
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 2nd April, 1963.

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*); Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, (*Minister of Development, Trade, Industry, Labour and Tourism*); 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*); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (*Minister of Education*); 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. L. A. LYNCH, J.P.; and Mr. BATSON, (*Chairman of Committees*).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the last meetings previous to today have not yet been circulated.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. WALCOTT and Mr. BOXILL entered the House and took their seats.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I am commanded to lay the following:-

The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1963;

The Registration of Electors Expenses Regulations, 1963.

On my own behalf, I am commanded to lay the following:-

The Customs Duties (The St. Joseph Hospital) Order, 1963;

The Customs Duties (Florida State University) Order, 1963;

The fourth Annual Report of the Tourist Board for the period 1st April, 1961 to 31st March, 1962.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Order

entitled "The Civil Establishment (Teachers) (Amendment) Order, 1963."

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 14/1962, asked by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, on 23rd January, 1962, is now ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 88/1962, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew on the 20th November, 1962, is now ready.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have here two questions by the hon. senior member for St. Michael whom I notice is not in his place. If the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown is prepared to put those questions on the hon. member's behalf, he is permitted to do so.

Mr. LYNCH: I am not now prepared to do so.

Mr. BATSON: To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:-

Is Government aware that many residents of Welchman Hall, St. Thomas are experiencing inconvenience in getting out of their homes after a rainfall?

2. Would Government take the necessary steps to have proper tunnels or gutters constructed in order to check the said water from running under the houses in the area complained of?

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

Is the Minister aware of the fact that agricultural labourers employed at Dodds Plantation, St. Philip, do not enjoy the facility of being granted small loans at Christmas-tide, as granted to agricultural labourers employed on privately owned plantations?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister take appropriate action to make such loans available at Christmas-tide to agricultural labourers employed on the said plantation, to be repaid not later than the end of March in the following year, from the sale of their canes, or by deduction in instalments, from their weekly wages.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to lay the Report of the Committee which was appointed to con-

sider and report on the Bill to incorporate "The Trustees for Roman Catholic Purposes" as a Trust Corporation.

The Committee has made amendments to the Bill. 2.55 p.m.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and report on a Bill to authorise the sale of certain lands at St. George's Rectory, St. George, with amendments.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. Oral Replies have been laid to Question No. 14/1962, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, and to Question No. 88/1962, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew.

DISSATISFACTION IN THE FIRE SERVICE

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 14 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

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

Is the Minister aware of dissatisfaction which exists among the rank and file of the Fire Service in respect of the administration of this Department by the Fire Officer and the Deputy Fire Officer?

2. Is the Minister aware that several non-Commissioned Officers in the said Service have been threatened with dismissal under Section 10 of the Fire Service Act, 1960?

3. Is the Minister aware of the conditions of work imposed upon members of the Fire Service, especially with reference to their duties on the Farm at Seawell and also during the crop season?

4. Will the Minister consider the setting-up of a Commission of Enquiry to investigate the administration of the Service?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The Reply to the hon. member's Question is as follows:-

"No such dissatisfaction has come to light as a result of recent investigations.

2. No non-commissioned officer has made any complaint to the proper authority that he has been threatened with dismissal by the Chief Fire Officer or his Deputy who have both denied the use of any such threats.

Under Section 10 of the Fire Service Act, 1960, only the Governor can dismiss a member of the Fire Service.

3. I am, Sir. Duties of firemen on the Farm at Seawell are entirely optional. With regard to duties of firemen during the crop season, the matter of the firemen's Duty System is under investigation.

4. In view of the answers given to the first three questions, I do not consider a Commission of Enquiry necessary at this stage. Amendments are currently being drafted to the Fire Service Act to make provision for a Fire Service Association to operate on lines similar to the Police Association."

Mr. SPEAKER: There is apparently no supplementary question, and therefore we will now proceed to deal with Question No. 88, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew.

HARDSHIPS EXPERIENCED BY PEASANT PROPRIETORS IN ST. ANDREW

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

(1) Is the Minister aware of the hardships experienced by peasant proprietors in the parish of St. Andrew due to the

unavailability of a 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?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's question is as follows:-

"1. No, Sir. The number of complaints received in regard to the non-performance of work was not considered sufficiently widespread to justify a general claim of hardships being experienced by peasant proprietors in St. Andrew.

2. Yes, Sir. In the first instance, owing to the general nature of the terrain in the St. Andrew area, certain applicants could not be entertained. Further, due to the nature of the terrain as aforesaid, mechanical breakdowns and the general heavy demand for the service, scheduled operations have had to be postponed on many occasions in several areas. Wide publicity was given to the date of commencement and the date of closing of the scheme. The official closing date of the scheme was also extended to facilitate farmers in the St. Andrew and other areas and to meet the demand.

3. Tractors will be made available to the farmers in St. Andrew. It is not proposed to attach a tractor to any particular Station, but to operate in such a manner that tractors are available for use wherever required. There are, however, certain areas in St. Andrew where the equipment now in use cannot be operated owing to the nature of the terrain.

4. The full facilities of the scheme will be made available as soon as the 1963 operations commence."

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I must say thanks to the Hon. Minister for his reply. I understand from the reply.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is this a supplementary question or an expression of gratitude?

Mr. CORBIN: It is an expression of gratitude. I am glad that the Hon. Minister has taken up this case and I do hope that this scheme will be begun as soon as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sure that that expression of gratitude will be accepted by the Minister although it is unnecessary according to Parliamentary Practice.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no more answers to Questions ready and we may now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business.

ORDERS POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. James:- To move the Third Reading of a Bill to incorporate the "Trustees for Roman Catholic Purposes" as a Trust Corporation. 3.05 p.m.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform you that I am not yet ready to proceed, since the Report has only been laid today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, I am unable to deal with the Bill today because the Report was only laid this afternoon.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter whose seat, I observe, is instantly vacant and this applies to Order No. 4. Order No. 5 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. George whose seat is also vacant. Order No. 6 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for Christ Church to move the third reading of a Bill to authorise Edward Parker Edghill to construct a groyne with or without seawalls at "Rostrevor", St. Lawrence.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, the Select Committee on that Bill has not yet met, but we hope to do so very shortly; and that applies also to Order No. 7.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it that neither of these Committees has met or that they have not completed their labours?

Mr. GODDARD: We have not been able to call a meeting because we are waiting on the Government to send down the Bills.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does that apply in each case? I am not sure if the Hon. Leader of the House heard what the hon. junior member for Christ Church has said.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I apologise. I really was not listening.

Mr. SPEAKER: In reference to two Bills standing in the name of the hon. junior member for Christ Church, he has explained why the Committees have not met, and perhaps he would not mind repeating it.

Mr. GODDARD: The custom now is that these Bills are sent to Cabinet, and until they return the Bills to us showing their approval or amendments, the Select Committees are not called. I have spoken to some of the Ministers on these Bills, and they have assured me that they will do their best to get them to Cabinet. We are still awaiting the reply.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The position is, Sir, that these and other matters of their kind are at present under consideration by the Government's legal advisers and the Cabinet is awaiting their decision before consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael whose seat is instantly vacant, and Order No. 9 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph is that matter which is awaiting the Report of the Commission. Orders Nos. 10 and 11 stand in the name of the hon. junior member for St. George who is not in his place; and Orders Nos. 12, 13 and 14 stand in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John whose seat is instantly vacant. Order No. 15 is to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution relative to the amendment of the Barbados Scholarship Act, 1890. When this debate was adjourned, it was so adjourned on the motion of the Hon. Minister of Education that further consideration be postponed. Does the Hon. Minister of Education seek now to resume his Address?

