedule thereto for the purpose of providing for extensions to the St. Leonard's Secondary Modern Schools.

ORAL REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 23/1962, asked by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is now ready.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 52/1962, asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph on the 5th June, 1962, is now ready;

Also, Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 55/1962, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph on the 26th June, 1962 is now ready.

Also, Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 74/1962, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph on the 28th August, 1962 is now ready.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am advised to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with the first Resolution of which notice was given today.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to vest in fee simple in the Bishop of Barbados and the

Rector of the Parish of Saint Michael certain land and holdings situate in Church Street in the said Parish of Saint Michael and formerly known as the "Church Village Girls' School" to authorise the said Bishop and Rector to sell the same, to invest the proceeds of sale in the purchase of other land and premises suitable for use as a residence or residences for curates of Saint Michael's Cathedral and to invest any remaining residue in the joint name of the said Bishop and Rector and to apply the income for the benefit of the said Cathedral.

QUESTIONS

Mr. CORBIN: To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries:

Is the Minister aware of the hardships experienced by peasant proprietors in the parish of St. Andrew due to the unavailability of ploughing service through the Department of Agriculture at Haggatts Station?

2. Is the Minister aware that peasants have been refused or denied the benefits derived to peasants in other parishes in that between the month of February 1962 and the month of October, 1962 the said Haggatts Agricultural Station refused to accept payments in advance from peasants requiring the services of a plough for cultivating their holdings?

3. Can the Minister state if a plough will be made available, permanently or otherwise at Haggatts Station for the benefit of peasants in the parish of St. Andrew?

4. If the answer to No. 3 is in the affirmative, can the Minister state as from what date such services will be made available?
2.50 p.m.

Mr. CORBIN: To enquire of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries:-

(1) Is the Minister aware of the hardships which will be experienced by growers of canes in the parish of St. Andrew when harvesting begins, due to the fact that roads in the area of the Soil Conservation Scheme do not come under the functions of the Department of Highways and Transport, and therefore will not be eligible for construction or repairs by the said Department?

(2) Will the Minister take the necessary steps at the earliest possible moment to remove this seeming hardship by causing the appropriate authorities to construct temporary roads at the following for the benefit of the peasant cane-growers:-

Work Hall (Cambridge); Rock Hall, King Street and Mose Bottom East, and White Hill in the parish of St. Andrew?

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

(1) Is the Minister aware of the hardships existing in the Northern District Council Area through residents having to continue to walk long distances to draw water for domestic use?

(2) Will the Minister cause investigation to be made into the situation with a view to finding out whether or not standposts have been erected at various points in the said Council Area, under instructions from the Water Works Department or with the consent and knowledge of that Department, and the said standposts have not been brought into use during the past eighteen months?

(3) Is the Minister aware that until this moment no water mains have been laid in the said areas for supplying water through the said standposts for the benefits of the residents of the area?

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

Is Government aware that there is grave dissatisfaction over the number of retired Civil Servants who are still employed in the Civil Service?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government seek to have this practice stopped in view of the large number of boys and girls leaving school yearly, highly qualified and capable of filling such posts?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill intituled the Church Village Girls' School Vesting and Disposal Act, 1962, be now read a first time.

Mr. SEALY: I beg to second that.

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

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to withdraw Question No. 85 standing in my name on the Order Paper for today.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have had a word with the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing to whom this Question was directed and I therefore give the hon. member leave to withdraw that question.

There are some questions to which the answers have been laid and I allowed those answers to stand over from the last meeting of this House. One of those questions stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter, who, I observe, is still not in his place; that is Question No. 13. Then there is Question No. 53, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown who, I also observe, is not in his place. However, the hon. member has been granted leave of absence from his duties as a member of this House. Automatically, those answers will stand over until the expiry of the hon. member's leave. Then there is Question No. 70 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James, asked on the 14th August, 1962. I observe that that hon. member is in his place.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY BY OPERATION OF QUARRY

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

1. Is Government aware of the damage which has been done to the houses and furniture of the residents of Hoytes Village, St. James by the operation of the quarry worked by Costain Brothers and Quarry Products?

2. Has any representation been made to Government with regard to compensation for these residents?

3. If the answer to (1) and (2) are in the affirmative, will Government take steps immediately to assist these residents in repairing the damage?

4. If Government has decided to compensate these residents, will Government give this matter priority and grant early relief?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, the Oral Reply to Question No. 70/1962 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James on the 14th August, 1962, is as follows:-

"Twenty-three residents in the vicinity of the Bagatelle Quarry have alleged that their houses and furniture were damaged as a result of the operation of that Quarry.

2. Representations have been made to the Housing Authority by these residents in respect of claims for the alleged damage.

3. The Housing Authority has surveyed the damage and a statement showing the extent of said damage and the esti-

mated cost of the necessary repairs has been submitted to Messrs. Richard Costain (W.I.) Ltd. through the Consulting Engineers for the construction of the Deep Water Harbour.

4. The Government has been informed by the Consulting Engineers that arrangements have been made for a representative of the Contractors' Insurance Brokers to interview the claimants and to settle such claims as are considered to be well founded.

5. Does not arise."

Mr. CARMICHAEL: I thank the Hon. Minister for his reply.

INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS AT GRAVES END BEACH

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Question ready to be dealt with is Question No. 23 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. BOXILL: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will Government make representation to the Bridgetown City Council requesting the said Council to instal street lights along the Government road leading from the Aquatic Club to the Isolation Ward at Gravesend Beach? 3.00 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the question asked by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, the answer is as follows:-

"Yes, the Bridgetown City Council has been asked to give consideration to this matter."

But if Your Honour will permit me, I drew Your Honour's attention to the fact that according to May's Parliamentary Practice a question of this nature should not really be allowed. If I may give you the reference, it is Chapter 16 of the Fifteenth Edition of Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice, and if I may quote from Examples of Inadmissible Questions - "Besides these general rules the following types of questions may be enumerated as being out of order, viz: raising matters under the control of local authorities, that is, provincial police, certain aspects of education, public health and other matters." Therefore, Sir, while as a matter of courtesy I have indicated to the hon. member that the Bridgetown City Council has been asked to look into the matter, strictly speaking a question like this should not, in my respectful submission, be allowed. I realise that through inadvertence a question of this nature may slip the vigilance of the Clerk of the House, but if hon. members themselves would acquaint themselves with the parliamentary practice so eminently set out in Sir Erskine May, I am sure both Your Honour and Ministers will be saved a lot of time and trouble. This matter is being looked into by the Bridgetown City Council, but I hope that this whole area may be the subject of great improvement in the not too distant future.

Mr. SPEAKER: Whilst personally I appreciate the point made and am very cognisant of the reference to which the Hon. and Learned Premier invited my attention, yet I will point out that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas was very shrewd and adroit in the wording of his question, because he merely asked if the Government would make representation. He could not attempt from his seat in this House to seek information from the Bridgetown City Council; he merely asked the Government if they would make representation.

Question No. 52/1962 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 Honourable Minister of Communications, Works, Housing and Tourism.

How many candidates for election to the House of Assembly or Political Parties, if any, chartered buses from the Transport Board during the last General Election Campaign?

2. Are any monies due and owing to the Board by any person or persons who chartered such buses?

3. If so, how much is due and owing by each person or Party?

4. If these amounts have been paid, on what dates were they paid to the Board?

Sir, I am appealing to the Minister to give me his Replies at dictation speed.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I assume at slow dictation speed?

Mr. SMITH: Very slow.

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

"Three candidates chartered buses. No political Parties as such chartered buses.

2. No money is owed to the Board by those persons who chartered buses.

3. Does not arise.

4. The amounts paid to the Board were as follows:- \$60 on 3rd October, 1961; \$185 paid on 16th April, 1962; \$170 paid on 2nd May, 1962."

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister very much for his reply.

Mr. MOTTLEY: As a supplementary, Sir, is the Minister aware that a statement was published showing that a political Party had owed a certain amount of money and that it was subsequently changed?

Mr. SPEAKER: That a statement was published where?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I did not say where.

Mr. SPEAKER: Otherwise how could the Minister be expected to answer?

Mr. MOTTLEY: We are dealing with the Transport Board.

Mr. SPEAKER: It may have been published in the Hong Kong Times or the Falkland News. 3.30 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: For the information of the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown, there was a statement published by the Transport Board in its quarterly accounts showing that there was a political party - the Barbados Labour Party - which owed money to the Transport Board for the charter of a bus.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I thank the hon. member for his answer. I will wait for the hon. member.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member not make a speech, but put it in the form of a supplementary question.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Is it within the knowledge of the Hon. Minister that there was a great differentiation between one party and another for travelling over the same distance? In other words.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister can well understand you.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Do you mean that he has the facts in front of him?

Mr. SPEAKER: If it were not here, the Hon. Minister would point out that it was not here.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I want him to point out who was charged and who was not charged.

Mr. SPEAKER: I believe the answer will be forthcoming.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, for the information of the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown, on the records of the Transport Board, on 29th September, 1961, two buses were chartered by the present Premier of Barbados from the Transport Board to go to Kendal from the Lower Green and return. The fee for that was \$60 and it was paid the next day.

On 2nd September, 1961, Mr. Hutson Williams chartered two buses to Mile and Quarter from the Lower Green and return and the fee of \$20 was charged. (VOICES: Shame! shame!)

On 24th September, 1961, Mr. Hutson Williams chartered a bus to Indian Ground and return. The fee was \$10 (Shame! Shame!)

On 14th October, 1961, Mr. Hutson Williams again chartered a bus to Boscobelle and the fee was \$10. (VOICES: Shame! Shame!)

Mr. Speaker, the present hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown chartered a bus to Welchman Hall and return and the fee charged was \$30. (VOICES: Shame! Shame!)

The hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown on another occasion chartered a bus to St. Simons from the Lower Green and return. The fee charged was \$30.

I see again here the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown, one bus to Ellerton from the Lower Green and return. Fee \$15.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question, will the Hon. Minister state when the various personnel who hired these buses paid for them? I notice the Hon. Premier paid for his the next day. Will the Hon. Minister state the date when the fees for these other buses were paid?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, \$60 was paid on 3rd October, 1961 by the Hon. Premier. The date of the charter was on 2nd October. The sum of \$185 was paid on 16th April, 1962, in respect of a charter of 16th April, 1962 by the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown; \$170 was paid on 2nd May, 1962 by Mr. Hutson Williams.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now after 3.15 p.m. o'clock and automatically Question Time has expired.

RESOLUTION *re* ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL INDUSTRIES LOAN BOARD

Mr. SPEAKER: We now proceed to Private Members' Business. When we last adjourned discussion on Private Members' Business, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was making his concluding remarks in respect of Order No. 1 of Private Member's Business; to resume debate on a Resolution *re* the establishment of a Small Industries Loan Board.

Does the hon. junior member for St. Joseph desire to continue his address?

Mr. SMITH: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let him so do.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion when Private Members' Business time expired, I was replying to the reply given by the Hon. Minister of Trade. I can remember saying that his accusation accusing me for taking

something from his Party's Manifesto and bringing in a Resolution on it word for word as it appeared was a vague excuse.

3.20 p.m.

I am still saying that that is a very vague excuse, because what would one print a book for? What would one buy a book for? I would say that one would buy a book for the purpose of reading it and let others know - those who have not seen the book - what was in it. Before going further, however, I will say that we also heard my colleague, the hon. junior member for St. George, say that what was in their Manifesto was also in our Party's Manifesto and it may be there in a different form. The Hon. Minister mentioned other countries in which a scheme of this sort is already operating and it would make me or any other thinking member believe that the Hon. Minister heard about a scheme of this sort and felt that it would be of some use to Barbados too. I am sure that they got this scheme from somewhere. Suppose I had even copied this proposal from their Manifesto! What did they distribute the Manifesto for? Mr. Speaker, when you first left school you were not one of the best traffic lawyers in Bridgetown; you did not know a thing about it; but you went further afield and you learned the technique - from where? Out of a book. It was somebody else's experience. It is a foolish thing therefore, coming from a member like the hon. senior member for St. Philip - and I very nearly forgot the Hon. Premier - when they said that I have perused their Manifesto and took out the proposals word for word.

