THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 23rd 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)*; Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Mr. F. E. MILLER; Mr. E. ST.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Mr. C. E. TALMA, *(Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries)*; Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., *(Minister of Education)*; Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. S. E. SEALEY; Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P., *(Deputy Speaker)*; Mr. G. V. BATSON, *(Chairman of Committees)*.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret to inform the House that the Minutes of the past few meetings are not yet ready. It is hoped they will be circulated before the next meeting.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier who is not now in his place, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Statement showing the sums of money advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 31st December, 1962.

Statement showing the sums of money advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 31st January, 1963.

Statement showing net Customs and Excise receipts for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1963.

An Account of the Transactions in Rum in the Several Districts of the Island for the quarter ended 31st March, 1963.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Agreement between Hilton Hotels International Incorporated and the Barbados Development Board.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 65/1962, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas on the 7th August, 1962, is now ready.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

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

"WHEREAS poor people who are in receipt of Public Assistance from the various Public Assistance Committees are experiencing great difficulty to eat one adequate meal per day, through the high cost of living, and the very small amount they receive from the Public Assistance Committee;

AND WHEREAS no increase has been given for the last five years since the change over from the Vestry system to Local Government;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request Government to introduce Regulations without further delay in order that the various Councils can make increases on the pensions paid to these people."

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Resolution stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not yet ready to give notice of that Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following Question:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

In view of the Statement made by the Honourable Premier in the House at its last sitting, 16th April, 1963, that the rum merchants put up the price of rum and not one of the Opposition asked one word about it, will the Minister make a statement at the next sitting of the House as to what action the Government is taking to find out if the increase is justifiable or not?

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, although it is Your Honour's prerogative, I am wondering if it is permissible for a member of the House to ask a question about the action of the Opposition in the House. The Government cannot answer in any way for any member of the Opposition not doing something in the House. I just ask for Your Honour's clarification.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will say that this question or apparently some of these questions have come in after my normal deadline. The Clerk assures me that they are in conformity with the Standing Orders; but if I discover that any one is not in order, it will be automatically deleted from the Order Paper.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following question: -

To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Education:

Is Government aware of the widespread dissatisfaction existing among the parents who have to contribute through direct and indirect taxation to free Secondary Education and School meals, and yet have to pay for their children fully to be educated at other private schools?

2. Will the Minister state if it is the intention of his Government to help those children along the same line as those children who are enjoying free education at the Government-aided Schools; and if not, why not?
2.50 p.m.

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

Is Government aware that large ships of the ore-carrying type have lodged complaints re the inadequacy of fender protection at the Deep Water Harbour?

2. If the answer to No.1 is in the affirmative, will Government investigate the said complaints with a view to remedying same as soon as possible?

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

Is the Minister aware that the corner known as Sturges and Spring Vale corner situated in St. Thomas, is a threat and great danger to limb and life because of the narrowness of the road at the said corner?

2. Will the Minister issue a directive to Highways and Transport to have the said corner widened without delay?

Also,

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will the Minister use his good offices and request the Northern District Council to effect repairs to the road known as Arthur Seat Road, running north and south from Melrose to Arthur Seat in St. Thomas?

Mr. SEALEY: To enquire of the Hon. Premier:

Is the Minister aware that there is grave dissatisfaction among the members of the Police Force as to their general conditions of service, especially with regard to the method of promotion, and the standard of discipline required?

2. Will the Minister cause an investigation to be made into the general administration of the Force at his earliest convenience?

Mr. SEALEY: To enquire of the Hon. Premier:

Is the Minister aware that female members of the Police Force are being assigned to the duty of Van Orderly which is unsuitable to them and more suitable to male members of the said Force?

2. Is the Minister aware that such an assignment creates a hardship upon such female members?

3. Will the Minister investigate the matter as soon as possible?

SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT LAID

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the Report of the Select Committee *re* the Parker Edghill Bill.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: This is Question Time. It should be recalled that at the previous meeting, supplementary questions were being put in connection with Question No. 72/1962, which was asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas Hon. members indicated that they intended to put further supplementaries when the hour of 3.15 p.m. arrived, which was the expiration of Question Time. Is any hon. member proposing to ask further supplementary questions on Question No. 72/1962?