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I regret I have to say that I am not now ready to proceed.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the hon. junior member for Bridgetown had moved, seconded by the hon. junior member for Christ Church the passing of this Resolution. He had made his first speech which the hon. junior member for Christ Church has seconded; then it was on the motion of the Hon. Minister of Education, seconded by the hon. senior member for St. Peter that further consideration was postponed. Would the Minister of Education move that further consideration be again postponed?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes, as Your Honour pleases. I beg to move that further consideration be postponed.

Hon. A. Da.C. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 16 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip who is not in his place. Order No. 17 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Peter who is not in his place. Order No. 18 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas who is in his place, to move the passing of a Resolution *re* the closing hours under Shops Act, 1945. When this debate was adjourned, the hon. junior member for St. Peter was speaking. He is not at the moment in his place. Does any other hon. member propose to speak?

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this matter is under discussion by a Committee, I am asking leave to withdraw the Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Thomas as is craving the indulgence of this House to withdraw this Resolution, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted. Hearing no objection, leave is granted the hon. member.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Resolution *re* the closing hours under the Shops Act, 1945, be now withdrawn.

Mr. SPEAKER: Without a motion, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas having been granted leave to withdraw, and in view of the intimation which he has just made, I declare this Resolution is withdrawn. We now proceed to Order No. 19 which stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, to move the passing of a Resolution relating to the acquisition of land owned by absentee proprietors and sale thereof to inhabitants of the Island.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, I am also asking leave to withdraw this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Thomas as is asking leave to withdraw this Resolution, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted. There being apparently no objection, leave is granted, and accordingly this Resolution is now deemed to have been withdrawn.

Orders No. 20 and 21 stand in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas who is not in his place. 3.15 p.m.

UNEMPLOYMENT OF WORKERS IN BARBADOS

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Item, Item 22, stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter: To move the passing of a Resolution *re* the setting up of a Committee to study the needs of industrial training.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in moving the passing of this Resolution; but before I begin to debate it, I will acquaint hon. members with the text of the Resolution. It reads as follows:-

Whereas the unemployment of workers in Barbados is a matter of deep and serious concern to the whole community, and if it continues to rise will cause serious social and economic dislocations.

And whereas the modern industrial development method is to mechanise and utilise automatic equipment which reduces the demand of manual labour,

Be it therefore resolved that the House of Assembly request the Government to set up a committee to study the needs for industrial training, and re-training, and the establishment of Trade Schools throughout the island to meet the pressing present-day industrial requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if hon. members are aware of the serious employment, unemployment, underemployment and casual employment which exist in Barbados, and what is more, that there is a serious change in the whole concept of our employment demands. Because of that, I feel

that this Resolution seeks to alleviate some of these problems. In the United Kingdom itself which is a highly industrial community, the British Government has found it necessary to embark on a system of training and re-training owing to the impact of automatic devices and technological changes which are taking place in this century.

I believe, and I have heard from all concerned, that we have a good Technical Institute in Barbados, but I doubt very much one can regard that the Technical Institute, though doing an admirable job in itself, is capable of performing the task which we have to meet in Barbados.

In April, 1961, when the last Government which this Government succeeded was in power, I introduced a Resolution into this Chamber pointing out that as a result of the construction of the Deep Water Harbour there would be a large number of people unemployed, adding to the already high unemployment rate in Barbados. Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate in Barbados is nothing for anybody to look lightly upon. It is true that Barbadians have lived for so long without employment that it seems to be chronic; but we all know that we are entering into a very serious and social problem which would lend itself to an economic dislocation which would be worse than the crisis in 1929 or a similar crisis in 1939. Unfortunately, people do not analyse these things before they take place, and they try to look back in retrospect on all things which should have been done to avoid these things.

Barbados is still relying to some extent on emigration to solve some of its unemployment. I do not belong to that school of thought which thinks that emigration will solve the problem. I do not believe that is the one answer to the unemployment problem and to the growth of the population which we have here. I must say now in parenthesis that I am pleased indeed to see that the Government has agreed to embark on a scheme to give aid to the Family Planning Association.

I think, Mr. Speaker, from the information of our demographic survey that Barbados has a problem which we cannot sneeze at. We have in this island a lot of unskilled workers. Nobody in any part of the world has any need for unskilled workers because you can get them at anybody's doorstep. If Barbados goes on producing more unskilled workers with fewer jobs for those workers, Barbados will find itself sooner rather than later with a population ready to enter work, and there would be more people outside looking for work than there are people in the population. In any community where you have 30% unemployment, you have a high density. The U.S.A. is crying out for its unemployment when it only reaches 7%; therefore, Mr. Speaker, if we do nothing about these serious matters we would be condemning ourselves everlastingly not only to being a poor community, but a community unable to find employment for the able-bodied people who want work in it.

Mr. Speaker, I have given careful and serious consideration to this matter, because I do not subscribe to the thought that boys and girls between the ages of fifteen years and eighteen years cannot enter into the employment forces in this Island, but that is the position as it now stands and it is an extremely serious matter for this country. I have been reading Mr. Stockman's Report, and looking through it I have seen the distribution of the age groups in Barbados. May I say in passing that what is very remarkable is that from the number of people over the age of 68 years who are eligible to draw old age pension, you will find that 98% of those people are drawing pension; therefore, that gives me the opinion that sooner or later you will have to carry out an investigation into those drawing old age pension in order to ascertain why is it that 98% who are eligible for it are drawing it and what about the people over 68 years who are in institutions and are ill. I only say that in passing to show the grave situation which we are in and to show you the social structure of our community. You can very well see from that that while there are some people who need not draw old age pension, there is a situation in which nearly all are drawing old age pension.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, as regards the population between fifteen years and eighteen years there is no-

thing in this Island of a positive employment character that can take care of people between those ages. There are people who can very well be called drifters because they have to drift into something; but it is an extremely serious thing for any growing society or emerging territory to find itself in the position where the substance of its population, that is to say, its youth, has to drift for three, four or five years before they can find gainful employment. That is a challenge which we have to accept in order to find some remedy.

3.25 p.m.

It is a challenge and a challenge which we have to accept. We cannot make the road easy for our working population unless we make it easy for our youths. I find that there are no positive avenues for our youths to find any means of real, gainful employment. From the analysis of the Stockman Report, you can find how many people there are in industry; you will know that we have an army of people known as domestic servants and they now number some 10,000 to 15,000. That is an unskilled avenue for the majority of young women in this community, but it represents nevertheless a substantial portion of the working population. It is about 10% of your total working population; and as far as that occupation is concerned, it is not an occupation in which you are providing industry with anything; it is one of those service departments of your industrial life which should disappear with a stronger industrial development. What is a serious matter is that the majority of children will leave the elementary schools at the immature age by law of fourteen years, and these people form the bulk of your manual labour in the community. Therefore, when you take an analysis of what your community requires, 22% of the total working population is in the main industry, the sugar industry, which in itself, represents one-fifth of your total labour force, and the majority of these people are drawn from the elementary schools. When you go into the other services — the Transport, the Dockers, the Municipal workers — and you look at the analysis, you will find that the bulk of your working population in Barbados will be people who have been drawn from the sectors of the Schools which finish with them at the age of fourteen years. You therefore leave men or women without the potentials for the 20th century challenge or the skills of the 20th century challenge, to eke out a low wage existence with a high labour market with which this country will be faced everlastingly if nothing is done to check it.

For that reason I say that the time has come when we cannot allow the army of our young people to drift. The Wharf has been closed, and therefore there is no more Wharf which would receive the entrance of those who did not find a haven in the schools for a longer period. Therefore you only know the Wharf as an adult worker because there is no training period for what is known as the line boys. That relieves the community of those potential delinquents who are likely to worry us as time goes by.