That is a waste of time. How did the Hon. Premier become a lawyer? Did he become a lawyer by staying at home and reading banana leaves? He had to go abroad and read books. Who wrote the books? (A MEMBER: The D.L.P.) (Laughter). Well, that is good; the D.L.P. learned to twist from early so that this new dance would not be new to them. We have got to look forward to do things so as to help the people, and the D.L.P. must learn to practise what they preach.

As to the reply which I received from the Hon. Minister, I expected him to read reports from the territories in which this scheme is in operation, to tell us what progress had been made, what had been done and things of that sort; but it does not appear to me that the hon. member has given himself the trouble to get one Report. I have taken the trouble to get a Report because I am interested in the matter; they print these things in their Manifesto and they will be always preaching them if they had not captured the Government; but as most members of a Government do, no sooner than they get in, they forget everything. They do not want the Manifesto any more. From 1956 they were thinking of a Small Industrial Loan Board and up to this present moment they have not brought it forward. Even in the Minister's remarks on the last occasion, he did not tell us if they intend to do anything about it or not. The hon. member has not committed himself, but they have committed themselves in the Manifesto. I am sure that these small business people are looking forward for something to be done about this Board, and in the same way that I am perusing the D.L.P.'s Manifesto, other people are doing it and the day of reckoning will come. That same book will be responsible for the broom to be sweeping in the other direction if they do not try to carry out what is presented in that book. This book I am accused of stealing and reading.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure that nobody has accused anybody else of stealing this book; I am sure that the Hon. Minister would not so infringe the Rules of Parliament.

Mr. SMITH: No, he would never accuse me of that; but one of their pimps, if I may use that expression, told me that I stole the D.L.P. Manifesto and now I am trying to bring forward Resolutions out of it. I understand that copies of this Manifesto were being distributed in bulk. I did not get a copy; I tried to get one since I have been accused of reading this Manifesto and I have managed to get two copies of it. I have seen what they have set out in their Manifesto and every Tuesday I will be bringing forward something out of it. It is my duty, as a representative of the people and as a member of the Opposition, to keep the Government on

their toes, to refresh their memories and to ask them not to forget what they have preached.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to inform the hon. member that last Tuesday the Hon. Leader of the House laid a copy of each of the Manifestoes to which he referred. He handed them to me, one for 1956 and the other for 1961; therefore they are available for perusal by any hon. member.

Mr. SMITH: All right, Sir. We go now to the Board of itself. There is no getting away from the fact that there are people in this country who need help of this sort. The Minister says that the Development Board is there to help both big and small businessmen. I have made investigations and I find that while it is there to help the small and large businessmen, it is of no use to the small businessman. 3.30 p.m.

I was told by one man who made an application for a loan that the officer who is supposed to visit his premises asked whether the land was his, whether the building was his, whether the machinery was his, to which he replied "yes". The officer then told him that he did not want any help from the Development Board, and that he could go to a solicitor and get the money he wanted. Another man wanted \$2,000 and he was told that it would not pay him to borrow \$2,000, because the expenses for drawing up the documents and for paying the solicitor and so on would run into \$600, and that it would cost him \$600 to borrow \$2,000 and the same thing to borrow \$10,000. Well the man did not want \$10,000, and had to go back home. That is where a Board of this sort would help these people, because it is no use asking these small people to take \$20,000 or \$40,000 if they do not want it.

Mr. Speaker, I would not say that the officers of the Development Board do not want to help these small people, but they know that they would stand to lose owing to the expenses of drawing up the papers and documents, because they would have to pay too much for them. Let us get down to the smaller fellow. With a Board of this sort a man would be able to make application for \$2,000 and it would not cost him \$100 to get it. I believe you would be able to amend the Act so that the Development Board would be able to help the small man. If you are going to do that, you should say so, but at the present moment there is no provision for it, and I know that the small people need help. A man informed me only yesterday, I think, that he would be only too glad to raise a chicken farm and keep a few pigs. He has land and a place of his own, but he does not have the money to make the necessary sanitary conveniences to comply with the regulations. If he had the money to get those things, he would be able to keep a farm and be able to maintain his family.

As I said in my opening remarks on this Resolution, Sir, there is such a thing as a push-off, and there is no one in this House who knows the meaning of a push-off as I do, because I had one. I got a push-off and that is why I would like to see my brethren get a push-off in the same direction; but the way I got my push-off, my brother may not be able to get it, because as the old people say, "cat luck is not dog luck." I am going to sit silently and patiently to see how the Government of this country is going to vote on this Resolution, because they have admitted that it is in their Manifesto, and it is only that I turned around a little too quickly that they did not bring it. I do not feel that it should want any piloting by me, and no sooner than I sit down I feel it should go through. But not only that; it should go through and something should be done, because it may pass here today and the next three years it may still be somewhere in a pigeon hole. We want something done immediately. If it is a question of money, the money is there because we were told a few nights ago by the Premier that he only has to send a cable and the money will be here, but he does not want to take the money yet to pay interest until he has everything ready on which to spend it. Surely, Sir, this is a scheme which is ready and it is not money that is holding it up.

I have a Report here, Sir, the Jamaica Gazette, which I am not afraid to lend to the Minister if he wants to peruse

it to see how the Board in Jamaica is comprised, as well as seeing what is being done. If he does not want to send to Jamaica for one, he can have my Gazette and let us start the ball rolling as soon as possible. I will throw out a hint, Sir, because a man was talking to me not long ago, and he told me that I was treading on dangerous grounds with these small loans. I asked him "How?" and he said that you will get people going to borrow money and they are going to do nothing with it. I said that that may be true, but it depends on how the money was being borrowed and how it was being lent. The Minister may not want to hear this from me, but the first thing the Board will have to do as soon as it has been established is to get someone who knows about figures and business to go into the question, and when loans are being made, to teach people how to carry on. It is not to say that they would borrow money and throw it away carelessly, but they might start a business and not know how to run it. A man may borrow the money and run a business on such a small margin and his turnover may be so small that he himself would eat out the business. You will need a man to teach them how to keep their books, which will be there for inspection at any time he goes around, so that he will be able to see when one is making progress. A man may borrow \$200 or \$300 or even \$1,000; but if he does not speed up the business and his overhead expenses may cost him \$10 a week, the turnover and profits may be only \$3 per week; so every week he would be \$7 out. You would therefore need business instructors to go around, and I am sure that if trouble is brewing up they would not be able to see it in the distance and stop it. It is no sense setting up a Board if the Government intends to do something and only lending people money, because it is not everybody who knows business and business does not let everybody do it. 3.40 p.m.

If you are being taught and you have one to tell you that you must buy this and do that, then you would run a business. I heard the Minister laugh and say that business does not let everybody do it. I say that if you know it, you will run it; so you will have to teach these people along these lines. Some of them have the brains. If they do not have the money, they are still no wiser; they better be fools because even a Church must have money to run it. Whatever you go to do, you must have money.

It would be a nice idea to look into these things. Put the right people on this and by all means see that it is run on the right lines. I read out that Jamaica has a Board within a Board. For as much as they have one to loan larger sums, they still have one to lend smaller sums. Why tell the Barbadian that he may run out of credit? Do you mean to say that you cannot lend one up to £100? It is true that you are taking a chance, but the Report I have read out shows that the fund of the Small Loans Board in Jamaica have not collapsed because of that. I repeat, the people have the brains and in some cases it is harder to get a guarantor than to get the money because once before, you could not get a guarantor but you could go to a commercial bank and get a berry. Nowadays, if you do not have a guarantor you cannot get the money, but sometimes the guarantor has to get a guarantor.

I am appealing to the Government to take this matter up. What I am saying is more than serious as far as the small people are concerned. Establish this Board because it will be of great help to a lot of the unemployed. There are some people who went out of this country and worked for some money, and they have come back and brought back a little money; but because they have found nothing to invest it in or because they have not managed to secure enough to make a move with, they had to return to the country whence they came. I am not speaking of people who want to open up a shop. They are other lines of endeavour which can be looked into. I am speaking of people who take up things in a valise, take a bus and go all over the country and sell. I know of one person, when I was doing business in the country, who used to come up there with things in a valise to sell and now he is a merchant doing business in Bridgetown. He told me that he received some help from the people from whom he used to buy the articles. They gave him a start and now he is running his own business in Bridgetown. There are a lot of people in the same street, but they want the necessary help to carry on. I know there are some people

who do business for other people; but how nice would it be when one can do business for himself? I know someone who carries on a little bakery. You can lend him some money to help buy a van. Even the ordinary chauffeur, if he could get a little money, would be able to do something of that sort. There are chauffeurs who do business by driving a van around who would be willing to open up a bakery. It is not going to interfere with the big bakeries at all because they are well established already, and their customers are not going to leave out their big firms; but the small ones can also get business from some people and they would be able to get along in that way.

Sir, I do not think I should say anything more on this matter because the Resolution explains itself. I cannot see where it would meet with any opposition, although it is coming from a member of the Opposition because in the present Government's Manifesto it is there, and it was told to many people at the election time that if they were elected that they are quite willing to establish a Small Loans Board of that sort. To show their willingness and to show that they were not in any way faking and were sincere and it was not promised just to get a vote, they would be able to show it this afternoon when they vote for this Resolution. Without any further ado, Mr. Speaker, I leave this matter entirely to you.

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

RESOLUTION re INCREASED COST TO PEASANTS OF HARVESTING THEIR CROPS

Mr. SPEAKER: We now proceed to Order No. 2 of Private Members' Business: to resume debate on 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.

On a previous occasion, after the Resolution had been moved by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and seconded by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, the Hon. Leader of the House seconded by the Hon. Minister of Social Services moved a motion that further consideration of the resolution be postponed.

The Hon. Leader of the House may be willing to proceed with his address.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Your Honour will recall that I moved the motion for the postponement in consequence of the absence of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture who is now in his place. He can continue debate at this stage. In view that the motion was carried in the affirmative, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to enter debate on the matter at a later stage if I so deem it appropriate.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no doubt that the Hon. Leader of the House will be allowed to speak on the motion because I do not regard what he has just said as his speech.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: This Resolution, Mr. Speaker, has been engaging the attention of this Chamber for quite some time, and although I did not have the good fortune of being present to follow all of the points which the Hon. Leader of the Opposition explained, I think I am quite prepared to give the most pertinent answers to the questions which might have been raised.
3.50 p.m.

This question of the price of peasants' canes is guided by two main factors, and a close examination of all the points show that the low 1962 initial payment was due to a low factory recovery rate. The 1961 weighed average was 8.6 while the weighed average for 1962 was 9.9. The second important factor is the fall in the average world price of free market sugar from \$155.08 per ton in 1961 to \$83 per ton in 1962. The increase in the negotiated price of \$3.18 per ton is too slight to counterbalance the effect of the fall in the world price quoted at about \$32.08 per ton which is \$115.08 minus \$83.00.