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir. At the last meeting, I was asking the Hon. Minister of Communications a supplementary question to that question and I will repeat it. I asked if he was aware of the inconvenience which was being caused to the workers of the Transport Board by their having to take photographs in order to obtain work and then to find suitable persons to sign those photographs. What really is the cause?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, for the information of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, I have not been aware that members of the Transport Board have been called upon to produce photographs to obtain employment.

Mr. SMITH: Will the Hon. Minister have that supplementary question investigated and report back to the House?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I have investigated this question already and I am perfectly sure that the Transport Board does not require its employees to have photographs taken.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, it appears that I have mentioned the Transport Board. I meant the Department of Highways and Transport, I did not mean the Transport Board in Roebuck Street. *(Laughter).*

Mr. SPEAKER: Then the supplementary question applies to the Highways and Transport Department.

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, before you pass on —

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am awaiting to hear the reply from the Hon. Minister.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph asked me about the Transport Board and I told him that I had investigated it and I was perfectly sure that the Transport Board did not require its employees to submit photographs for employment.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, this supplementary question arose from the question asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. Did the hon. member ask about the Transport Board?

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 72/1962 dealt with employees of the Highways and Transport Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next is Question No. 38/1962, standing in the name —

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, before you put the question, let me ask if the Hon. Minister has replied?

Mr. SPEAKER: No.

Mr. SMITH: The Minister has not replied to my question yet.
3.00 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I may point out that the Hon. Minister is not under any obligation to answer a supplementary question. He is under no Parliamentary obligation to answer such a question and there is no punitive sanction which may be incurred.

FATAL ACCIDENTS AT EDGHILL

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 98 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is now ready to be dealt with.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that at the bend at Edghill via Shop Hill, St. Thomas there have been quite a few fatal accidents in the past?

2. Will Government therefore construct a guardwall and put up danger signs in order to check such disastrous accidents from occurring in the future?

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

"Records for the past five years show that no fatal accident has occurred in Shop Hill, near the bend at Edghill, St. Thomas.

Consideration is however being given to the construction of a concrete haunch to the road and the kerb, but it is felt that no signs are necessary."

CHANGE OF TEXT BOOKS USED IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Question ready to be dealt with is Question No. 80, also standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware of the unnecessary expense and inconvenience that parents of children who attend Government Schools are experiencing from time to time in obtaining books that are changed more often than necessary?

2. Will Government investigate the matter with a view to having all text books used in Government Schools standardised and as far as possible uniform?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's Question is as follows:

"Pupils attending Primary Schools throughout the Island are provided with text books free of cost. Government in its own interest ensures that changes of text books in the Primary Schools are made as infrequently as is compatible with the need to keep education abreast of modern developments. There is, therefore, no question of expense or inconvenience to parents at this level.

In the Grammar Schools, however, changes of books or series of books in the fifth and sixth forms, particularly in the yearly set books, are inevitable in order to comply with overseas examination requirements. The problems and hardships experienced by frequent changes in text books are however appreciated and schools have been asked to exercise every care in the choice of, or change in, text books.

The Ministry is encouraging the writing, production, and publication locally of text books suitable to the environment and experience of pupils in our schools."

NON-REMOVAL OF HOUSES FROM FARMER'S TENANTRY

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been intimated to me that the Reply to Question No. 65/1962 has been laid today. That Question is now ready to be dealt with. It also stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that there are still a number of houses in Farmer's Tenantry, St. Thomas, that have not as yet been removed despite the fact that the said tenantry was to have been abandoned due to the inconvenience and danger that confronted those who live there?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will Government immediately set about resiting the said houses as the owners are unable financially to remove same?

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

"The Housing Authority never proposed to abandon Farmer's Tenantry but was prepared wherever possible to assist tenants who were desirous of having their houses resited.

This Tenantry was divided into two sections — the Lower and Upper Tenantry and each contained 16 houses. The Lower Tenantry was situated a distance from the main road and away from piped water and the approach track was in a bad condition, especially after heavy rainfalls. The Upper Tenantry is nearer to the main road and to piped water.