Mr. Speaker, in this Resolution I have stressed the need for Trade Schools as distinct from the Technical Institute. The reason for that is simple. Although my scheme should be married to a scheme of compulsory education — and I may say that I do not subscribe to the view or idea that compulsory education is not necessary in this community. If compulsory education is not necessary, then whatever money we spend on education in itself is not necessary. What is the point of having education at all and having it as a State scheme at all if you are not making what the State is doing in education something which everybody can use and something which is not to be left as a matter of choice? There is nothing sacrosanct about the State providing education if it cannot make you have education as such. I do not subscribe to all the statements which are made — I do not even subscribe to the Government's contention that enough people are being educated and that there is no need for compulsory education. To what point are people really educated? The fact is that only about 40% will ever finish the full course, and you will have others drifting along. The community cannot depend upon a few in the community who are capable of doing something; but you are not adapting the maximum potentiality of the community in order to get the maximum benefit within the community, whether it is a question of brains or brawn. You want to make the maximum effort in order to get the most out of people. I am one of

those people who believe that we can get the maximum out of human beings if we were to persist in dealing with human beings in the right way. I do not think that everybody possesses the same mental endowment to do the same task in the same manner; but unless you are dealing with an imbecile or a mentally retarded child, the majority should find something to do if the effort is made to draw out all that there is in the community.

Mr. Speaker, in a community which is monocultured, it becomes necessary for us to make the greatest investment of our youth; and so this country is in need of trade schools. As regards the majority of carpenters and masons in the community, for sometime to come this country will depend on the building industry as one of its priorities. If you were to take an analysis of the Government programme, of the majority of money to be spent in any Government programme, you will find that more than fifty per cent of the money for Capital Investment is money to be spent on the construction of buildings. I have made that analysis over the last fifteen years. We are going to erect buildings, and therefore we will need carpenters, masons, painters and the like. The days will come when the amount of manual labour which you require to pull up a bag with cement will be a memory so that men or women will not be required. We cannot go in for the same methods of construction as obtained all over the world. If you were to visit New York, as a matter of fact, anybody will tell you that as to the building which went up in 42nd Street in Lexington Avenue there was no question of a man pulling up cement, but a man went up in an elevator and the man at the top used the cement. It is going to come to that here. Certain mechanical devices are inevitable, just as we have the motor car and the aeroplane and the buses; and therefore just as the jackass carts and the horse carts are becoming memories, so will manual labour also become a memory.

3.35 p.m.

When that thing hits us, we will have a large army of people on our hands, and we have to think in terms of the social charge it is going to be on the community. My view, Sir, is that realising that Barbados will depend for a long time on artisans, there is no point in this age of allowing a boy to become a mason or a carpenter on the stupid, ignorant and age-old basis that his father became a carpenter or a mason and he spends years learning not to be a good carpenter, but learning to see, maybe, how slowly he can go when he really thinks he is a carpenter or comes out as a half-baked carpenter. What is happening in this island today is that a boy is not really apprenticed to the carpenter's trade as such in its true form or on any known method. He works and learns the trade along the way. Maybe if he makes a door or can put in a window, he starts to work with his tools and says he is a carpenter, and you have these people unleashed on the community by the legion. If you want a serious bit of work done, you have to wait sometimes a long time to get the right man to do it.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, that in many parts of this country there should be trade schools instead of allowing the youth to drift, and before they reach the age of eighteen learning how to play a hard domino game, a rummy game, a dice game, black jacks, and all fours. The youth of this country know every dice game and every gambling game. Would somebody tell me that these same youngsters should not find themselves in trade schools, so that even if they do not have to pursue the trade for a livelihood, at least they would acquire the skills and knowledge of skills which may in their own domestic life could be of use to them? Mr. Speaker, no matter how some of us are likely to be placed, the necessity to use a hammer, a saw or a paint brush is one of the requirements of any normal home. For that reason it serves a good purpose on any society, and I feel, Sir, that in Barbados we should aim at creating an atmosphere suitable to our own peculiar conditions, and not be afraid to embark on something that suits the needs of this community. This is a poor community with limited resources, but what seems to be coming every day are children and people. You are not a lonely man in Barbados because wherever you turn you can see people. If we are producing these people not at an inconsiderable rate, but at a rate that in the next 25 to 30 years is likely to make the population 450,000, that is no-

thing we can sneeze at. It is true that all of us might not be here; none of us might be here, but the fact remains that people will be here, and those of us who have the responsibility now to deal with these things should accept the challenge and deal with them boldly.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, that trade schools would help. It would offer skills to boys and girls, and I take the girls especially because there is a necessity to teach them crafts and the things that people can do. I do not see anything wrong with that, and it is just like in some countries that regard military defence as a part of their safety, and they make it obligatory and compulsory for people to come in for conscription and military training, say, for eighteen months in order to give them the sort of spirit of realising that they have to defend their country. These circumstances do not exist in Barbados, but the circumstances that exist show that we need to put the hands of our youth to work; and if it came to the question of making it obligatory and compulsory for a girl or boy between the ages of fourteen and eighteen at least to spend some time in some of these institutions, it would eventually produce an adult population capable of carrying on the tasks in a community. Building should be done and should be done well. Why is it in our age that we should be permitting a mason or a carpenter not to be compelled by the community spirit to imbibe his training in a scientific manner? We do not allow doctors to come out on us this way, and we do not allow even lawyers to do that even though in some instances it is only a question of giving a gaol sentence which some people deserve more than anything else.

Without any reflection on your honourable profession, Mr. Speaker, there was a time when lawyers did not have to be trained in the way they have to be trained now, and for many years, as you will realise, in Barbados magistrates dispensed the law without being legally trained; and as you know, Sir, that served Barbados for a very long time though I do not know how well, nearly down to the middle of this century. But we have reached the stage in which we regard the legal profession as a scientific profession within the context of the science of law, and today nobody will accept a man practising because he has a desire to practise. I feel that building construction and all that it implies requires training: it is nothing unusual for a boy to go to the building trade, whether he be a mason or a carpenter. There are things within that trade that he can learn, and it would remove the feeling of inferiority. A man who is trained for something he is pursuing loses that feeling of job snobbery, because he realises the discipline of the mind on the work creates a different spirit in him, and he does not in any way feel inferior to anyone in the community because he is doing a job of a manual character. For that reason, it serves the purpose of creating a better community spirit, creating better citizens, and on the economic side, it creates and produces a man in the community who is trained for his job and can do his job well; and as a net result of the question of productivity, you have a man who can produce more without feeling that if he produces more he is not going to get a reward, because normally they would be men who would be more capable of defending their rights in the community for the rewards they should receive.

I consider, Mr. Speaker, that you have to look at a matter like this in a broad light. This Resolution is not produced with a view to holding anybody up for lack of doing this or lack of doing that. This Resolution is produced for what we see as a need in our time. This Resolution is not anything in which I am alone or isolated, because, as I said, in the United Kingdom they are thinking in similar terms. I know that in Barbados there is a Bursary system. I am a member of the Apprenticeships' Board in Barbados, and I am aware that there is some thought of an amendment to the Apprenticeships' law; but you see, Mr. Speaker, boys are not apprenticed to master workmen here in any rigid or scientific form in which they can learn the trade. For example, this island is thinking now of the hotel trade.

3.45 p.m.