The larger the crop, the lower will be the average price. Also the drop in the price of fancy molasses of \$35.13 from \$140.13 to \$105 has adversely affected the position. The price of fancy molasses is determined by the supply and demand position. The Canadian preference, however, ensured that the price is kept above the price of free sugar. Those are the two guiding principles which account for the present price which is paid for peasants' canes. If the hon. member would like to know the method of determining the price per ton of canes paid to the farmer, I shall be quite willing to go through the method, because I think that this is the sort of information which is not easily available to the average member of this Chamber; yet it is a question in which the average member is deeply interested. If the hon. member would bear with me, I will attempt to give him the method of determining the price per ton paid to the farmer. The price is determined by the individual factory on the following basis: from the total gross revenue per ton of sugar is deducted (a) manufacturing expenses, (b) depreciation and (c) profit. Then the balance is divided by the recovery rate and that gives the price per ton of canes to the grower. To this is added the Canadian and United Kingdom preference as well as the amounts due to the cane grower from the Rehabilitation Fund; this gives the final price to the grower. The gross revenue per ton of sugar is based on the average price per ton of sugar and fancy molasses plus the receipts from vacuum pan molasses, which is a by-product of sugar. The average price per ton of sugar is determined by the amount of sugar sold at the negotiated price which this year was £45.15s. 3d. or \$219.66 per ton — and last year it was \$216.48 per ton — plus the amount sold at the free world market price which is a variable factor and which, being lower than the negotiated sugar price, reduces the average price. The price paid to the Barbadian farmer is the highest in all the West Indian territories. That is a fact which has been established by information received from the territories concerned; but the recovery rate of sugar from canes, that is, the number of tons of canes which it takes to produce a ton of sugar, is among the best in the West Indies, being equalled only by St. Kitts. The special preference given by the United Kingdom to Barbados is between one half million dollars and three quarter million dollars a year and it is distributed in full to the cane growers who also receive the benefit of a preference from sales of sugar to Canada.

The Rehabilitation Regulations were amended in recent years so as to allow amounts accruing to the Rehabilitation Fund and to the cane growers to be distributed back to them and this amount last year worked out at \$7.73 per ton. The amount for this year has not yet been arrived at; this is awaiting the sugar preference and the various levies, the Resolution for which is to be dealt with at today's meeting with Your Honour's permission.

What I have said gives an idea of this question. At present the cane grower is receiving \$14.00 on account; in other words, \$14.00 per ton of canes on account as his initial payment. In some cases, the initial payment has been one dollar per ton more paid by certain factories, but the final payment is based on the sugar levies to be agreed to by a Resolution which will be dealt with, and also the sugar preference which will be controlled by the Board which deals with this matter. All of this will be worked out within a fortnight or earlier than that.

At this stage, it may be a good thing to give the hon. member the average price of canes from 1955 until 1961. In 1955, the shareholders received \$15.32; other estates, \$15.38; small holders, \$15.17. In 1956, shareholders received \$15.06; other estates, \$14.90; small holders, \$14.68. In 1957, the shareholders received \$17.65; other estates, \$17.73; small holders, \$17.55. In 1958, the shareholders received \$15.07; other estates, \$14.97; small holders, \$14.87. In 1959, the shareholders received \$16.10; other estates, \$16.09 and small holders \$15.80 per ton.
4.00 p.m.

In 1960 the shareholders received \$16.02, other estates \$16.20 and small holders \$15.99. In 1961, that is the last year, shareholders received \$17.72 per ton, other estates \$17.74 per ton and small holders \$17.66 per ton. The final

figures for this year, as I have already said, are not yet out, but will probably be in another two weeks after the Sugar Preferences Committee has sat, and after this Resolution dealing with special levies should have been dealt with by both Houses of the Legislature.

The hon. member, I think, did include the question of whether the Stabilization Fund should be tapped in order to assist the peasants in the high cost of labour and so on. While sympathising with certain remarks of the hon. member in that I myself have often in this Chamber attempted utilising some sort of assistance from the Stabilization Fund, yet I will explain further here or attempt to say that the purpose of the Price Stabilization Reserve Fund is to provide a reserve which can be utilised, if necessary, to mitigate the adverse effect of reduction in the price of sugar. The balance standing to the Fund at 31st July this year was \$7,121,038. The price of labour has been subject to upward revision; that has affected both plantations and smallholders alike. Subsidisation of smallholders due to increased labour costs will therefore have to be considered along with other sectors of the sugar industry.

The hon. member is aware, Sir, that referring back to the D.L.P. Manifesto of which he made capital mention a few minutes ago, it deals under the Head of Agriculture mainly with the setting up of a Commission of Enquiry into the economic and financial aspects of the sugar industry. The Commission is at present sitting; and if the hon. member would refer to the Manifesto, he will probably see that in it the price of peasants' canes is one of the main objects of this enquiry, and the object of the entire Enquiry is to provide Government with all the information concerning the economics of the industry to see whether it is possible to provide a guaranteed minimum wage for agricultural workers, and to see that the peasants receive the best price that they can possibly receive for their canes. The hon. member's Resolution is being debated at a time when the very same question is being dealt with by experts who have been requested to conduct this Enquiry on behalf of the Government of Barbados, and in keeping with one of its Manifesto promises of 1961. If the hon. member wants to hear what prices are paid in the neighbouring colonies of St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad, Jamaica and the other territories, I have them all here, but I can assure him that the price paid for peasants' canes in Barbados is higher than in any of the other islands.

Now I think I have more or less in a very short manner covered the points raised by the hon. member. Of course I was not here on the last occasion when he might have spoken at length, but at least he has the assurance that at the very moment an Enquiry investigating the points he raised is being conducted, an Enquiry which the former Government resisted last year and which goes to the root of the whole question, and what price can be paid or what is the most profitable price which can be paid to peasants for their canes. That Commission is no longer being resisted; it is actually sitting. The hon. member has asked a very pertinent question which is one of the subject matters which is being dealt with at present, and he can rest assured that this Government will see that peasants are protected and the best possible price is paid for peasants' canes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member who would like to contribute to this debate before the hon. Mover of the Resolution exercises, if he sees fit, his right of final reply? If no other hon. member desires to contribute to this debate, I will advise the Hon. Mover that the moment is opportune to exercise his right of final reply.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has put the case for the Government in a nutshell when he said that at the moment there is an Enquiry being conducted into all aspects of the sugar industry, and naturally, Sir, among the things to be investigated and reported on would be the question of the price to be paid for peasants' canes. To begin with, Sir, as the Minister recalled, the Government Party last year to which the hon. junior member for St. Joseph so proudly belongs not only resisted, but absolutely refused to support a motion tabled by us then in the Opposition requesting a comprehensive enquiry into all aspects of the sugar industry. 4.10 p.m.

Had the Government accepted our request in this respect, it is highly possible that the attempt by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph to negotiate and discuss this question today would not be necessary because by now we would have had before us a complete picture of the industry with detailed reference, no doubt, to the financial stability of the industry to pay salaries at specified levels, and other important questions such as the price to be paid for farmers' canes.

I am sure the hon. junior member for St. Joseph will recall that it was pointed out on the floor of the House time and time again that the fact that small farmers actually got less for their canes than the plantation owners which has been supported by the figures read by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is due mainly to the Agreement concluded in 1956 between the then Government of Barbados and the Sugar Producers Federation under the terms of which peasants and small farmers were only entitled to the same price for canes as plantation owners provided the plantation owner did not have any share in the factory; and invariably the plantations adjacent to the factory always have shares in the factory, and the factory guarantees this because the factory wants canes for processing. It naturally follows that every plantation owner would get a better price than the small farmers.

On both occasions when this Resolution came up for ratification, I pointed out that there was no justification for any differential in the price between plantation owners and small cane farmers for producing canes. In one case they should be paying small farmers more because since they had no shares in the factory the small farmers could get no dividends and therefore, they should get more than the plantation owner who had shares in the factory.

I have no doubt that the distress under which small farmers labour, as outlined by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph in his address, would almost have disappeared if the price paid to the small farmers for their canes was the price paid for plantation canes. Furthermore, although it has been argued that the price paid for small farmers' canes in Barbados appears by dimensions to be somewhat higher than the price paid for similar canes in other parts of the West Indies, in actual fact it is not really so because the cost which small farmers here have to undergo, the other people do not have to pay. The small farmer in Barbados has to pay for freighting while in St. Kitts there is a light railway line running through the land from which the factory buys canes and the small farmer is not debted with the cost of this transport. These things must be taken into account when fixing the price for farmers' canes. It requires careful examination in fixing the actual price for canes, and a number of things are taken into account from the factory's point of view which in my humble submission are things which I feel ought not to be included before the price is fixed.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to draw to Your Honour's attention — I do not know how Your Honour regards this — but it seems to me passing strange that this House has agreed to the setting up of a Commission of Enquiry with specified terms of reference to enquire into all aspects of the Sugar Industry in Barbados with special reference to its finances and general economics including the arrangements for marketing of canes and of sugar and molasses and the provision of a guaranteed minimum weekly wage for all agricultural workers in the Sugar Industry, and when the Commission of Enquiry is at present meeting in this building dealing with this specific thing, there is debate in this Honourable House on it. It is either a waste of public money or that we agree that persons who want to give evidence should go to the Commission and give evidence.

The House agreed to the setting up of this Commission of Enquiry and voted money for it. I say that if the House has done that, the House has already agreed that what should be debated on it should be the subject of the Commission of Enquiry. I hope that now Your Honour's attention is drawn to the matter, Your Honour will see that this debate in here actually clashes with the sitting of the Commission of Enquiry, and I think as a matter of courtesy and pro-

priety what we should do is to postpone the matter. I will ask hon. members that they agree that this matter be postponed.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, when I rose, I pointed out that the Commission of Enquiry is currently sitting, and when we asked for this Commission since last year it was opposed and refused by the Government Party of which the hon. member is a member and I intended in a moment to suggest purely on the grounds of propriety to the hon. member that he withdraw the Resolution until such time as the Commission reported its findings.

I agree with the hon. senior member for St. Peter that it does appear improper and irresponsible for Parliament to engage itself with a matter which is engaging the attention of a Commission of Enquiry set up for the purpose. I do not know if the hon. junior member for St. Joseph would get up and ask leave to withdraw the motion; otherwise we would be forced to make a motion for the postponement so that the debate would not drag on. I do not know if the hon. junior member for St. Joseph would support our views, but if he does not propose to give any intimation at this stage, I shall be forced to make a motion that further consideration of the matter be postponed.

4.20 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, am I in order to speak now?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House has moved that further consideration of this matter be postponed.

Mr. TUDOR: I beg to second that motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. I will just say this; this is not a matter which is pending judicial decisions; it is not a matter under adjudication by a Court of Law and it is therefore in order for us, in so far as our Standing Orders are concerned, to discuss it. However, the Hon. Leader of the House has pointed out that it is a question of taste and appropriateness at this particular time. The least said about it is, however, the better as the motion that further consideration of the matter be postponed has been carried.

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The next 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 St. George's Rectory, St. George I am advised that the Select Committee, which has been appointed to consider and report on this Bill, has not yet completed its labours. Consequently, that Order cannot be proceeded with at this stage.

RESOLUTION *re* REPORT OF FARM LABOUR PROGRAMME IN U.S.A.

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 of America. When this matter was last being discussed, the hon. senior member for St. Andrew was addressing the House. Does the hon. member propose to continue his address now?

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I am not continuing with this debate today.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a matter of whether the hon. member has concluded his address or whether he proposes to continue to address the House.

Mr. CORBIN: I had concluded my address.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does any other hon. member intend to speak on this Resolution?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I should like to begin my remarks by saying that no matter could be of more topical interest than this at this particular moment. The hon. senior member for St. Peter, who is the mover of this motion, was himself one of the two members of the Committee which was appointed early this year to go to the United States of America in order to investigate the terms and conditions of work affecting the contract workers from Barbados in the United States of America. Both the hon. member and the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Trade and Labour, who was the other member of the Commission — both of them are the only signatories to the Report. The decision to send a Commission of this sort to the United States of America arose out of the complaints made by returning workers to Barbados, in which complaints and general dissatisfaction was expressed over wages and other conditions of work and the terms of employment; and the establishment of the Commission was done by the Government with the desire to discover whether these complaints were justified or not; and if they were justified, to suggest what remedies should be made for their improvement. At that time, Sir, a number of workers returned to Barbados before their contracts had been fulfilled and that was a matter for considerable concern.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 4.30 p.m. of the clock and I am afraid that the time for the completion of Private Members' Business at today's sitting has now expired. The House will therefore automatically turn to the consideration of Government Business.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of Day under Government Business stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House:— To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grants of sums of money for the service of the island.