A small area of grassland adjoining the main road was purchased, but due to the contour of this land, only 22 houses could be accommodated thereon.

15 of the tenants living in the Lower Tenantry were removed to the new area and the remaining tenant moved to a private spot in another area.

The remaining 7 spots in the new area were occupied by 6 houses from the Upper Tenantry and 1 from an adjoining area.

The remaining ten tenants in the Upper Tenantry have not applied to the Housing Authority for house spots, but house spots can be made available at Bagatelle Housing Estate, St. Thomas, for these tenants if they so request."

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no more Replies to Questions ready as far as I am aware, and the House may accordingly proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

THE TRUSTEES FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC PURPOSES REGISTERED (INCORPORATION IN BARBADOS) BILL, 1962.

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.
3.10 p.m.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, the Select Committee met on this Bill and has agreed in principle on the Bill. There have been amendments of a trivial nature on the question of punctuation and the changing of certain letters to capitals. The Report has been laid, and, as I understand, has been circulated.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion for the third reading of the Bill. This Bill has been well examined by the Committee, and the amendments that are before members today are of a typographical nature and also due to a difference between draughtsmen. The solicitors today will draft a Bill in one manner and the Government's legal staff have new methods, and they seem to vary; but it makes no difference to the principle of the Bill, and for that reason I second the third reading of this Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the hon. member moved that the Report be adopted?

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Report as circulated be adopted.

Mr. GODDARD: I beg to second that.

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

On the separate motions of Mr. CARMICHAEL, seconded in each case by Mr. GODDARD, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

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.

THE SAINT GEORGE'S RECTORY (RECTOR'S RESIDENCE) ACT, 1962.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, the Select Committee has met and the Report has been laid with certain typographical amendments.

I therefore beg to move that this Report be adopted.

Mr. YEARWOOD: I beg to second that.

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

On the separate motions of Mr. LOWE, seconded in each case by Mr. YEARWOOD, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, and when that matter was last discussed in this Chamber, the Hon. Deputy Premier was speaking, that is on the 19th February. Perhaps the Hon. Minister of Trade might inform me whether he had completed his speech or whether he is prepared to resume.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, since I observe that the Hon. Mover of the Bill is not in his place, I do not propose to proceed with further debate today.

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day is also in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, and that is in reference to a Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act which had been sent to Select Committee.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask that Order No. 6 standing in my name be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. junior member for St. George ready with the Bill to incorporate the Young Women's Christian Association of Barbados?

Mr. MILLER: It is hoped that we will be in a position to handle it on Tuesday next.

Mr. SPEAKER: We will now proceed to Order No. 6 standing 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.

THE EDWARD PARKER EDGHILL (CONSTRUCTION OF GROYNE) ACT, 1962.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, the Select Committee met and the Report has been laid with amendments. It is in the hands of all members, and I beg to move that the Report be adopted.

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

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

On the separate motions of Mr. GODDARD, seconded in each case by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

3.20 p.m.

ORDER NO. 7 POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for Christ Church: To move the Third Reading of a Bill to incorporate the Home for Elderly Gentlemen in Straightened Circumstances.

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

Mr. WAY APPOINTED AUDITOR

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the appointment of Mr. A. B. Way as Auditor for the Sugar Industry Agriculture Bank at a salary of $600 per annum as from 1st June, 1962.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, in view of the scheduled meeting of the Local Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at 3.30 o'clock, I beg to move that the sitting of this House be now suspended for three-quarters of an hour as from 3.30 o'clock.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, if you suspend the Sitting of this House for three-quarters of an hour, and the meeting of the Local Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association lasts longer than three-quarters of an hour, what will happen? (A VOICE: That will be until 4.15 o'clock.) (ANOTHER VOICE: You better make it until 4.00 o'clock.)

The question that the sitting of the House be suspended until 4.15 p.m. was put and resolved in the affimative on the declaration of Mr. SPEAKER, "I think the Ayes have it".

Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

3. 30 p.m.

On re-assembling,

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, there is no quorum present and I ask that the Bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the hon. member for drawing that to my attention. Let the Bell be rung.