May I say, Mr. Speaker, that you have experienced it also and there are many hon. members of this Chamber who have experienced it. Without in any way diminishing the

worth today of the Barbados Tourist Trade and the workers involved in the industry, I just want to say that any one who has visited any of the European countries would know that as soon as you enter a hotel or restaurant, you can see the marked difference in personality of the workers. When I say "personality", I do not mean the Barbadian definition of the word "personality" as regards somebody who has their face powdered and that kind of thing. I am talking of the personality which springs from inside, that is to say, the knowledge and training which that person has of catering. Whether it is a man or woman who is serving you, you can see that basically those people had been trained and that there is no inferiority complex — and they treat you well. You will find young ladies who are serving in restaurants are invariably better dressed than the people whom you see outside and they are very exquisite looking people. They are well dressed, their faces are well creamed, each has a watch and there is no question of the proprietor regarding that person as one who is coming to work looking better than his wife, because it is expected that that person should dress in that manner. Another thing is this; you speak English and you find that that waiter can speak to you in English quite fluently; somebody else enters who speaks another language and you find that same waiter can also speak that person's language quite fluently. That is so in the English and French restaurants and hotels, and no matter where you go in those European countries you can see very well that the training of the hotel staff is a 'must'.

It is true that in a developing community as ours we have to take things as we have them, but the time has come when we should create these institutions amongst us. I am not saying that the Government can start off with all of them. What I am asking, as I have said in this Resolution is that the Government should set up a Committee to study these problems. As a matter of fact, I do not think that one can ask the Government to come out and do it. I do not subscribe to that. No matter how I feel about it, I want to subject these problems to a study by people more knowledgeable than I am to see how feasible it is and to see if there is need for it. My opinion is that there is need to harness the present human potential between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one years. The last Government made the mistake of not analysing the situation with a place like the Deep Water Harbour coming into being, and knowing that you would have a large number of people being thrown out of work as a result. Set up a Committee to make a study of this and to see what are the likely ages of these people who should be given training and re-training and what you can do to better equip them. Some people may say as regards the re-training of people at a certain age limit, if you re-train them, what are you going to do with them. Even to answer that question quite blandly, you can say that it is better to have a trained unemployed man than to have an untrained one because when the time comes the man with the training would find himself in a better position. When you train the human mind, it becomes useful and helps the whole community. Human beings must first be developed and it is even so with raw materials. Raw materials do not develop themselves if the human brain and ingenuity are not there. It is essential that the human element should be developed in order to have a creation for the new things which are desired.

The Sugar Industry which has served this country for so long is going out of existence, and within the next ten years this island is going to pass through another cycle. The number of sugar factories are going to be diminished because with the impact of technological changes, men are going into outer space; therefore, those who are living in the next age will be witnessing a new set of changes. Mr. Speaker, we have had more changes in this world during the last sixty years than what have happened over the last 2,000 years. The world has seen more mental, physical and all sorts of changes within the present century than it has ever witnessed. I do not believe that all of these changes have passed Barbados on the other side. We are going to be caught up; and if we are not careful about our attitude, we are going to find ourselves becoming the backwash of the world and becoming a memory. For that reason, we cannot go on having a half-baked society and a man working hard in a manual way only. We have to think in terms of men be-

ing trained to do the jobs in the community for which the community requires.

What are you going to do with the young men and women in this community? There are thousands of school children who will be leaving school in September this year for which there would be no employment for the greater number of them for the next five years. That is to say that some living in 1963 would not be employed until 1968. The analysis of that is that the number of people who are leaving jobs, the number who are looking for jobs and the large number of youths who will be leaving the schools in 1963 and looking for jobs are more than the wastage. Are you going to let them wait for five years? What I mean is that the number of jobs to be taken up in the next five years as compared with the number of people leaving school this year if they get a job on the basis of how jobs are got, the number of new entrants would be more than the jobs and the number of unemployed people in 1968 will be more than what it is now if nothing is done. For that reason, we cannot look upon this matter lightly and say that this matter would settle itself. We should look upon it as a matter which requires our thinking; and I feel in an Assembly like ours with its present composition, it is a challenge for us to find the answer, even though it is something which our predecessors did not think required an answer.

Mr. Speaker, many years ago when apprenticeship through Bursary training was started in this island, it was started as a means of providing a boy with either the carpenter's, mason's or some other trade. I feel that our thinking should grow with the change of time. I feel if that was good 20 years or 30 years ago, we should have an approach today to that matter which is more consonant with the requirements of 1963.

3.55 p.m.

Therefore, I am submitting to this Chamber that we should request the Government to set up a Committee to study the needs for industrial training and re-training and the establishment of Trade Schools throughout the island to meet the pressing present-day industrial requirements. That is something in which every Barbadian should be interested. I do not find any regulated school here at which the large army of our construction workers could receive training. I will go further and suggest to the Government that even within their large departments such as the Public Works Department and the Highways and Transport Department, there should be this training for people in these departments because in the building programme which the Government is carrying out you do not have these people today. I cannot see the Government continuing in this present age with the construction programme, with millions of dollars to be spent, and there is no place within the sector of the Government economy itself which provides the Government with that trained personnel for doing the job which it requires. That is as essential to the Government as it is important to the community. The Government's structure for which the Government gets the benefit, is like the institutions from which you get these things. I listen to people who create and talk about illa, but I do not find them thinking in terms of remedying these things. I think that the time has come when you should stop that type of thinking and that you create in the community the sort of mental discipline where a mason or a carpenter would undergo mental training which will make for him a more alert stream and make him become a greater participant in the body politic and not a drifter outside without taking any part in the stream whatever.

We want the community to be developed in material resources; but it seems to me that the community is underdeveloped in mental resources, which need not be the case. I do not see why every able-bodied man and woman in Barbados should not be exposed to the mental discipline for one type of training or discipline or the other. You should not see a man without any potentiality to the community. If every person is a potential contributor to the community, you must provide the means whereby that person can become of greater benefit to the community. The days of the unskilled are over and the time has come when we should get rid of these unskilled things where a man will be push-

ing a cart and being an unskilled person in the community. Of course, you will need some of these people in the community, but you will not have them as the kernel on which the community is dependent.

The Government should set about in its own departments to have a training programme for masons, carpenters and other types of artisans so that when you draw masons or carpenters, you draw them from this grade or from that grade. You will make it obligatory for people to have this training. We know that you will pass through a transitional period with the old people, but the young ones would not have any objection to this training because they are going in for it at an early time. With the old people, all the mental screws have been fixed and it is impossible for them to have this reorientation which is necessary for new learning; however, it is necessary that we should have this training for the youth. It is impossible for people who have been working for a long period of time to be exposed to the training which is taking place, but you will have to make use of them.

Mr. Speaker, I think I have said enough in order to show that in the departments like the Highways and Transport Department, the Public Works Department and such departments there is the need for training. I represent workers throughout the island, but I am not at all satisfied that the workers in the construction trade are aware of their potentiality for the future. The Government has a Housing Department; the Housing Authority builds houses for workers and millions of dollars are put into the construction of these houses; but we find that the workers become a sector of our economy for which there is the need for training, scientific or prescribed, for mason or carpenters.

Sometimes you will find that the cream of your workers is going abroad and that people from outside will be saying that they want to have skilled people. If we were to train our manpower, even from the point of emigration, that training has become necessary. We want to have a little bit more reorientation. I believe that a domestic servant, for instance, could command more wages when she is a trained person because she can do more things. It is true that the housewives do not pay the maids enough money; they would like to pay the maids more money if they could do more, but, on the other hand, I do not believe they will say: "I would give you more money but I would like to see you trained better." That service has been a low-paid service for a long time, and it will take a lot of mental refurbishing on the part of housewives to make them realise that the domestic servants are entitled to good wages, and the training would greatly relieve some of these housewives of their duties. In the majority of cases, the housewives do not have much to do and they could do some of the things for which they are paying the maids to do. Perhaps that is one of the privileges which housewives feel they should enjoy and you do not want to take that privilege away from them.