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, and that it be an instruction to the Committee, when the House is in Committee, to deal with the Resolution for \$1,378 of which notice was given earlier today by the hon. junior member for St. Andrew. That Resolution reads as follows:—

RESOLVED that the sum of one thousand three hundred and seventy eight dollars be granted from the Public Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1962-63, Part I — Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates, 1962-63 No. 28 which forms the Schedule to this Resolution.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. BATSON in the Chair, 4.30 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1962-63 No. 26

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, in the Development Programme a total of \$725,000 was provided for Government offices. This Resolution is for the sum of \$50,000 for preliminary work and site preparation for the construction of new office accommodation on the site known as the Central Foundry site. This will involve the complete demolition of the offices now occupied by the Commissioner of Island Revenue. The estimated cost of the new building will be somewhere in the vicinity of \$300,000, but we do have an amount set aside in the Development Programme of \$725,000 as I mentioned earlier. The only other problem which hon. members will be confronted with is the suitability of the site for the purpose of building.

As far as I can remember, during my entire period as a representative in this Chamber, that is for the past eleven

years, — I can almost say from man to boy in the reverse order, of course — the question of the suitability of the Central Foundry site has been a very vexed one. I am given to understand that some engineering pundits advised the last Government that this site was unsuitable. This is something which I have heard the former Leader of the House postulate himself, and I do remember visiting the site myself one Sunday morning when the Gulf Oil Company was carrying out exploratory work in Barbados. We borrowed a rig from the Gulf Oil and certain test bores were made. I have never seen any report from any engineers as to the suitability of this site, but we were often dissuaded from pursuing the possibility of using this very expensive land because of the alleged unsuitability from the structural and engineering point of view.

The more sensible people in Barbados are of the opinion, engineering considerations apart and distinct, that a country like this cannot afford to spend a large sum of money to acquire a site purely for a car park; therefore the only restriction against the construction of office accommodation for the Government of this Island and the Public Service would be the question of the suitability of it from the engineering point of view. Now there are people in this country who have lived in British Guiana; there are people who have travelled abroad to places like Japan and Hong Kong, and there are actually Barbadians alive who have recollections of very large buildings being constructed on the waterfront in Barbados not very long ago, certainly within the last five or six years; and it was because we used our eyes and looked around us that the Government came to the conclusion that a completely unbiased and new investigation be made of the site in question, that is, the Central Foundry site. While this was going on, Government tried to negotiate for an open space just across the waterfront — the inner basin of the Careenage — and Government is currently negotiating for another site not very far from this building in which I am now speaking — I would say certainly within shouting distance if I raised my voice. We are currently negotiating for an area which we hope to acquire at not too great a cost to the Treasury of the Island, but we feel we should use what we already have first. We are carrying out in the Central Planning Committee a thorough survey of all public property in the Island of Barbados from the point of view of trying to ascertain whether the best possible use is being made of all the land in Barbados which the Government owns, whether it be agriculturally or from a business point of view — and I will drop another hint here today that not very far from Bridgetown Government is going to completely replan an area which will be in the location of substantial development running into millions of dollars within a mile from the Public Buildings, and work on that will be starting, we hope, certainly within the next three months, and this area has been left unaccounted for for a long time. There are a lot of Government buildings and there are a lot of sites which the Government actually owns which are not being put to economic use at the present moment, and we are conducting a land survey of the whole Island of Barbados both from the Government sector and from the private sector point of view.

Mr. Chairman, there is nothing much we can do about the private sector except to introduce legislation. Again I will drop another hint which will act as an incentive to people to make the best possible use of the land which they occupy. Since this Government has assumed office, the present need for the erection of a building in a central site in Bridgetown to project a corporate image of the Island of Barbados to anyone coming into the metropolis, as it were, has become very evident day by day; but other forces have been acting upon us, forces over which in some instances we have had very little control, and others which we are trying to control, and if I may mention a few of these forces, Sir, there is the necessity for providing office accommodation for the East Caribbean Currency Board. The Government of British Guiana has indicated — and I will say that we are very glad to see them go because they are confusing the whole currency issue in the Caribbean — that they intend by unilateral legislative action restricting the right of people to convert currency and that kind of thing. We are very glad to see them go. They were never part of the

Federation, and if they are going to spoil the credit of the Eastern Caribbean Area, we prefer not to have them acting unilaterally and so presenting a very unfavourable image to the rest of the business world in dealing with our currency.

The Government of the independent state of Trinidad and Tobago has also indicated to the Eastern Caribbean Currency Board that they are going to issue their own notes. I do not think that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago could be serious at all when they suggested that the other islands in the Eastern Caribbean should adopt their currency and put our Currency Board into liquidation. The difficulty about such an exercise is that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago indirectly made it clear that acceptance of Trinidad currency would also be an acceptance of the fiscal and economic policies of the Trinidad Government.

4.40 p.m.

Well, the Government of Barbados wants to have no part in any exercise of that nature, and this viewpoint is shared by the Chief Ministers of the other Windward and Leeward Islands, with the possible exception of the neighbouring territory of Grenada and Carriacou. We have made the decision to set up an Eastern Caribbean Currency Board with its headquarters in Barbados and signified our intention to do so to the British Treasury and the Commonwealth Relations Office. We have the advice of a gentleman for whom I have a great deal of respect, Mr. Bennet, of the Bank of England, who is coming down here to advise the Eastern Currency Board. The centre of banking in the Eastern Caribbean will be here right in Trafalgar Square. The Government of Barbados is trying to co-ordinate the work of the financial institutions in this Island which at the present moment is somewhat unco-ordinated. In view of the fact that there is one Minister of Finance, I personally feel that all business dealing with the finances of the country should be under one roof. We have the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank, we also have the Peasants Loan Organisation and we have the Government Savings Bank and we also intend to set up an institution in our midst, namely a Finance Corporation. All these are banking institutions.

I personally look forward to the day when the economic viability of the community would not depend on the whims and fancies of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom, so that when the bank rate is brought down we do not get the equivalent fluctuations in the Eastern Caribbean areas. To avert that, it would necessitate having our own central bank which you will remember figures prominently in the Manifesto of the Party to which I have the honour to belong. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph has not doubt followed all injunctions of the writer of the Psalms by refraining from tabling a Resolution of a Central Bank which has been proposed in our manifesto, perhaps because he has decided that he does not exercise himself in great matters which are too high for him. It is the only question in our Manifesto that he has not brought in a Resolution about, and before he does so, I am saving him the trouble this time by telling him that we are taking steps towards the establishment of a central building for banking which we hope will smooth the way of the Central Bank of the Eastern Caribbean Federation. Therefore, the institutions which we want to have housed in this building are, if I may itemise them, the Eastern Caribbean Currency Board which would have two departments as they are in the Bank of England — the Issue Department and the Banking Department; the Department of Inland Revenue; the Government Savings Bank; the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank; the Fisheries Department; the Peasants' Loan Bank and the Finance Corporation. All of those organisations will be housed in that building which we hope to construct. We will be carrying out those services on that site and we hope this new institution, which will be at least five stories, would be a credit to Barbados.

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

Mr. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. GODDARD: Sir, I remember when the last Government bought this site and I think it worked out at about \$27

per square foot. The last Government paid that price and they said that the foundations which the Central Foundry had erected were of such a nature that that in itself was worth the money. I do not know what type of foundations are there, and if those foundations which have been put down by Central Foundry, Limited would be able to stand a building of five stories.

I only say that because some of the members in here — they are very few who were in here at that time — may not know, but that was one of the arguments. Whatever building you put there, I do hope that Government would see to it that now you have a Town and Country Planning Officer, ample provision would be made for widening that street. It says here in the Addendum that the present building will be knocked down and a new building put up. I know that Bridge Street is one of the most dangerous streets in Bridgetown. This is a very busy street and it has no sidewalk.

When the Hon. Premier said that they are now negotiating with some party to secure premises within the area, I can only think of some party across the street and that building which I am thinking of should be easily acquired. As a matter of fact, it is not a building, it is a warehouse.

What I would also like to mention — and this is a little beyond the building — I see the necessity of greater office accommodation for Government, and you do not want to move it out of Bridgetown; and the mere fact that you are establishing offices around here, it is no use going further.

Whenever any expansion comes, all things come to the Harbour. I do not know that in the Development Plan which Government has envisaged there is the idea of filling in part of the Careenage. I was not in here when that was first mentioned, but I do not agree to it at all and I do hope that the Government in their wisdom would think again on that matter and come up with another thought. After all, we are not short of things that we cannot find car parks in areas suitable for the business of Bridgetown. If you take Roebuck Street and Baxters Road, a great slum clearance can be developed by pushing down some of those houses around there; therefore, you should make a study of where car parks should be in relation to the business. I do hope that Government will think again before they attempt to fill in part of the Careenage for a car park, because in Barbados there are so few harbours that can really be called harbours if we have bad weather and our fishing boats have to run from it. They can only run to the Careenage. The Careenage is just an ample harbour for that.

4.50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I only throw that out because I do know that it is causing some concern in other quarters. I want to say that to the Government again before they embark on this venture. To leave that expensive land open there is not good business, but when you are putting up something which is in the centre of Bridgetown where all the activities take place, you should put up something which will enhance the beauty of Bridgetown.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I believe I was the foremost opponent to this valuable bit of land lying waste for over twelve years. I was a member of the Executive Committee when that land was bought for something like £27,000. It was madness to have allowed that land to remain there without development, but that is the price we paid for democracy. The Government was elected by the people, and the Government undertook to do as it pleased in so far as that development is concerned. Nothing took place; but now today we are landed with the situation where we are asked to vote nearly twice the amount of money for erecting a building. Mr. Anthony Lewis designed the building to erect the Post Office there and the figure was not anything like this, but we can quite understand that because that time was about twelve years ago. I am very glad today to think that it has taken other reasons to make this Government utilise that portion of land. I will say that I agree with the Premier; I do not agree that we in Barbados can afford to have valuable land anywhere lying waste. In the first place, you must make the greatest utilisation of land on the basis of employment and a greater circulation of money and, in the second

place, your offices should be properly housed in order that you can get the maximum efficiency in Government business.

Mr. Chairman, I am very glad that the Government has now decided to erect a building on this spot. Barbados is 21 x 14 miles and do not let anybody believe that Barbados can be a place like London or New York. Bridgetown is to be a crowded city like all the crowded cities in the world. You cannot push down all the old buildings which have been erected; that corner at Bridge Street is not more busy than the corner at Broad Street coming from Milk Market and turning left, and I see that repairs have gone on there. In my opinion they should not have gone on because there should have been a blind corner there. However, storeys have gone higher at the corner of Broad Street. Do not let us say that we should improve that corner where the congestion is greater than at Broad Street. I do not like the idea that you buy somebody's old building and say that you want to improve the corner; you should make people understand that we are living in such a community where we will have these corners for sometime. I want to say that the easier you make it for drivers of motor vehicles, the more people they kill. Do you want a more glaring example than the Deep Water Harbour access road? Everybody goes down that road at anything like 50 or 60 miles an hour; and as to the Churchill-Roosevelt Road in Trinidad, more people have died on that road than on any other road. You have traffic problems all over the world today. They started to build elevators in London so as to get to the Airport. If you are going to erect a building in the heart of the City, by all means you should design it so as to enhance the beauty of City. You want to erect a beautiful building and make the Fountain Gardens come back to life. Let something be done about the Fountain Gardens that there is something to beautify the country — something to give the City the appearance which the City should have.