On the bell being rung, a quorum was obtained.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

ORDERS POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 8 under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael:-

To resume debate on a Resolution re the operation of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme.

When this matter was last debated in this Chamber, the Hon. Leader of the House was speaking when Government Business was called. Does the Hon. Leader of the House intend to continue his address this afternoon?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Hon. Minister under whose Portfolio this matter falls, although it does not depend entirely on him, since he is directly concerned with the matter, I beg to move that further consideration of this Resoluton be postponed until the next meeting of the House.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order is 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.

That matter is awaiting the Report of the Farley Commission which has been appointed to consider all aspects of the sugar industry in Barbados.

The next Order is to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution relative to the amendment of the Barbados Scholarship Act, 1890.

The hon. member, in whose name this Order stands, is not in his place.

With regard to the next two Orders, although the hon. member in whose name they stand is not now in his place, I should like to point out that notice of these two Resolutions was given on the 29th January of this year and three months will expire within a very short time from now. Unless any action is taken on these Resolutions, Standing Order No. 24 (3) will apply to each of them and they will be deemed to have been withdrawn from the Order Paper unless, of course, the House otherwise orders.

The next Order stands in the name of the hon. junior member for the City:-

To move the passing of a Resolution relative to the degree course to be instituted at the proposed University College in Barbados.

Again, the hon. junior member is not in his place.

The next two Orders stand in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph who, likewise, is not in his place.

There are not other Orders under Private Members' Business and automatically we must proceed to the consideration of Government Business.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Government Business stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Education, who at last week's meeting, was Acting Leader of the House. That Order is to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant 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.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: 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.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER TO THE PREMIER

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is a Resolution to place the sum of $7,230 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates, 1963-64, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1963-64, No. 2, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

As hon. members will see from the Addendum to this Resolution, this sum of money is required to meet the cost of the engagement of a Personal Assistant and Public Relations Officer to the Premier for the remainder of the financial year. The salary attached to the post is at the rate of $6,600 per annum; the travelling allowance is at the rate of $80 per month and the furniture and equipment of the office is estimated to cost $300, which makes a total of $7,230.

Mr. Chairman, I do not anticipate any opposition to this Resolution, except perhaps on the part of those whose conception of Government today is still inspired by eighteenth century thinking. Nobody with a full realisation of what administering the affairs of a country in this 20th century effectively means will cavil at this proposed expenditure to provide the Head of the Government with some personal assistance. Of course, it may well be that there are still in this Chamber some people whose thinking has been conditioned mainly by the approach to these matters which has been current in this country for the last six or eight years; but I do believe that all well-thinking people, and people who can appreciate the manner in which this Government is tackling the affairs of the country and the responsibility which consequently devolves on the shoulders of the Premier, will readily concede that this appointment has been long overdue.
4.25 p.m.

Apart from the extent of our own programme, Sir, the Government has embarked upon far-reaching developments in every aspect of national life, and its approach to these problems is conditioned by the approach characteristic of people who know what they are about, and we are prepared to give this country what it needs, and to do so, Sir, in a manner which will stand the test of all times.

The Addendum to the Resolution, Sir, points out that the demands of the holder of the office of Premier have become so exacting that it is impossible for him to keep pace with the work. These demands include important interviews, personal correspondence, official correspondence addressed to him personally, day-to-day public relations with the Press, Radio and public, visits to places both in and out of the Island and attendance at official functions, all of which are additional to his normal duties of responsibility for the Ministry of Finance, his general office and the Home Affairs section, Chairman of the Cabinet and a Minister and a member of the Legislature. It is therefore proposed to employ a Personal Assistant and Public Relations Officer to the Premier who will undertake all duties associated with a confidential secretary and personal aide.