4.05 p.m.

I do not want to challenge the people in transport, but here it is the London Transport Executive sets out the pattern for what they regard as necessary for us to send people to them; but I doubt very much that this community insists that we should set a similar pattern even for our transport in which they must enter. It is left therefore for the people who are investigating the public service and the buses and so forth. Our buses are still very nice things to travel in, although you get a little bit of market affair if you get on a bus, because sometimes it is not unusual for the conductor or the conductress to see a lady in a red dress sitting in the far corner of the bus and say "Down there, red dress, let me get it!" Or "The woman in the black hat, send it up!" Those are things you get, and you may get somebody boarding the bus and feels that nobody can put him off the bus unless you go to the Police Station. Those are things where I feel that training is essential, and I do not regard this training as anything which is going to cost the community too much money, but I believe it is training of which the community is in need, and if I can be singled out as voicing what I can regard to be an analysis, it is something the community cannot do without much longer.

There is no point in crying out about building costs; there is no point in people crying out that people are working too slowly; there is no point in people in crying out and asking what the Union is doing about this; there is no point in people crying out and asking what the Government is doing about this, when people in the community have to be made to understand that there are certain basic requirements that the community itself must be prepared to emphasise and call for, and I say we cannot afford an army of untrained and unskilled people, but should endeavour at the smallest point to make a study to see what are the gaps to be filled.

I think I have said enough, Mr. Speaker, to indicate that the necessity for setting up a Committee to make a study of this is one of the things that should exercise the minds of this Community. I think I have said enough to show that in the Government Service itself you need a thing like this. The Public Works Department, the Highways and Transport Department, the Housing Authority and the Transport Board are Government and quasi-Government Institutions, and I think I have said enough to show that a study is required. I think I have said enough to show that in the Hotel industry which you are trying to build up that there is room for a study at this moment, notwithstanding that these things have been done. These are the sort of things I would like to see dotted all over Barbados, and not be concentrated in Bridgetown alone where there is a density of population. For example, what do you find the boys in rural communities can look forward to? When you look at our population in the rural districts, it is 10,000 in St. Peter, 9,000 in St. James, 7,000 in St. Joseph, and 8,000 in St. Andrew. These are predominantly rural communities; and after you take out the teachers and the ones going into the agricultural industry, you find a large segment of those people in that community drifting to Bridgetown—and the jobs up here are closing. It is therefore necessary to have these particular schools, and boys should not regard them as only for those who are not bright at school, because there is too much of the tendency when you go to a trade or undertake to use your hands that you have done it because you were unable to get through with your academic courses as well as you should. It is true that the Government here through the United States Aid Programme has added a technical wing to their various schools, but Mr. Speaker, I am thinking now of right down at the grass-root level on which you have to depend, because, as we know, in a general way, the boy who goes to a secondary school and attends a trade school or technical wing is more or less going to be in the supervisory service which is an essential service; he is going to be in the higher branches of the service; but I am thinking mainly of those persons who are going to be recruited at the bottom, those who are going to dig the foundations, lay the foundations and those who are going to erect the buildings, and they must not be regarded as men who cannot estimate as near as possible. A trade school can teach them cubic measurements, though some will say they have been taught but have forgotten. A piece of land may be so many square feet or so many cubic feet and they have to work out how many cubic feet of stone it would require to construct a building on that site; but it is not anything impossible for them to work out. It is elementary arithmetic that they should be taught if, as I said earlier, they had a full period of elementary education where these things were taught, and you did not have to go to secondary school to understand what is square root and measurements. Those are things which in my time were taught in school, and up to now I think I can still do them. It is the sort of requirement which you have to give to children and young people who leave school because it is so essential.

I feel, Sir, that hon. members can view this thing in the same light as I have put it. I put it forward as a Resolution which in my view of the community is in need of; I put it forward knowing the growing tendency in this country of a large army of youth. I may say that I believe I mix up with young people more than anybody else in this House. I love young people. (Mr. LYNCH: You are wrong.) The hon. member says I am wrong; but I do not have a school and that is all, and I am not confined to one section. I mix with them and I would say that the hon. member does not mix with them as much after school as I do. I mix with them

after school when they are at the more dangerous age. (Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Boys or girls?) Both. Mr. Speaker, I believe I have an excellent understanding of the social content of this community. The hon. member wants to know if I mix with both.

Mr. SPEAKER: To what hon. member is the hon. senior member for St. Peter referring?

Mr. WALCOTT: The Hon. Minister of Trade. To be able to know what is happening with the young people's minds, you have to mix with them and know why they are doing things, and why certain difficulties are taking place. That is one of my good experiences in life which I love and like to be able to enjoy. When I am finishing mixing with them, I am not fit for public life. Let me show you why I want this. I was at a football match some evenings ago and I saw a young chap take out something that would cut open the carcass of a cow, and said if anybody interfered with him what he would do. I said to myself that we have to harness that skill if he can use his knife well, and teach him how to carve meat, teach him how he should really carve a pig or a cow with his knife, which is something profitable, so that when he finishes carving, somebody is going to eat it; but when he carves a man or woman, nobody is going to him. If he is adept at using a knife, we should teach him to be a good butcher. It takes an expert to know how to cut up a hind quarter. You cannot put anybody on a hind quarter and say this is what he should get out of it unless he is good at using a knife.
4.15 p.m.

I say that because we have a lot of little knife users around here, and Your Honour at some times has the unpleasant task of having to appear in another place in order to get some leniency for some of those persons. They are the youth in this community which we have to harness. I am sure even when people of the learned profession have to defend these youths, some times they regard it as a shock to the community that they find those sort of cases becoming all too prevalent. Fortunately, for us in Barbados, we are not as bad as some other places, but I think that this is something which we have to learn. This sort of training is very essential.

Sir, if I have spoken longer than I intended, it was only to make myself plainer. I have much pleasure in moving the passing of this Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure in seconding a Resolution of this sort. I was saying to myself when the Hon. Mover of it was speaking that he did not even want to give way to even get a seconder. He has put over his case so clearly that he only wants someone to say "I second it."

The word "training" explains itself because we have a lot of workmen in this country who did not have the training to suit the job, but they tried to make the best of the job as they possibly could. Today, we have so many young children at present in schools and we also have just as many outside walking all around trying to get something to do. But what is happening? There is nothing for them to do because they do not have the training for any type of job whatsoever.

I feel that this Trade School and training will be a lot of help to those who are in schools and will soon be leaving. I feel that Headmasters and Headmistresses can do a lot in their schools in this respect, that is to say, to find out the ability of each child and what would suit each of them better to do, and they can advise parents along that way. They can say "I think John would make a good tailor". You can know that by the child's learning. There are some children who are very backward in figures and some who can be fast on them. That child which is fast on figures we know would be more suited to be a clerk. On the other hand, there are some children who are very stubborn to move around and, Mr. Speaker, you will know what is the better job for that type of child to do.