Mr. Chairman, what we do not want to see is that when you begin to run the Government you give the impression that you are able to accept any kind of old standard for yourselves which would not beautify the country. I would like to see the Fountain Gardens put in a proper condition; I would like to see that trees are planted there so as to have that peace and quiet within the City which you should have. I am in complete agreement with the idea that you should have a building such as it is proposed to have here. I am not only in agreement that you should erect the building, but I would like to see it go up as high as it can possibly go with enough car parks. The building laws in Barbados should be such today as to make people when they are erecting new buildings, make provision for car parks just as you make provision for parking some of the cars belonging to your own people. You should make them make provision for a little garage where people can park their cars. If some of the business houses had been erected in that way we would not have so much traffic congestion. We, of the Barbados Workers' Union, did that when we erected our building. I do not see why people with plenty of money, people who are renovating their places should not be doing that. The service which people have to get underneath this House of Assembly building in the Post Office is out-moded and out of date. You have the old Post Office system there, a system which belongs to the last century. I think that the time has come when Barbados is entitled to a better building for the Post Office, which is a revenue-bearing Department, than the building which we have there for carrying on this work. I understand you had the erroneous situation whereby you have to get something in one part of the building and you cannot get what you want in the same building. Where, Mr. Chairman, in any part of the world would you find that you cannot get stamps in the same building? We feel that the situation is very ludicrous where in the main Post Office you go to buy stamps and you have to make a big pilgrimage down to the wharf.

5.00 p.m.

Now the time has come for the re-designing of these things. I am sorry to see that that building cannot house new post office quarters also. I think that the builders and designers in Barbados should go outside — many of them have gone outside — and see when it comes to designing

buildings that you get a floor which can hold one office, another floor holding another office, and maybe if you go four stories up, you can use an elevator. I can see your having in that building the Income Tax Department and the Currency Department, but I make a plea today that the time has come when the Government should get on with its building programme and give us a decent Post Office. It is a pity that the building on the wharf was bought, as it took a lot of re-decoration and re-organisation and re-facing to bring it up to scratch and to what we require today. I make a very special plea that we should have a decent General Post Office, because it brings in money, and the public deserves better facilities than they are getting from a revenue-bearing Department.

Mr. Chairman, our whole Government Offices need a complete refurbishing, and I am glad that Government has decided to use that place. It was a positive decision to pay that money for it and allow it to be used as a car park. I would like to point out that even where this building is concerned, though we cherish this old building, I hope the Minister of Communications and Works in his building programme will make it even a little more comfortable than what it is. Now that the dining facilities or eating facilities have gratuitously been withdrawn over which I make no protest, I want to say quite positively that I object to being a member of an institution in which I cannot have appropriate human facilities such as food to purchase when I want to purchase it, and I think the time has come when this building should be re-designed so that a contract for a caterer can be given out, so that when members have their friends in these places they can go to the bar and have some light snacks. I should like to see a complete re-organisation in our Parliamentary buildings. When our constituents come to us, we find it extremely difficult to carry on a private conversation in Parliament, because we have to be in offices which other people use, and I think the time has come when members of the House should be accorded some of the facilities that the office they hold demands and deserves. I think the time has come when we should see a decent members' lounge in which we will be able to meet some of our constituents or talk business with people in some private manner at least, because it is not every matter you want to discuss with people while others are around. Many people come here to the House to discuss private affairs and we do not like the arrangements. The arrangements here are badly designed, because every time anyone wants to go to the latrine, he must make a pilgrimage through somebody's office. I think that designers should have more of the modern trends in their minds. I am suggesting that we need decent Post Offices which are revenue-bearing Departments, because a waste of human energy begins to make people waste time and you get low productivity.

Mr. Chairman, if you had to send someone from your office to the Parcel Post and to the Post Office, he would have to make two visits; he would have to purchase stamps at the Post Office and then go to the Parcel Post to collect a package. I do think that the Premier should see in this age that co-ordination is the essence of Government efficiency, and that the City is small, and that having offices like the Post Office and Financial Departments under one roof is sensible, so that when a person is dealing with financial matters, he does not have to walk all over the City. Similarly in dealing with postal matters he would not have to walk all around the City.

I agree with the Premier that every bit of land, wherever it is, should be utilised to the maximum. Barbados cannot afford to have waste land in the City. I do not know about the Careenage because I am not an expert on these things. I think the Careenage in itself is very picturesque, and I do not think that some of the natural beauties with which nature has endowed us should be disbanded willy-nilly, but we should preserve as many as we possibly can as long as they are not nuisances. For that reason I believe that Bridgetown can do with a good Government Office, and I would like to see a nice building erected there, even holding more offices than what have been stated here. I am of the opinion that buildings in Barbados are too small and that the trouble is with the foundations. Barclays Bank is a build-

ing right there in the sea for practical purposes, and it is a bigger building than what was proposed for the Government to put on the Central Foundry site. If Barclays Bank can put a building there, though it is true it has cost something in the vicinity of \$2 million or \$3 million, and the Government does propose to spend money in erecting a building, yet if it invests \$2 million or \$3 million to erect that building, it will outlive all of us in this Assembly.

I would like to see Government make a start in the right direction, and the earlier you erect this building, the cheaper it would be for you from a capital point of view, and the more stimulation you would give to employment opportunities and the flow of money for the benefit of the community. Now that the Premier has come back, I will say to him that it is a disgrace for these premises to remain as they are. When people like ourselves are in office and in power, we should not allow ourselves to be like a man who is going to walk up and down and does not worry about bathing his face because he has money in his pocket. I feel that these premises could be beautified, because I remember as a boy that this institution used to give me a feeling of pride. When we see flowers growing, maybe we are not interested in these things, but we should make our country look beautiful, and in another Resolution we are going to deal with a Christmas tree. So far as I am concerned, I would not like people to get into the habit that it is the tree that matters. These are characteristics which we can build up by transmitting them to our young people and children so that they have a sense of beauty and pride in their own country, and a country cannot progress unless the people who live in it have a sense of pride in their own country and feel they have a stake in it. I am very pleased about this Resolution; it is fourteen years too late.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am not opposing this Resolution in any way, but I would like to find out from the Minister in charge whether this site was ever turned down by the Town and Country Planning Officer, and if so, what were the reasons given.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I must say that I count it a pleasure this afternoon to support a Resolution of this nature.
5.10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I think the first thing which the Hon. Premier or the Government should do before they start to erect a building on the particular site where the Central Foundry once carried on business and which was purchased by the Barbados Labour Party is to make a search. I understand that it was bought at \$27 a square foot; so I think they must have purchased it with the understanding that gold was under it. I think the Premier should send out for a geologist to find out if gold is under it. I do not think any man in Barbados with proper understanding could buy that site for the money which the Barbados Labour Party Government paid for it.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I spoke from memory. I recall that the price was in that vicinity.

Mr. CORBIN: Let us deal with this spot of land. It costs £27,000 which in rough calculation would be \$129,600 and I say that money has been spent badly. If that money was placed in a bank at the rate of 6% I am sure that for 12 years the interest would come to \$93,312. That £27,000 has been lying down there for the longest time and only hovering a few cars just to park on. You look at me as the least among the Apostles, but I say that anytime you take a man and put him in power and he understandeth not, he is like unto the beast that perisheth. There is no human being who has any wisdom who would pay £27,000 for a small piece of land like that. I never heard of land so dear any part of the world. For twelve years it has rested. No estate owner in Barbados would be able to save \$93,312 on his land. I am sure if this money was put in the Bank, you would have had that amount of interest on it.

It has come now that this Government — the Democratic Labour Party's Government — has deemed it possible

to take that costly land and erect a structure to house all the small banks here in one building, and I hope it would be a benefit to the people of Barbados because when people come to Bridgetown now, they have to run from one bank to another; and I am sure that to erect in the centre of Bridgetown a bank of such a kind would be of help to the community.

I believe that a site not inside the area of Bridgetown but outside of it can be found to house motor cars, and it would very much ease the congestion in the City if we house them outside. I hope the time will come when it would be possible that all the cars which are now being parked around the City will be parked outside so that we would have a little more room.

I did not believe that this little spot of land - it is not an acre - would cost so much. I never thought that men whom the people put in power would spend that kind of money to lay down there for twelve years just to house a few cars. Could not that money be spent to build houses and tenantry roads or instal a water system throughout the Island of Barbados? It was lying down there for twelve years. By whom was it bought with no idea whatever to do with it? It was bought by Ministers of the Barbados Labour Party's Government whom the people had put in power.

I am pleased with this Resolution because it has given me an indication now that the land would be used for a better purpose than a car park; so I deem it a pleasure to support this Resolution for this amount of money.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Chairman, I wish to add my voice to those of hon. members who have spoken in support of this Resolution and, at the same time, I would like to compliment the Government on their decision in trying to use that land in a good direction. It will be remembered, Mr. Chairman, that that land was purchased some years ago for a very large sum of money, and I am happy to see that the Government has seen fit to make full use of that land which is lying there only for use as a car park.

Anyone who goes into the Government Savings Bank from time to time sees the need for an expansion. Past governments never saw the necessity for making some improvements for the ever increasing population.

I regret however that at this stage we would be spending money on a suggestion of the Council of Chief Ministers. The political situation in this area is very uncertain.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. Where has the hon. member got the impression that the money is being spent on the suggestion of the Regional Council of Chief Ministers? Nobody said that in here today, neither is it in the Addendum to the Resolution.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Chairman, I would go on a little further. I certainly welcome the co-ordination and consulting matters as referred to in the Addendum. I think it would be helpful when you can get all possible information in one building.

I will appeal to the Hon. Minister of Communications Works and Housing to look into the matter of the Customs Department. At times people go there to have an invoice fixed and to receive a little opinion and after that, they are told to go and get stamps. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to do something in this direction to ease the situation.

Mr. GODDARD: I would like to make an important correction. I have seen the debate on the purchase of that site and it shows that it was bought for £27,200. That works out at \$18 a square foot. I said \$27.
5.20 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, very briefly to reply to some of the questions raised by hon. members, I should just like to set the mind of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph at rest. We are not erecting this building because the Regional Council of Ministers has asked us to build it. The Regional Council of Ministers has decided

that the headquarters of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Board which will be the nucleus of the new Central Bank of the West Indies, should be located in Barbados. We have a Currency Board right now occupying premises which are hopelessly inadequate; but to issue currency notes and look into the affairs of the Currency Board means that we have to order one or two vault doors very soon. If the Board does not rent the building we will still order those doors because we want to have our own Bank. That is only one of the institutions which will be housed in this building.

I mentioned before that the Inland Revenue Department, the Government Savings Bank, the Agricultural Credit Bank and the Fishery Loans Organisation and the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank will be there; the Development Board, the Development Finance Corporation and the Small Business Loans Board will also be there. I am sure that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph will be glad to hear that; the hon. member will not have to travel too far from Self Help to get to Fix-it-Right. *(Laughter)* I hope that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph does not misunderstand what I am saying. We are not erecting this building for the Currency Board; we are erecting it for Barbados. Since we are going to have a Central Bank, we are not opposed to the idea of renting premises to the Currency Board, thereby releasing office accommodation on the Northern wing of the Public Buildings; releasing also office accommodation downstairs, which accommodation is now occupied by the Government Savings Bank; releasing us from paying rent for the Agricultural Office; releasing the building in Country Road, releasing the rent which we now pay to the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Company for the building used as the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank and also releasing a room in Queen's Park used by the Fisheries Organization. These people will not only be using new institutions, but it will be a question of re-housing some old institutions and also relieving a tremendous amount of office space in other parts of the City.