Now I said earlier, Sir, that apart from the complexity and the diversified range of duties falling on the Head of the Government, he has, as is explained in the Addendum, to fill the office of Premier and Minister of Finance, and he has to attend sittings of the Legislature apart from the day to day running of the office. Now in neighbouring Trinidad, the Government headed by Dr. Eric Williams, which at least in its objective and method of approach approximates to this Government in its conduct of Government affairs, after trying it out for one session — the Premier there had to relinquish the post of Minister of Finance. He found it impossible as Premier to co-ordinate all the activities of the Ministries, attend to all the matters falling under his portfolio - Police, Home Affairs, Establishment and others - and in addition to that be Minister of Finance, and I think, Sir, that every single member in this Chamber will concede most readily that the financial condition in which we found this colony warranted the full-time attention of a Minister of Finance in order to put the equilibrium of the country on a more even keel; and therefore, Sir, for the Premier, in addition to these posts and in addition to the responsibility of his portfolio, to have also to run the Ministry of Finance, obviously must impose what is almost intolerable strain. And if a man of the capacity and entity of Dr. Williams in Trinidad found it physically impossible to cope with the dual responsibility of Premier and Minister of Finance, it is not to be marvelled at that the Premier in this country has also reached a stage where he finds it absolutely impossible to maintain all these duties without some sort of Personal Assistant.

I said earlier that our approach to the problems confronting the Government parallels the approach of Gov-

ernments in other countries of the world attuned to the tempo of the Twentieth Century and geared to the task of implementing a programme of development suited to the economic needs of the country. As one indication of the manner in which we approach these problems, we have established a Central Planning Committee comprised of the Premier as Chairman, some of the Ministers and the appropriate Department Heads, the Financial Secretary, the members of the Economic Planning Unit, the Public Works Department officials and what not, and this Committee meets regularly every fortnight. I make bold to say that the activities of the Central Planning Committee alone almost require the services of a Minister to control them and co-ordinate them. Everything done by the Ministry of Communications and Works, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Development and Trade, and every matter of any importance is first discussed in detail by the Central Planning Committee, and a considerable amount of time is spent fortnightly on the activities and operations of this Committee, and there again the Premier has to leave the basic duties attached to his office to preside over the meetings of the Central Planning Committee.

Now personally, Sir, I think that the fact that the Government is tackling as many things as it is tackling simultaneously and the range of its programme is to a great extent due to the efficiency and the capacity of the Premier as a qualified economist, and I would go so far as to say that it really would be difficult for the uninitiated person to appreciate the amount of economic planning, the factual research, the investigation and all of the other elementary essential things that are done before the Government makes a decision on any important matter. I know, Sir, that there is a feeling in the community at the moment that we are not proceeding as fast as we should.
4.35 p.m.

I do not think that this is really the opinion of people who really think, because I think this is the result of the fact that we only asked for a three-year term and normally no thinking people would expect a Government to get on its feet and carry out all it desired in three years; but because we were bold enough to ask for a three-year term, people naturally expect us to perform miracles and accomplish what other Governments normally would take twice the time to accomplish.

I only mentioned this in passing to say if apparently some of our most cherished schemes take some time to get off the ground, it is because we are prepared that when they start off, they start off with the maximum amount of success as is humanly possible.

In so far as the number of schemes which we inherited as a backlog from the last Government is concerned, there again our approach is conditioned by our conviction that in these, as in all matters, basic consideration must come first and when we do start to implement them, the chances of failure are completely remote. For instance, if I might mention but two such things, they are the East Coast Road and the Mortgage Insurance Scheme for the country. In so far as the East Coast Road is concerned, this would get off the ground in about two weeks; but it has taken months and months of planning by the Central Planning Committee, reams of correspondence and a number of talks by the Hon. Premier himself in Washington and elsewhere, before we reached the point where we can say that we are about to start; because quite apart from the technical surveys required to carry out a project of this sort, it is a question of equipment, a question of appreciation of land values in the area, a question of public surveys and what not, and all these have taken up a lot of time and attention and a lot of planning. Similarly, as I have said, it is with the Mortgage Insurance Scheme for housing. These are merely two of a number of old matters which demand attention, and entirely apart from the large number and the complexity of projects which we ourselves have initiated and which we are embarking on at the very earliest date.

I feel anyone with the most nodding acquaintance of the duties and responsibilities in Barbados today would lend ready acceptance to a proposal to provide a Cabinet member at ordinary ministerial level with additional assistance; therefore, so much the more would they do it for the Head of the Cabinet himself to be able to have someone at his side on whom he can call at all times for assistance, and more important, Sir, that he should be completely free in the selection of this Assistant in order to provide himself with someone who in his opinion has the same outlook as he himself, the same approach to problems and to some extent someone who would act in a similar capacity and one on whom he can have complete reliance and confidence.