There are only two kinds of work which children of today are looking forward to, especially the boys. One is that

of boys and girls who want to get in the Civil Service and the other is for those who do not have the ability academically but want to learn to be a motor mechanic. I am afraid that all the garages are filled with trainees now. If you were to embark in training of this sort, it would mean more to the child than his going into the Civil Service or going into a garage to learn to be a motor mechanic. You will find boys of some ability who can do more than one job. I have one who can do plumbing and besides that, he is a first-class mechanic. He can fix the body work of a car also. The reason for that is that he learnt with a man who could do these things also and he has come out one of the best boys trained by that man. There are some children, even some housewives who are only too sorry because they do not know what to do when their servants do not come out. The reason for that is that they have never had any training in how to fix a proper meal.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the best resolutions which have ever come to this House. I can travel very far with you with the necessary background. I can say a lot on this Resolution, but I will not hold it up because Private Members' time is running out; therefore, I will not go any further than to respectfully beg to second the motion.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who has moved this Resolution must be complimented for the trouble he has taken in presenting this important problem. There can be no doubt about it that the question of training in a population of an under-developed country at this time is not only important to the economy of the country and the social and political well-being, but, more than that, it enables the country itself to make its best contribution to the well-being of the world outside. Even with our limited resources in Barbados we have seen the value of inculcating skills; and even when we did not think of this matter with this keen importance which we are now attaching to it, some instinct in the past made it possible to us from the manpower of this Island to supply larger countries with workmen and work women with a degree of skill which we could not use at the time but which other communities were prepared, and are still prepared, to pay for.

There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that an attempt has been made seriously to come to grips with this whole problem of retraining the entire population, all the techniques and skills which are needed not only to survive in this world as it is but for survival at the highest possible level.
4.25 p.m.

The point which the hon. member has made — and it is really the gist of his speech — that there ought to be some determined study to this whole problem at the national level, is very well taken indeed; and the Government welcomes the suggestion which has been put forward because, even now, the Government is deeply concerned about these issues, and although it has not yet been able to solve all the problems arising out of the present situation, it has shown itself in more ways than one. Therefore, I am very happy, first of all, to be able to say that the text of the Resolution introduced by the hon. member, particularly what it asks for, meets with the whole-hearted concurrence and approval of this Government. I would like to let the hon. member and hon. members of this House and the general public know that that is the kind of matter to which we would give an A-1 priority. In the next place, I would like to tell the House this; the matters which have been raised in the speech of the hon. member who has moved the passing of this Resolution are under constant and even daily review and examination of the Ministry of Education.

If we take one example at random, I would say that it must be some months now since the Ministry of Education decided to recommend the establishment of Trade Schools- Trades Training Centres as we like to call them — for hundreds of the young people in this island who are between the age range of 14 and 18 years. Mr. Speaker, so highly and enthusiastically do we think of this project that we have made it quite sure that it is one of the things to be included in a request for overseas aid because we wanted to plan it on so vast and far-reaching a scale that it would be stretching beyond the limit of our own resources. However, we

do not feel that because we do not have the resources we should not proceed with the idea.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 4.30 p.m. of the clock, the time when the consideration of Private Members' Business expires and we automatically proceed to the consideration of Government Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE "THE PENSIONS (PENSIONABLE OFFICES) ORDER, 1963"

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Government Business stands in the name of the Honourable and Learned Premier:— To move the passing of the following Resolution:— Resolution to approve the Order entitled "The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) Order, 1963.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this Order which is entitled "The Pensions (Pensionable Offices) Order, 1963", really seeks to consolidate into one Order

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was just about to ask the Hon. Leader of the House if he were seeking or about to seek the leave of the House to proceed with this Order which stands in the name of the Hon. and learned Premier.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I know that the Standing Orders of the House make all of these technicalities imperative, but it is more or less obvious that it is because of the absence of the Hon. Premier that I rose to take charge of this Order. I am merely taking charge of this Order because of the Hon. Premier's absence.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Deputy Premier is asking leave of the House to take charge of this Order which stands in the name of the Hon. Premier. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. *(After a pause).* There being apparently no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Deputy Premier to take charge of this Order.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying just now, the object of this Order is really to bring the Order affecting Government Pensions up to date both in respect of the creation of certain new posts as well as changing the titles of certain posts. All the offices to which the Order applies are included in the Schedule attached to the Pensions Act as set out in the Order from page 2 to page 19 wherein are set out the posts of all the full-time offices which have been established up to and including the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, 1962. The Order has been made by His Excellency the Governor in pursuance of the powers conferred on him by Sub-section (1) (a) of Section 2 of the Pensions Act, 1947, (1947-20). I think that all the offices have been arranged in order of seniority and I think you will find that the offices of Chief Justice and Puisne Judge are now included under the Head "Judiciary" and you will also find that the members of the Police Force below the rank of Superintendent and members of the Fire Service below the rank of Station Officer are at present by virtue of Section 3 of the Pensions Act, 1949, eligible for pensions under this Act and they are also included in this Schedule. 4.35 p.m.

I do not think, Sir, that there is need for me to say much more about this draft Order, because it is merely, as I said, to consolidate previous similar Orders and to cover all the full-time officers established up to and including the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 5) Order, 1962. It is fairly simple and I will say completely self-explanatory, and I do not think I need take up the time of the House any longer in presenting it.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw two matters to the attention of the Government in connection with this Resolution which we are passing. One is in a general way and the other is in a specific way. On the specific matter, I do not think the Hon. Minister would be able to answer me today, but I would ask him to investigate the matter and find out if the Civil Service Association is doing anything about it. I understand that under the Pensions Act of Barbados, there are two kinds of operations. I understand that the teachers have one operation, while the one which we are consolidating is another. That is to say, if an officer retires overseas as a teacher or was working overseas and came here, there is a reciprocal arrangement with overseas territories in which they give the officer a pension on the salary that he was receiving; but I understand that in Barbados if an officer had been working with the Barbados Government and is appointed overseas, he does not get the pension included up to the time he retires if he retires overseas, but gets it cut off at the Barbados point. I understand that the Teachers Amendment gives a more favourable construction and take in the Barbados service; that is to say, if a man retires overseas and had been a teacher in Barbados, the salary he was getting in Barbados goes on and everything is consolidated and done on a reciprocal basis. If that has not been done, Sir, it looks to me to be a very fair adjustment.

Now in a general way, I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister that we passed a Casual Employees Pension Act here which gives casual employees the right of having a pension; but owing to the maladministration in this part of the Secretariat, they run these poor men all about before they can get the few pennies. There is no point in passing legislation and then they are not keeping any proper records, or there seems to be some peculiar system whereby people cannot get their money. I want to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister that there is a man by the name of James Hinds — and I do not want to take away any thunder from any of the members of St. Michael, but I see none of the members from St. Michael in his seat — and he is from Tudor Bridge, St. Michael. He is not from St. Peter; so you will see I am not a parish-pump politician who only regards something that happens in St. Peter as worthy of my submission to Government. This man was a casual employee with the Public Works Department as a mason for a period of twenty-five years, and some time in 1961 he was compulsorily superannuated, and applied to the Governor-in-Executive Committee for a gratuity in respect of his service. His letter was acknowledged on 3rd August, 1961, No. 0010 Vol. III/200. On the 29th August, 1961, he was asked to report at the Public Works Department, and since that day he has been going the rounds of the Government Departments, and up to today he has not received one cent. He submitted affidavits on 22nd June, 1962, all to no avail.

Now I want to say this to the Minister: this is not a case in isolation. Apparently when this law was passed, Mr. Speaker, it brought in so many people who would be eligible, that the Administration seemed not to be geared to meet a situation like this, and maybe they have a bundle of pay sheets at the Drill Hall and at other places, and each time a man has to go and search up a name like James Hinds, he has to rummage through a large number of pay sheets. Some of these men do not have their pay cheques to show, though under the legislation we have passed, members of the Government can say that we are providing everybody with pensions, even casual employees, but casual employees are catching hell. (Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Order!) That is nothing unparliamentary; it does not bring anybody's name into disgrace.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is permissible, though perhaps not extremely elegant.