The hon. junior member for Christ Church was not here at the time of the introduction of the Development Plan, because we said that an essential part of the Development Plan was the matter of driving piles in a certain section of the inner basin of the Careenage. We are not blocking the Careenage in any way. The river, if river it can be called, which now goes down Constitution from the sea - as to that river you can see the progress which is being made right now. I invite hon. members to go to the Constitution River and see the colour of the water already since we started canalizing the River. You cannot smell those noxious vapours which used to emanate from that tributary of the Constitution River, if it was ever a River. The sea wall was packing up at high tide; that sea water was stagnating. We are now raising the bed of the Constitution River which will become a dry river except in flood. The Geologist from the United Nations, Dr. Tullstrom, has selected the dams which will be English dams; they will start to work on that phase from next week in order to provide a little more work for people in the Development Plan. We will be going to the constituency which you represent, Mr. Chairman, with dams which will be going into the sides of the gullies, with gabions placed at suitable points. We will build the dams underground so that the water will fall into the traps and so be forced underground. The volume of water which used to come down to Delamere Land and Hall's Road will not be coming down there at all because the water will be trapped almost at the source. You will have some dams built up all the time. The result of that is that there will not be the obnoxious aspects which the Constitution Swamp used to present. There is already built up on the North Eastern side of the Constitution Swamp a considerable area for the parking of motor cars which area will be entered from Constitution Road. If you were to look across the river, you will see that a considerable parking area is being built up all the time. The engineers will drive piles for about two fifths of the inner basin and we will back fill behind the piles and have parking accommodation for about one thousand motor cars and we are taking the facilities which are available at the Central Foundry site.

I am afraid that I cannot agree with the hon. senior member for St. Andrew when he suggests that people should

leave their cars outside of Bridgetown and walk into Bridgetown. I know for myself that people like to be able to park their vehicles close to the place where they are going to do business. If you were to stop people from coming into Bridgetown to park their cars, then business centres will be built up outside of Bridgetown. The question is where Bridgetown begins and where it ends. If you come from Waterford, the hon. member will only have to park two miles outside of Bridgetown because Bridgetown does not present a regular geometric pattern at all.

5.30 p.m.

We would like to make it easy for people to get in and out of the centre of Bridgetown, and that is why we are taking in part of the Careenage. The hon. junior member for Christ Church said that the Careenage provides a haven for fishing boats in times of rough weather. According to him, the logical purpose for which the Careenage was designed — it was probably designed by nature but improved upon by the ingenuity of man — was for the careening of vessels, that is, tilting the vessel over, so that you would not have to dry-dock them, and also it came to be used in later years for the lighters of the Stevedore Agents in Bridgetown. If you cross the Bridge, you will probably find 20 or 30 fishing boats in the Careenage; but personally I do not know whether it is so fitting that fishermen be allowed to come in there with their bait baskets. It is a most obnoxious thing to drive over the Bridge and be assailed by these odours which come from fishing boats, and what the Minister of Agriculture and I have been thinking about is that we should provide places for fishing boats in different parts of the Island. Right behind the shipyard which used to be operated by the Minister of Communications, there is a very nice basin which one of the senior journalists in the Island has suggested would make an excellent yacht marina. We are investigating the possibility of using places like that for fishing boats, because I do not think it is a good thing for bait baskets to be brought into the centre of Bridgetown.

If you can bring fishing boats which leave their bait baskets outside, Mr. Chairman, we would consider encouraging them to come there; but of course, all these problems may be resolved when the new fish cold storage and marketing corporation gets into high gear. We must provide adequate harbour facilities not only in Bridgetown but in other parts of the Island for fishermen; I do not think we will come to the House with a Resolution, but I think we may have mentioned before that the Government has tentatively agreed with the owners of the whole of the Silver Sands area that it should be turned over to Government at what we consider an extremely reasonable price in contrast to other people without calling any names, and we are getting one of the world's experts on fishing who has been to Barbados before to design harbour and recreational areas and beach protection works in the Silver Sands area. He is also advising Government on every single beach in the Island, and again I will drop another hint that not very far from this building we may see a very interesting development for which we will be coming for the approval of the House in a very short time. This will also improve the yachting facilities and fishing boat sanctuaries in the Island, we hope.

Now as far as the Careenage is concerned, I have to inform the hon. junior member for Christ Church that the question of pile driving is one which has to be taken into account in any event, because the piles on the southern side of the inner basin are rotting. The piles have deteriorated considerably and need replacing, and we feel that if we are going to replace all these piles, we might as well gain a few square feet of land for the use of the public of this Island. I do not think this will in any way detract from the picturesqueness of the inner or outer basins. As a matter of fact I would certainly like to start some kind of society, I managed to get people interested in windmills — and I think the hon. junior member for Christ Church probably has an interest in this — but I would like to start a society for subsidising, not the Federal Palm or the Federal Maple, but Nova Scotia schooners which still ply between the Careenage and other parts of the Eastern Caribbean. I think, the day we lose the schooners from the

Careenage, that Bridgetown will have lost half of its charm, if not 75% of it. I think we ought to actually as a Government buy more and more schooners and encourage people making crosses to apply for buying schooners with auxiliary engines in order to keep this very picturesque aspect of our city, not to say profitable, and I would like to remind hon. members that these are the same schooners which served us during the war, and not the Federal boats given to us by the Canadians which the West Indian Governments are subsidising to the extent of \$1 million, and they make no indent at all on the trade pattern between Barbados and the other islands. We are doing it as a gesture; our share in this region is \$158,000 for the Federal Palm and the Federal Maple, but right through the War we did not have the Federal Palm or the Federal Maple. We had some auxiliary schooners and motor vessels running the gauntlet, as it were, and bringing food to this Island, and I think we have been very neglectful of the maritime community which we have reared up through our own ingenuity in the Eastern Caribbean. That is only by the by, and I myself will very much regret the day when we do not have schooners in the Careenage, and we will do everything we can to encourage schooners from all over the world to come and find a final — not resting place, because we do not want any wrecks or derelicts, but certainly a final — trading post in Barbados even if we have to pay them a subsidy to come here, whether for gasoline or diesel oil, paying them the cost of the voyage to Barbados or giving them free registration as a ship registered in Barbados.

I agree with the hon. senior member for St. Peter on the inadequacy of the dining facilities which we have here. The cutting of the vote for refreshment for the members of the House of Assembly which was some \$14,000 was something more than a gesture, because it was to set the example to the Civil Servants of this Island and to show them that we are not living in a cabin cruiser economy, and that the members of the House of Assembly, Ministers and others, were prepared to make sacrifices. Some of them made the sacrifice very reluctantly; some made it involuntarily and some voluntarily have made the sacrifice of foregoing the refreshments which used to be provided at the expense of the taxpayers. \$14,000 might not be a lot of money in a budget of \$26 million, but it is a lot of money in comparison with what a normal family would have to spend in providing itself with the necessities of life during the course of the year.

I have no present intention, Mr. Chairman, of re-introducing that vote, but I certainly do feel that there should be catering facilities available, and any member should be entitled to invite his constituents or his friends as they do in more civilised Parliaments. In the House of Commons in the United Kingdom and other Parliaments that I have been into, you can certainly invite your friends in to have a meal at your expense without incurring the wrath and displeasure of His Honour the Speaker.

5.40 p.m.

Fortunately, we have a Speaker now who would never grudge anyone for enjoying a hearty meal, but it has been known in the history of Barbados and in the history of this House that former Speakers looked upon the dining room as some kind of political weapon and this, of course, is known throughout the length and breadth of Barbados that there were Speakers who so regarded the Refreshment Room of the House of Assembly as a place to where you say to one man, come, and he cometh, and to another man, go, and he goeth, and they stand outside of the gates.

The reason why we pay members is that they can entertain their constituents. No backbenchers should think that we pay them to provide them with their livelihood or that this is some kind of job which they are getting paid for. The small stipend which is granted members of the House is done so that they may be congenial to their constituents and for no other reason. We have not reached the stage where we meet five days a week. It is true that as members of the House we are not drawing salaries. That is why when our constituents come down from the country they should be adequately entertained and you should be able to take any of your constituents in the

Refreshment Room and entertain them in the same way as you can walk in a restaurant and buy any kind of refreshment. It is your prerogative.

While the hon. member was speaking, I believe that only last week when we were discussing this new building that I suggested to the Hon. Minister of Trade and Development and some other officials that it might be a good idea for us to give up this hall and have it open for public entertainment, dances or something else and design a new meeting place with facilities for members of the Opposition, offices accommodation, dining room facilities, etc., which would meet the challenge of this age. This building was designed early in the nineteenth century, and the concept of Government has grown apace in the period which has elapsed since this construction. They tell me that this building is sinking, almost possibly falling, an inch every ten years. We had to go to the expense of installing microphones for members to hear, and you know what it is when you have a picture of a prize fight showing at the cinema next door and you hear the jubulations of anguish which come from there which is close next door. I do not consider this place suitable for a Legislative Assembly. I know some members think that is traditional, but other countries are moving ahead. May be we can consider having a top storey; instead of going up five stories, we can up six stories and have the legislative meeting room with the same facilities. This was not projected.

As far as the point made about the Town and Country Planning Office by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, whether the officer had turned down an application for building on this site, as far as I recall, the Town and Country Planning Act came into operation in 1959 and there has been no discussion about it; certainly no application by this Government was turned down and, as far as the last Government, I have looked through the files and have found none. After they got rid of the money in acquiring the site, the last Government was not interested in constructing anything on this site. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph was in here when they said that it should be used as a car park because you could not build on it. They also tell us that we are doing a lot of impossible things. Very soon, I am putting out a report of how we have achieved the impossible, such as the school meals service, and amongst the impossible things which I am going to display on a board is the impossibility of building on the Central Foundry site a building which would cost \$50,000.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Chairman, before you put this Resolution to the vote, I wish to say that I think when something is set out on the Addendum it has been put there to be discussed freely by hon. members. As soon as I mentioned the Regional Council of Chief Ministers, the Hon. Premier was very quick on his toes. I have it here in front of me: "In the near future, the Trinidad and Tobago Government and the British Guiana Government will issue their own currencies. It has been agreed by the Regional Council of Ministers that the headquarters of the new Currency Board to be set up to serve the remaining territories will be in Barbados."

It was this Regional Council of Ministers and the setting up of this headquarters here which I was discussing. What I was saying was that I hope that this Government will not be called on to provide elaborate offices and equipment for the particular occasion and then in the end it may be a failure. That is the point which I was striving to make and I do not see for what reason I should not discuss the Regional Council of Ministers.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to answer the hon. member. The hon. member is suffering from doubt. You can very well see that the hon. member had not read the Addendum before he came into the House, and when I got up to explain in detail to him he was trying to read it. He had just arisen from his slumber. He says that I stopped him from discussing it. What I said was that the Government of Barbados was erecting a building and amongst the institutions would be an Eastern Currency Board. The hon. member rose and said that he regrets that we would be spending money on the suggestion of the

Regional Council of Ministers. Whether we have a Federation or not, we have an Eastern Currency Board and we have a place over on the other side which is housing one of the branches of that body. We have a Currency Officer and a staff there, but it is an office to which the public does not have access. It is between the Audit Office and the Treasury. It has been there for a long time, for a long number of years. Whether we have a Federation or not, we have to provide office accommodation for the Eastern Currency Board; so it is not when the Federation is established; it is as soon as Trinidad and Tobago get their own currency, and British Guiana is also seeking to have its own currency, because they have said that after June, 1963, they are not using Eastern Currency notes. I can further say this, as a matter of fact, although it is not a matter within the confidence of the Assembly, the firm of Bradley and Wilkinson who prints notes for nearly 88 nations is now designing for us new currency notes that would fit in the new type of wallet, and we have taken out Trinidad and Tobago; and as soon as Mr. Bennet from the Bank of England gives us the procedure for liquidation — because there is a big quarrel going on over the assets. 5.50 p.m.