I do not think that the Government, in asking for the provision of an Assistant at this level for the Premier, is asking too much, neither do I think any member of this community will begrudge the finance involved in the remuneration of this official. The average head of a company in Barbados spending one-tenth of the Government's revenue is surrounded by as many assistants and people as the Government has Ministers. In the Premier's office, Mr. Chairman, is a Private Secretary, an Assistant Secretary and may be a Steno-typist. This Private Secretary is supposed to do the duties of steno-typist also. She has to make appointments, answer the telephone, attend to calls and still perform the duties of steno-typist.

I think the country would be satisfied in due course with our approach to the problems confronting us, and would say that they have been tackled in a manner consistent, not with the donkey-cart era, not with the eighteenth century approach to politics which we inherited, but, Sir, with politics based on sound economic principles inspired by the desire to give Barbados in the twentieth century the type of Government which it needed and to which it was entitled.

My summary of the duties attached to the post has been only personal, and, Sir, I have only touched on all the responsibilities attached to the Hon. Premier. If I may now go on to point out as I intended, I will say that superimposed on all this is the obligation to plan for and assist in bringing into birth the new proposed federation of Barbados, the Leeward and Windward Islands. Here again, this is almost a task in itself. I am not ashamed to say that I on more than one occasion have myself suggested to the Hon. Premier that what we really need in the Government is another Minister or official whose main duty and responsibility will be to plan for the establishment of this new federation. This is a job in itself. As the Chairman presiding over the deliberations of the Regional Council of Ministers, the Premier has not only to play a very active part in the winding up of the old federation but also in laying the foundation of the new federation; and this has occasioned numerous conferences here, in other West Indian Islands, in Trinidad and in London. In point of fact, I think the number of conferences in this connection during the last sixteen months are easily over a dozen.
4.45 p.m.

There have been at least two or three in Trinidad, two or three in London, two or three here and there have been conferences in Antigua and Jamaica. As a matter of fact, if you were to look at the average, you will find that there has been one conference every month during our term of office. It is a fact that there were people in this Chamber who were famous for getting on the steps of the aeroplane and telling somebody: "I have not looked at my papers yet". In this case, however, as the Presiding Officer at a great number of these Conferences, the Hon. Premier has had to make himself *au fait* with all the documentation of the relevant matters which are likely to arise; he has had to familiarize himself with all the matters leading up to the present position and also with the information to enable him to arrive at and to make actual decisions. I feel that this country has been fortunate, it has been extremely fortunate, to have at the head of its affairs at this time a man of the mental capacity of the Hon. Premier who is not afraid to spend long hours at work and to endeavour to exact the maximum contribution from his colleagues at all levels. I was told on one occasion not so long ago that the Hon. Premier left his Ministry at 3 o'clock in the morning and by 8 o'clock the same morning he was back at the Ministry. My Permanent Secretary told me that when he went in to work at 8.30 o'clock the Premier was already there.