Mr. WALCOTT: I think the inelegance of the language made the Minister look up. These men are really in a serious plight, and I have gone to the trouble of calling the gentleman's name for the Government to see that there is no point in passing legislation unless the Administration can be geared to meet these things. Why should a man be compulsorily superannuated in 1961 and he must take two

years to get his money, and then you will hear someone say that the Government pays a pension to casual employees? To whom are you going to give his pension? To his beneficiaries? Are you going to wait until he dies? If he has been superannuated, you can understand he is not a boy; by all means he is far from twenty-one. I should like the Minister to regard this as a responsibility of the Government to see that the Administration is geared to meet these things. I say that because today it is different from when you had the old system when the Ministers were not responsible for administration. Today the Ministers are responsible for the administration under them, and I think it would be positively unfair to the men concerned to ask them to wait so long to get their money. I do hope that I would not have to come back here again with it, but that the Minister would institute an investigation into the Department and tell us in this House why it is that a man who has been superannuated in 1961 has to wait two years before he can get his pension. If there is a breakdown in the Administration, then the Minister should undertake without delay to have the administrative machinery so geared that it can give the public better service.

It is a positive disgrace to any community, Mr. Speaker, to have a Government administration fumbling around with things that the Legislature has passed, and you have people waiting and cannot get the service. I would like to see a proper investigation carried out into this matter of the casual employees, because many of them are poor men and have to go around hunting their respective representatives in the Legislature to ask them to do something about it, but I consider I was not going to the various Departments asking about these things. Today it coincided with this Pensioners Order, and I told the man concerned that I would raise it at the proper source, that is, with the Minister who introduced the Order on pensions, and draw to his attention the extremely unsatisfactory state of affairs which exist in this sector of the Government Department under which people are called upon to wait.
4.45 p.m.

If they need more staff, let them say to the Minister that they need more staff; but do not wait on somebody to go down to the Drill Hall to look for something. They must be able to evolve something and say to the Minister "This is what it is." There must be some method rather than keeping people waiting a long lot of months. This man has been all around, and he is a very frustrated old man. His name is Mr. James Hinds. He has worked for over a period of 25 years and was compulsorily superannuated. An Act was passed by this Legislature in order that these people who were entitled should enjoy this right, and now the Act is on the Statute Book, we should see to it that the recipients get their due expeditiously. I hope the Hon. Minister will carry out an investigation into this matter.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Introducer of this Resolution said that it was to bring pensions up-to-date and in line with other posts. That is a fact; you must bring everything up-to-date. You should not bring some things up-to-date and not other things.

We are dealing with Government Pensioners, the ones who are still in the Public Service and who hope to retire, but I am wondering about the ones who have retired already. They need consideration too. We have retired Government Pensioners who worked for a very low salary. In other words, they are getting — some of them — pensions as low as \$6.00 a month, and that is so with the cost of living as it is. These pensioners have contributed to the working of this Government; they have contributed to the wealth of this country and they have worked day in and day out and made a very good job in those days, comparatively speaking, when they were working for nothing. It is time now that they should be considered. Increases have been given time and time again to people in the Service, and these low paid pensioners are still trying to eke out a livelihood out of the small pittance they get.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, if I may intervene on a point of elucidation, may I just say that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph himself has just said that he raised this question some time ago. I take it that he

meant some time last year. I merely intervened to say that I can say no more than what was said by the Hon. Premier himself less than four weeks ago in reply to the same point raised by the same hon. member, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. The hon. member was told that this matter was under active consideration and that in a short time the Legislature would be asked to implement proposals for giving an appropriate consideration which the Government feels itself constrained to give to these Government Pensioners.

If I may intervene on a point of elucidation, I merely want to inform the hon. member that we have heard his complaint before, and at the introduction of the Appropriation Bill, the hon. member was informed by no less a person than the Hon. Premier that the matter was under active consideration.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, ever since last year I heard that this was under consideration and under everything. I was expecting and looking forward to see an amount come down in the Estimates to provide an increase in payment to these pensioners; but up to now, nothing has been done. First things first. These people are starving and dying. They are seeing all sorts of colours for starvation, and this Government promised these people at election time and in their manifesto that they would do everything in their power to increase the pensions. They have stated in their manifesto that they will increase old age pensions to a minimum of \$2.40 a week to assist in easing the burden of the aged. They have also said that the present Government has completely ignored the claims of Government Pensioners for increases to cope with the steady and relentless rise in the cost of living which we have experienced during the past ten years. All that is in the manifesto of the present Government. They said that if they were elected they would see to it; and here it is the Ministers year after year tell us that it is under consideration and under everything. They have stated further that the Party will therefore set up a Committee to recommend a scale of increases for this deserving group of Government Pensioners.

This is their manifesto — not mine. I have not printed it. Every time they say that it is under active consideration, it is this and it is that, and for ten years the last Government was suffering the pensioners and they know it. No sooner than they have got into power it seems as if the cost of living is lowered for the pensioners only. It is dishonest to be doing a thing like this because these people were fooled.

You promised a minimum of \$2.40 to the other pensioners and they have received it. Why is it that these Government Pensioners cannot get theirs? Is it because they are in the minority? I am saying that the prayers of these people will be heard. They are in the minority and you are saying that they cannot put you in or take you out, but God will help them. As I have said, some of them only receive \$5.00 or \$6.00 per month and they are old, old people. They have been promised help. You have said to them that "if you put me in, I will do this and that for you." You were in power for two years, and it is only for you to make an increase of some sort. But what has happened is that everytime I get up on the floor of the House and try to plead for an increase for them, some Minister gets up and says that the matter is under consideration. That is a first class excuse. "It is under serious consideration," and "it is under active consideration" and they make no effort even to consider it.
4.55 p.m.

Whenever they tell us that, we can only go by that and sit down and wait. I am not a pensioner, thank God, and I am still waiting; but what do you think of these pensioners? Up to this morning one of these people came to me and said: "Skipper, I see in the newspaper today that they are going to discuss pensions; I have just come from Mr. Sealey and I now come to you." It looks to me, Mr. Speaker, as if as soon as you become a Minister, the people are afraid of you. It does not appear to me that people approach the Ministers as they approach the ordinary member or, if they do approach them, their hearts are very hard. It seems to

me that as soon as a person goes up to the Ministerial Buildings in Bay Street his heart becomes hard, like concrete or something like that. When people go to the Ministerial buildings they seem to forget everything, but I should like to remind them that they cannot get up there without the votes of the people.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter which should be one of high priority. Comparatively speaking, the amount mentioned would be a very small amount for pensioners. Do you mean to say that they cannot even set up a Committee to go into this matter, even if the Committee were to recommend less than what the pensioners are getting now? The word "Pensioner" means that a person is not working. Of course, there are those people who go out of the Service and they work for more than when they were in the Service. I am not speaking about them. There are some policemen who have got some good blows, some good stick lashes, and what do you think they are getting today? — No consideration by way of a pension. I know a Policeman who can scarcely walk; he was running from a prisoner who threw a stone and struck him on one of his ankles and he was of no more use. Here it is that people are told that the last Government was penalising them, but I would like to ask: What is the present Government doing now? I hope they will do something and not be fooling the people all the time. Of course, they can only fool some of the people for some of the time; they cannot fool all the people all of the time. However, the days are flying fast as far as the D.L.P. Government is concerned.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member who has just sat down should not generate more heat than he can conveniently contain. He should not, particularly in matters which he knows are under the Government's active consideration — I use that phrase without any apology to him — try to make out that this Government is in any way dishonest or try to put it in the wrong. He is one of the members of this House who heard, exactly two weeks ago, the categorical assurance given by the Head of this Government that this matter of Government Pensions was nearing solution and that the Government hoped within a very short time to announce what we are all wishing to see done for the pensioners. What the hon. member is trying to do here this afternoon is sheer hypocrisy. I have no hesitation in saying that if when your own voice, Mr. Speaker, was raised in this House on this question of Government pensioners as recently as June or July, 1961, the hon. member's voice could have been added to yours, then perhaps the same people for whom he now appears to be so sorry would have been living more happily. But it was only a question of a few voices in those days and the hon. member's voice was not one of them. We are not going to put up with this state of affairs from the hon. member from week to week; we are not going to have this nonsense that this Party which is now running the Government has betrayed the people. We do not think that the hon. member could have more care and more solicitude for the people of this Island than we have. We are not even prepared to lay baits or bandy words about who cares for the people most. The fact that in so short a time we have been able to make an impression should be sufficient to answer the hon. member and those who think like him. We are a bit fed up in hearing that this Government is in the wrong, that it is betraying the interest of the people and the people are only waiting for a chance to change the Government. This is a democracy; it will remain so; and if the time comes for a change, so be it; but now this Government is administering the affairs of this country and it claims for itself the credit of knowing, at least as much as the hon. member knows, what the people require and of knowing more than he knows how soon and in what manner to let the people have it. (*Cheers*).