People do not understand that you make money out of the deposit which you invest; for every dollar there is four and two pence invested in the United Kingdom. That is part of the Currency Act and this investment brings in money. We should have had one million dollars invested, and they had to freeze everything when the Federation was broken up. We are still waiting to draw that money from the reserves. What the hon. member does not appreciate is that I do not object to his saying that the Regional Council of Ministers had recommended something, and it was not that Barbados had to build something for a Federation which might not come off; whether the Federation comes off or not we will have this Bank. I was saying that the hon. senior member for St. Joseph was getting scared that we have to build a place for the Federation, but it was not directly to do with the Federation; we had a Currency Board before we had a Federation and I hope that we will have one whether we have a Federation or not.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, in view of the reply which was made by the Hon. Premier although I support the erection of this building with these facilities, I still do not regard them as a priority as against the Post Office. If you are going in for office accommodation and re-organization, then I say that this Government owes it to the people of Barbados to see that the postal facilities are outmoded, antiquated and dilapidated and should be improved.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, you will find in Barbados that if you say that a ship is coming in, the newspapers will publish that the Mediterranean fleet is about to drop anchor in Carlisle Bay. (Laughter.) I believe in planning carefully, and, when the plans arrive, to say that we are starting on the Central Foundry site next week. I have dropped several hints about development today, but I do not want to say anything more. I have told hon. members that there is a building which the Government is seeking to acquire and that we have good prospects of acquiring it at a reasonable price. I do not know if I have spread it out that the Post Office would be housed in a building which would do justice to us. (ASIDES.) The hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown will not be able to get any commission out of that though. (Laughter.)

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, when I first read this Resolution I thought that at long last some use was being made of this spot. I believe that there are some members in this House today who can remember that I, among others, was responsible for the holding up of the erection of a building on this lot after it had been purchased for the sum of £27,000. I supported the Government in that; I did not find any fault with the purchase because I knew the price from my experience. However, I did not like the idea of paying \$6,000 for the purpose of drafting the plan of the building. I think this drafting was to be done by a Mr. Anthony Lewis. I thought that this amount was somewhat extravagant and I got some members of the House to agree with me and the matter was shelved. Most of us understand

the position where the Currency Board is concerned; I am concerned about this spot being an ideal spot and it is being used for the financial institutions of the Government. I did not hear the introductory remarks of the Hon. Premier in his presentation of this Resolution, but my colleague said that this building will be a five-storeyed building. If you are going to have the financial institutions of the island in one building, it would be an ideal thing to have all of them there. The hon. member did not mention the Agricultural Bank. MEMBERS: That was mentioned. We are not asking too much; if the Hon. Premier says that we are going to have a building erected for \$300,000 — surely we agree in principle with the idea of erecting a building on this site for the purpose of housing these financial institutions; but if I recall aright, it is customary for us to be given some information from the point of view of the plans. It is not that we disagree with the erection of this building, but we would like to know, if you are asking for this sum of \$50,000, if we are voting this money, we should like to know something about the plans of the building. I would like to enquire if this is going to be the type of building which will house cars around it or whether the cars will be housed in the building itself. We should like to know if the plans are to be drawn up locally.

Originally, Mr. Chairman, with a building of this nature and of this magnitude we would be shown the plans, and I think that this \$300,000 is coming out of the money which has been earmarked for the Development Plan. We must ask for information with regard to the type of building. I am making a point about the type of building because on the last occasion when the last Government came to erect a building, we were told that we will have to pay the sum of \$6,000 for the drafting of the plans. As I have already said, I did not like the idea of paying this amount of money for drafting these plans.
6.00 p.m.

We know that in England and in the United States of America you can go to places where you can select plans for hospitals, finance buildings and post offices or whatever you like, and we would like to know what portion of this money goes for plan drawing and how this work is going to be done. I have repeatedly heard the Hon. Premier say that we are suffering from the lack of technicians and the like, and I want to know if the Government proposes to erect this building departmentally or by contract and if their plans are to be drawn locally. I do not think that is asking too much as long as we are voting this sum of money.

Mr. Chairman, I want to throw out a warning because I remember that Gardiner Austin's building was to be erected at a cost of \$200,000 or \$300,000 and it was doubled; and within the last ten years in Barbados nearly every building which started off in this way to cost a certain sum of money was doubled before it was finished. I am going to say something here. I do not like accusing people for anything, but I am throwing this out as a warning to the Premier. Only a few days ago someone came to me and told me that all was not well at the new Hospital. Naturally we know it is costing us more money. (Hon. E. W. BARROW: You are out of order.) I am entitled to draw something to the Premier's attention as long as we have a Resolution in which we are spending money, and if he does not like it, well, I suppose later when he finds out.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, it is not a question of what I like. What I like is in my own home, and what I do not like I keep outside. What I want to tell the hon. member is this; strictly speaking, we are discussing a Resolution for money for the erection of a building, and if he wants to know if we are going to have a private architect, I will answer that; but when he goes on and says there is something wrong with the Hospital, if he thinks the taxpayers' money is being wasted at the Hospital, the proper thing to do is to draw it to the attention of the appropriate Minister, the Minister of Communications, and not to drag in these things in the middle of the debate without warning as he is doing. Perhaps there is no foundation in what he is saying, and it would give the impression that the Hospital is falling down, as they said, or that somebody is carrying away cement. If he says something is going wrong, let him

tell us what is wrong and we will rectify it. He has vested interest in seeing that the taxpayers' money is spent in the right channel and not dissipated and not wasted, but I do not appreciate this method.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, we have different methods, and the hon. member said something I did not say. All I have said is that I know buildings of this magnitude have started off with one estimate which in due course was doubled, and in passing I said I would just throw out a hint that all is not well at the Hospital and I stopped there. If a member of this House says all is not well, it is for any Minister to keep his ears to the ground. Maybe what I say here tonight will make all well; maybe there is nothing to the rumour — I do not know — but you cannot help hearing things, and if and when I discover something I would be the first to say it. (Hon. E. W. BARROW: What have you discovered?) Why should I tell you when you say I should not drag something in here? We had an estimate to build the Hospital for a sum of money, and everybody in Barbados knows that that sum of money has now practically doubled. We are not accusing anybody of doing anything wrong, but I said in passing that it has been drawn to my notice that all is not well. I made no reference to any foundation, and whoever thinks so is very stupid. I made no reference either to anything falling down. I remember sitting in here when hon. members in dealing with money Resolutions would say all is not well at the Post Office or at the Customs. The Government, instead of objecting, kept their ears to the ground and within four or five months decided that all seemed not to be well. Why should I get here and make an accusation which I could not back up with facts? Even today when certain replies were given, I took the opportunity to prove that I had known what had been actually issued and withdrawn and then cooked up.

Mr. Chairman, I think we all will agree with the necessity for this building, and the amount which the Government proposes to spend is \$300,000 between now and the end of the next two years, because this is part of their three-year plan. Though we would like to see this building go up, we want to know if this \$300,000 allows for an extra 10% on the estimate; so we want to know when we vote this \$50,000 that we are on safe ground. I do not know who has given the estimate, but I am rather doubtful that you can erect a five-storey building, if you are pushing down the Income Tax office, for \$300,000. Whether or not Government likes it, I would gamble that they cannot put it up for that money. You are talking about putting up a five-storey building on a site which is just a few yards from the water, and hon. members ought to know, with an estimate of \$300,000 what to look for, and that is why I want to know something about the plans. It is only fair to tell us whether this building is going to be a reinforced steel structure. I take it that to know the estimated cost, Government must know the type of building, whether it will be a steel structure reinforced with concrete or erected with our local coral so that people can be employed in cutting the stones.

While I support the Resolution, Sir, I am enquiring as to what the plans are like. We have been in the habit in this House on occasions prior to the last Government of demanding plans for anything of this type, and the Hon. Minister of Trade and Industry who is a senior member in this House knows that. Up to the time when the Hospital was to be erected, the plans were displayed for us. You require technicians and architects for this building.

I support, Mr. Chairman, the idea of having all these financial institutions in one building, and like the hon. senior member for St. Peter, I can envisage, if you remove the Bank and other financial institutions, that you can use all these buildings here for the purpose of extending the Post Office, because we do owe it to the people of Barbados to give them a proper Post Office so that people do not have to go to the wharf for parcels and go from place to place for something. I would like to know about the plans, how much they cost and where they came from.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown asks about plans, I want to get certain things clear and get the record straight. There is an undue suspicion in Barbados against any person

who is technically qualified or competent. Every Barbadian is his own doctor, architect, mason, carpenter, tailor and everything else. The result is that we waste a tremendous amount of money in this country because when a man wants a plant to build a \$15,000 or \$18,000 bungalow, he takes three months off from work, takes a rule, draws out some lines and buys a lot of expensive material, and when he finishes he goes up with walls eight times thicker than they need be. Technological progress has been taking place in the outside world when Barbados has been at a standstill. We have very few buildings built in this century in Barbados in any architectural form, grace or design, and as far as this Government is concerned, we will get the best architectural advice in the construction of this building.

6.10 p.m.

The hon. member for the City of Bridgetown made a lot of noise objecting strongly that a Barbadian born architect was going to be paid \$6,000 for designing a building. You will forgive me for digging into the past, but the then Leader of the House, the then hon. senior member for St. Joseph, said that the Government proposed without any desire to establish a monument, to erect in this area a building which will be used as a Post Office and that Government was determined that it would construct thereon a building which would be a credit to Barbados. This was in 1949 when they were trying to get the money to pay to the Central Foundry. After that, they forgot and came in here year after year and said, you cannot build on the Central Foundry site. I understand that some plans were made and, as far as I am concerned, from what I know of professional qualifications sometimes a good architect can save you \$6,000. An architect does not draw plans alone, but an architect on the site supervises and sees that everything goes right.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I just want to draw to the hon. member's attention that at no time did the Government explain that we were paying that for supervision. They said that this was only for drawings and plans.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: You do not pay \$6,000 for drawings and plans. They only spoke from their ignorance. I am sure the hon. junior member for Christ Church has had architects called in with respect to the renovation of his premises, and I am sure he feels justified with the fee which they have charged because a good businessman would always employ a specialist to do the job of a specialist. However, we have not discussed the designing of the building outside of the Works departments. I have, myself, thrown out a few suggestions as regards harmonising the design of the buildings with the existing Public Buildings, but from the point of view of order and harmonising, I would like to see a building which would carry some of the features of the existing Public Buildings. I feel the best architect can save you more than \$6,000. I hope that I have answered the hon. member's question. I hope the people of Barbados would get the best for their money. I have nothing on the files, neither do I have any person from outside making application; but I will not say that we will not advertise for architects for this building.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1962-63, NO. 28 CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the sum of \$700 has been provided in the Current Estimates for Christmas festivities under the Ministry of Social Services under Item 13. It is customary to have Christmas trees in places like the Maternity Hospital, Probation Office, Government Industrial School and other institutions for which this money is provided.

I am giving this breakdown for the benefit of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, who, I know, is going to ask for it. The amount of money to be spent on Christmas trees is estimated at \$410, leaving a remainder in the vote of \$210. Formerly, it was the practice of the Ministry of Social

Services to have a Christmas tree in the Fountain Gardens. This Christmas tree had to be imported from abroad, and having to be brought on the deck of ships several miles in all the weather, when it arrived in Barbados it was little or no use to us. Much criticism has been levelled at the sort of picture which is being shed, and this year we have decided that we go a little further and illuminate the trees in the compound of this building. A question was raised as to whether we should loan or purchase the equipment. The loan of the equipment would amount to a matter of \$950 and we decided that we would purchase it because it would amount to only \$1,607.

6.20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I will give a breakdown of the amount of this Resolution. It is as follows:- There are one thousand one hundred bulbs and sockets, \$1,100; 1,420 yards of wire, \$261.60; main switches, \$51.00; cleats \$1.92; meters \$400 and electricity, approximately, \$260.41. From this total of \$1,667 we have a remainder of \$290 and we are asking this House to vote the sum of \$1,378 for the illuminations of the trees in the Court Yard of this building. The equipment will be kept to be used in subsequent years. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I rise to make one or two very brief comments on this Resolution and to second the motion for its passing. The attitude of the Government in this matter, as has been explained by the Hon. Minister who introduced the Resolution, is that Christmas is primarily, although not exclusively so, a holiday season which people should be enjoying by seeing what is good at this season. Even if we felt that it was a complete form of waste of energy to illuminate a small tree in the Fountain Gardens, the tree which came from overseas arrived in a very poor condition and it was useless, so far as the intention of making the Christmas season a joyous one is concerned. We want to make the season more enjoyable by beautifying a tree or trees in the surroundings of this building.

One thing will emerge from this; the very newness of it will, we hope, encourage people to bring their children to see it. I would say to parents that when they do bring their children to see the tree or trees they should avoid obstructing the traffic and provide the utmost safety for the children who are accompanying them by standing over in the Fountain Gardens and not seeing the illumination from the street. It would be contrary to the spirit of Christmas if something which we did for the children to enjoy were to result in injury to them. I have risen to make this appeal to parents or guardians who will bring children to see the tree illuminated, to avoid the path of the traffic so that the children can enjoy the beauty of the illumination without injury to themselves.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the Government's attention to something which is on a more positive basis. This idea of having a Christmas tree is an excellent idea and it offers an opportunity for the children of Barbados to enjoy the Christmas festivities. I think the Government should encourage more of the basic, cultural things in our community; I think that the time is fast approaching or we have reached the stage where we have good singers in Barbados, and there is nothing which makes me feel more encouraged than that there should be a Festival of Music and that the Government should give encouragement to that, just as people in other countries of the world enjoy such a festival as a part of their lives. We should emphasize some of the cultural things which we have in this community, and not allow the tourist attraction as occasions for people to dance the limbo and play the steel band, which is artistic, but there should be other features of cultural life which we can emphasize as being truly Barbadian. Barbadians are good at home singing, but there is not enough encouragement given to it. I would like to see the Government set aside money for the purpose of encouraging that sort of thing. I do not know if the Hon. Minister has provided any money so that the Choirs can travel from place to place and sing; that is one of the complaints made in the past, that these Choirs could not get from place to place to do their singing. Our Organization, as a public Organization, pro-

vides annually amplifiers which people use without charge because we regard it as a public thing. I feel that there should be a Caribbean Festival of Music, and Christmas time is the appropriate season for carrying out this thing. When it comes to this festival and public gatherings, there should be a better way of conducting these things so that everybody can see them and not have a motley crowd milling together.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is quite in order. We have had experience in the City Council in this matter because we have been doing it for years and people from all over the island come to see this illumination. We regard that we should have music, as the last speaker has mentioned. On these occasions, the merchants in Bridgetown subscribe privately to the Choirs. We illuminate the trees in the Lower Green for some hours; we give out this labour by contract and we find that it is more economical to have somebody to do this work than for us to buy the equipment. From our experience, I say that it would be better to give out this work to be done by contract. Even if you were to spend a thousand dollars every year, that would be cheaper rather than have the equipment this year and then in the next year when you go to look for your wire you cannot find it. We have been doing this sort of thing for a number of years. This year we hope to have an illumination at Hastings Rocks as well; therefore for the first time we will be putting on two shows, one at the Lower Green and the other at Hastings Rocks.
6.30 p.m.

We know that we will have a motley crowd at both festivals.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I will not be long, but I should just like to reply and make comments on one or two points raised by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, and to inform him that we plan having our usual tableau under these lights. We hope to have a choir from the Ministry of Education which is made up of clerks, typists and inspectors, and I understand that the Minister of Education is going to sing a solo. We will also have the usual choral singing by the various church choirs and the Choir for the Animation of the Sick and Incapacitated; so we will really be entertaining the children and the community in general in the Square.

In connection with the control of traffic, we plan appealing to the Commissioner of Police to let us have that area free at least one of the nights when we are putting on our big show. I omitted to point out that from the \$410 we would do what we can to assist in getting choirs to any part of the country where we have to put on our usual programme. We plan going to the various community centres in the rural areas; so the money which is voted under this item will really be well spent.

Mr. WALCOTT: I thank the Hon. Minister, but I hope he understands I am not criticising. I feel what I have projected is a new idea in that I would like to see the Government of Barbados not only at Christmas time, give positive encouragement and support to the building up of a Festival of Music in Barbados in which Barbadian culture would be emphasised and of which Barbadians would be proud. It is now scattered and disorganised and not in a way in which you can get the best out of music, because if people can sing and do not know they can sing, there is no encouragement given to such people. Those of us who travel know that, when you go to a Festival of Music in Scotland or Edinburgh, when you come out of the place you feel a different human being, and I feel that in Barbados we have to build up these things. It is not going to cost us a fortune, and it would give those persons who live in Barbados and who can find expression in music, the knowledge that the Government is encouraging these things. We today have to emphasize a character for Barbados that was not done before, and fortunately or peculiarly, apart from the Minister, it seems to me that God has blessed the people of the lower sectors of the community with voices designed for singing. I do feel that a Festival of Music is something the Govern-

ment of Barbados should emphasise, and they should be proud if they are the sponsors of this very noble and cultural act.

The question that this Resolution for \$1,378 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded in each case by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

6.40 p.m.

RESOLUTION re SUGAR INDUSTRY (REHABILITATION, PRICE STABILIZATION AND LABOUR WELFARE) ORDER, 1962

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with the Resolution to approve the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1962. I have already intimated my intention with Your Honour's permission to deal with the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister of Agriculture is asking leave to take as the next Order of the Day the Resolution to approve the Order entitled the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Order, 1962.

If there be no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Minister.

Leave was granted the Hon. Minister.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on this occasion, — this Resolution is an annual one coming to this House — the rates as set out in the Addendum are not being changed and are in keeping with the rates set out in the 1961 Order whereby the Price Stabilization Reserve Fund would be at the rate of \$2.60 per ton, the Rehabilitation Reserve Fund \$4.80, and the Labour Welfare Fund at the rate of \$4.80 per ton and \$1.00 for the Provident Fund.

As the Addendum to the Resolution sets out:—

In 1956 after discussions between the Government and both sides of the Sugar Industry, an agreement was reached subject to the concurrence of the Legislature on the following arrangements for the year 1956, 1957 and 1958, and thereafter until revised —

(a) that the rates of "basic levels" under the Sugar Industry (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilization and Labour Welfare) Act, 1947 per ton of sugar and equivalent amount of fancy molasses for the credit of the several funds should be as follows:—

(i) Price Stabilization	\$3.20
(ii) Capital Rehabilitation	4.80
(iii) Labour Welfare	4.80
	<u>\$12.80</u>

(b) that as soon as the details of the matter could be worked out, and subject to enactment of the necessary legislation, a new special levy of 40¢ per ton of sugar and per 290 wine gallons of molasses should be imposed with retrospective effect from 1956 to finance a Provident Fund for workers in the sugar industry. This amount makes up with the total of \$12.80 mentioned in (a), the former total of \$13.20 of the "basic" levels which has thus been reduced to accommodate the special levy.

(c) that the proceeds of the "marginal difference" and "above average crop" levies when imposed would accrue to the Labour Welfare Fund.

2. This year the crop has fallen below the average of the preceding five years and calculations show that there is no "marginal difference" levy payable in 1962. The details of the Provident Fund have not yet been finalised but the Barbados Sugar Producers' Association and the Barbados Workers' Union have conditionally agreed to increase the special levy of 40¢ per ton of sugar and per 290 wine gallons of molasses to \$1.00 per ton of sugar and per 290 wine gallons of molasses for 1962. It is therefore proposed to adopt the same procedure as in the years 1956 to 1960 and to impose a special levy of \$1.00 per ton of sugar and per 290 wine gallons of molasses with retrospective effect in respect of 1962 when the necessary legislative authority has been provided.

That is the present position. We are asking the House to agree to the old rates of last year whereby the Price Stabilization Reserve Fund would get \$2.60 per ton, the Rehabilitation Reserve Fund, \$4.80; the Labour Welfare Fund, \$4.80; the Provident Fund, \$1.00; thus making a total of \$13.20 per ton.

Hon. members would want to know the present state of the various Reserve Funds. At present the Labour Welfare Fund has \$2,022,999.86 standing to its account, the Rehabilitation Reserve Fund has a total of \$33,027.38 standing to its credit and the Price Stabilization Reserve Fund has invested overseas \$4,789,148.88 and locally, including the interest \$2,331,964.55 making a total of \$7,121,113.43.

That is the present position of the Funds in the Sugar Industry and I am asking that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. GODDARD: This is the only unfortunate thing. We have been given the figures of the three funds, but I did not get how much there is accruing to the Provident Fund. Of course, it has been created only recently, but it would be of interest to hon. members to know what it amounts to now.

Mr. CORBIN: I have heard the amount of money that has accrued to these three Funds — the Price Stabilization Fund, the Rehabilitation and the Labour Welfare Fund. What I would like to know is what is done with the money accruing to the Price Stabilization Fund. The reason why I am asking that question is because I think it will enlighten lots of people. I understand that the money accruing to the Rehabilitation Fund goes for the repairs of factories, and the factory owners take that money and utilise it, and they do not have to refund a penny out of it.

As regards the Labour Welfare Fund, I want to know what they do with that money. I understand that money is for the repair of the homes of people who work in the Sugar Industry. I want to know tonight why then those people who work in the Sugar Industry when they go and borrow money from the Labour Welfare Department, they have to repay that money and the factory owners do not refund their money. I want you to realise that the Labour Welfare Fund and the Provident Fund is for the rehabilitation of these poor sugar workers who have been laid off without consideration, who are walking about the streets naked and starving and destitute. It is also for the poor factory workers and the poor engineers. The money has been taken out of the factory in which they had been working. Why should that money be withheld from these poor people who

are walking and begging their bread and to whom I have to give assistance? If the factory owners do not refund their money, why should the other people who repair their homes out of the Labour Welfare Fund have to refund that money? The homes of these poor men and women are falling down. They go and borrow \$400, and they have to refund that money with interest; but the factory owners when they receive \$1 million out of the Rehabilitation Fund, repair their factories and do not have to repay one cent. It is only the poor people who have to refund the money which they get out of the Labour Welfare Fund and they have to refund it with interest on it. That is an advantage taken of the poor people in the sugar industry.
6.50 p.m.

I cannot tolerate such an evil existence among the poor people in this country of Barbados. To the big factory owners who make the millions and oppress the people, you are giving \$4.80 out of every ton of sugar manufactured; they receive money for repairing these factories and they do not have to repay one cent by way of interest. Why then should the poor people, who work in the production of the sugar, have to repay that money? I am speaking of the poor people who are in the factories today, the people who have to work until they are 70 years old. They cannot retire from their work because no consideration is given to them when they retire. That is a heart burn; I cannot tolerate it; it shocks my modesty at this moment. These poor people are suffering under a heavy jurisdiction; these poor people come to my steps in tears and they tell me: "I have worked at the factory for 30 or 40 years, 'Homie', and not one cent is given to me." I tell them that I will appeal to my Ministry to see what can be done for them. I understand that this Provident Fund will afford them a little bonus. However, if such a thing as I have mentioned exists in this Government as existed in the past Government, some affliction will come upon this Government for oppressing the poor people. I sincerely hope that something will be done for these factory workers, so that they will be relieved, otherwise Homie Corbin will go to the top of the mountain and shout for murder.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I should just like to mention that the amount of the Provident Fund is roughly half a million dollars.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS CONCLUDED

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the consideration of that Resolution concludes Government Business for today's sitting.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do not adjourn until Tuesday next 27th November, 1962, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 27th November, 1962 at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

7.00 p.m.