Mr. SPEAKER: Is any other hon. member seeking to contribute to this debate before the Hon. Deputy Premier exercises the right of the final reply? (*Pause*) Apparently there is no hon. member who wants to contribute to this debate and therefore let the Hon. Deputy Premier proceed to reply finally.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for St. Peter has referred to the case of James Hinds who is a compulsorily retired Public Works employee

and who, after having served for twenty-five years, is yet to receive his pension. There could be no excuse for the failure of that retired or any retired public employee to receive a pension to which he is entitled after a period of many years' service, and during this time he might well have died. Apparently, what has happened is, and the hon. member is fully aware, that this Pension Act in relation to casual employees in the Service is of recent date. No records were kept as far back as even five or ten years, far more twenty-five years, with regard to the service of these people, and therefore now that legislation has been enacted to provide them with their pension rights, it follows that intensive surveys have to be made in order to ensure that the length of service and the computation on an annual or other basis conforms with the requirements of the Act, and all of that sort of thing. These investigations of records not having been properly kept are not always or readily available and they are naturally time-consuming. That is in no way to mitigate the obvious injustice which is involved in the protracted delay which has ensued between the time during which this man has applied for his pension and the present time up to which he has not received it. 5.05 p.m.

I can assure the hon. member that I myself have had many similar complaints from people in similar circumstances. I know of one affecting a worker employed by the Southern District Council which for three years still remains unattended, but on the excuse, of course, that records are very difficult to obtain and investigations are being carried out. I think what the Government will have to do in a case like this is to employ special people to begin now to search through the records and bring them up to date in the cases of each and every person who will be eventually entitled to a pension under the legislation under reference, so that by the time the person resigns, there would not be so much time involved in seeing they get a pension to which they are entitled. I can promise the hon. member that I will have the matter brought to the appropriate Government Department to see to it that the case of the pension of James Hinds is expedited.

I do not think, Sir, that I need waste much time in replying to the other comments made today by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph during this debate. If the hon. junior member for St. Joseph says that after you become a Minister apparently your heart becomes made of concrete, all I can say, Sir, is that apparently not even to become a Minister but even to join his Party and become a member of it and to remain in Parliament for fifteen years, his heart is made of steel, because for fifteen years he sat here and you never heard the slightest whine from him at any time at all about the plight of these poor pensioners. It is only God's mercy that his Party lost, because if, as he said, these pensioners are starving and dying, if his Party had got back in, they would be dead. It is the sheer mercy of the Almighty on these pensioners that for the last fifteen months his Party has had nothing to do with the destinies of this country, because every single one of them would have been dead, and, Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that he, as an undertaker, would have been delighted to have some of them to bury.

The fact, Mr. Speaker, is that the Government, as you know, inherited a deficit of \$3 million when it came into office in December, 1961. For months we were, as the hon. senior member for St. Peter would say, scraping the bottom of the barrel trying to get ends to meet. We went ahead and implemented our promise with regard to the old age pensioners; they were then getting \$1.80 a week and we gave them \$2.40. It was absolutely impossible in one and the same financial year to have faced up to and overcome a deficit of approximately \$3 million, to increase the old age pensions, and to extend the financial commitments of the Government in other directions as we have, and at the same time implement all of the other undertakings which we gave which would have involved the Government in further financial expenditure. I want to re-emphasize again that it was not merely the question of the estimated deficit on the yearly working and the old age pensions which we increased by \$130,000; it was also a question of facing up to other commitments over and above those which the Government undertook during its first term of office.

We are now, Sir, on the beginning of the second year of office. The hon. member for some reason or other wants to advance the time by nine months. He said we were in for two years, but the period is near to fifteen or sixteen months. I do not know, Sir, if the hon. member is counting the days with such apprehension because he sees the handwriting on the wall and he feels that the end of our tenure of office would coincide with his membership of the House, and therefore he is anticipating this disaster so seriously and it is such an obsession with him that he has lost count of the time involved; but we are not in any way concerned with his prognostications. I think the people in this country are more than satisfied that the Government is living up to and has endeavoured to live up to its promise, and that none of its promises will remain unimplemented in the course of time.

The hon. junior member for St. Lucy, Sir, has reminded the House of the pledge made by the Hon. Minister of Finance a mere fortnight ago on the introduction of the current Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue, that this matter is under consideration. As a matter of fact, in an undertone he actually said to me at the time what it is going to cost the Government to implement these proposals for increased pensions for retired public employees and the House is going to be amazed, I know, at the amount of money which it is going to cost to make this provision. If, Sir, we have done something to satisfy the old age pensioners, the arrangements for the administration of which was a comparatively easy matter, it should be expected that attention to the pensions would involve a little more time, apart entirely from the question of making financial provision for this circumstance. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph must endeavour on any and every occasion to bolster a dying cause. We sympathise with him. We appreciate the last flicker of the candle before it goes out; but we do suggest in all conscience to himself and in full memory of the part he played negatively, it is true, in allowing all these conditions to drift to the crucial point at which they are today — for this he should in future exercise a little more caution in drawing attention to them, because, as he said, the electors are not sleeping.

5.15 p.m.

I can hear the electors of St. Joseph in the not too distant future suddenly asking him how it is that this great Rip Van Winkle who now represents them and who has been sleeping for all these years has now suddenly awakened to all of the ills which they have been suffering! It seems to

me that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph may well be the Rip Van Winkle of the 20th century. He has been sleeping for nearly seventeen years and has now awakened, and his is now the most condemning voice to the Party to which he belongs. As a matter of fact, it seems to me that he is doing more to bury them than what we can do.

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

SELECT COMMITTEES DISCHARGED

Mr. SPEAKER: Before we proceed further, I am going to avail myself of this opportunity to discharge with my thanks certain Select Committees which have completed their labours.

These are the following:-

The Select Committee which was appointed to consider and report on the Bill to repeal the Public Health Act, 1908 and the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1945;

Also, the Select Committee which was appointed to consider and report on the Bill to amend the Registration (Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials) Act, 1891;

Likewise, the Select Committee which was appointed to consider and report on the Bill to authorise the Lord Bishop of Barbados and the Rector of St. Michael to sell the Church Village Girls' School.

I thank every member of these Committees for their labours and the results thereof.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, that brings Government Business to an end for today.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 16th April, 1963, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

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

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

5.25 p.m.