All of his Cabinet colleagues will agree and concede that the time has come when some attempt should be made to relieve the Premier of some of these intolerable burdens unless we want to prostrate him with overwork. As a matter of fact, the Premier himself has said to us at a Cabinet meeting: "Do not let any of my Ministers tell me that they are overworked; the only way that I will believe you are overworked is when I come to see you in Hospital suffering from thrombosis." Nobody said anything at that time because we know that the Premier does not spare himself and he feels therefore justified in getting the same contribution from his colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think I need to say anything more at this stage because, I repeat, that in the circumstances and in the context of the problems facing this country, in the context of our own internal problems and the proposed association of the Windward and Leeward Islands as well as our position in the context of international development — as a matter of fact, only three months ago we were faced with the possibility of Great Britain's participation in the European Common Market and the economic consequences which would have followed in the wake of such an eventuality. On that occasion again I know that for days the Premier has had to separate himself almost entirely from his other obligations in order to deal with the critical situation which arose from time to time out of these possible developments. Through all of these things the Premier has carried the full weight; he has kept his flag flying and I do not think that any Premier of this country has had to face as many and as diversified problems in this short space of time as the present Premier has had to face. If for no other reason than that living itself in the 20th century becomes more complicated and more difficult from month to month, I repeat, I am sure that no member of this Committee with the slightest acquaintance of what the Government is trying to do, and of the task with which it finds itself faced, will offer any opposition today to this proposal to give the Head of the Government additional assistance at this level. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, if I followed the Hon. Leader of the House in his speech, it was put on a plane in some instances beyond the normal level of debate; but I do not follow him in allowing the spectre of the last Government to condition my thinking and we will part company at that level. I do not believe that the only way to justify any action is to make a comparison with the last Government. It is however, a spectre of too much falling on you, and you have not clearly emancipated your mind from the role of a quasi position yet in Government; you are thinking in terms that you have to oppose something. The Government has to be positive and it has to take all the consequences of being positive.

At the outset let me say that, in principle, I agree with the proposal to have a Personal Assistant to the Premier, even if I do not agree with it for the same reasons as have been adduced by the Hon. Minister. I have strong views about Ministerial Government; I always had strong views about Ministerial Government and I have stated and written them. I do not believe in personal legislation, but I do believe that the proposal to provide a Public Relations Service and a Personal Assistant to the Premier is right in principle. There is nothing wrong with it.
4.55 p.m.

I believe if this had been brought by a former Government the Hon. Minister might oppose it. I happen not to be of that school of thought. I always felt - and I said it on the last occasion - that the Premier of a country should be accorded the facilities that a Premier should have, and not on this pork-knocking, parish-pump, political basis in which you want to know who is the Premier to determine what the Premier should get. I said in the House already that the Premier should be accorded a residence - not based on the fact that I am any Party member; and when I said it on the last occasion, someone wanted to know if I wanted to make friends with the last Government. I had no intentions of making friends with them, nor do I have to make any more friends with the Government on that side. I have come to a complete reconciliation with myself as to my role in public affairs. I seek nothing on either side; it is purely as I see it.

When I say I agree with this in principle, I want to say I agree with it in principle, because there are other things I do not agree with that the Minister has said; and I am going to show not in relation to the post, but in relation to the remarks he adduced about other things. Now, I would say that I agree that the Premier should have freedom of choice, but I will say this: I hope the Premier does not have in his mind any of the symptoms of the South American politicians in regarding this freedom to choose on the South American pattern like Cuidad Trujillo in Santo Domingo when he chose his son, or Fidel Castro in Cuba when he chose his brother; and therefore you look through some of the South American public from which you want to bring in the closest person to you on the basis of trust and confidence. I say that because that is symptomatic of the germs of dictatorship; it is symptomatic of the germs of removing gradually people who would objectively make their views known, and you gather unto yourself some of the persons, knowledgeable as they might be, but persons who would perform a role not in keeping with what the electorate wants, not in consonance with what the people ask you to do, but in consonance with your own personal beliefs.

As a classic example, I know this is done in British Guiana. The Premier of British Guiana has chosen one of these people, too, Mr. Jack Kelshall, because he would be bound to have more confidence in Mr. Jack Kelshall, fellow traveller, than in any of the persons employed in the Ministry; so he made his pilgrimage to Trinidad and invited Mr. Kelshall. I do not believe that the Premier of Barbados would do the same thing, because I believe, the Barbados climate is not conducive to that sort of action and would not take it quite easily. I say that so that the Premier would understand that I am not one of these overwhelming, enthusiastic people who believe in doing something that others have done. I have to examine all the circumstances surrounding what you have to do.

Mr. Chairman, it does not worry me if the Premier chooses a fool or if he chooses a Euclid; all I say is that in principle it is sound. In a lesser capacity I have a Personal Assistant to me in my office as General Secretary of the Barbados Workers' Union. Your work is varied and spread over wide fields; therefore the Premier should have one. This is nothing new to me. I would say that your chickens are now coming to roost. All that the Hon. Leader of the House has said today I would say quite charitably are remarks that have been made here before about ministerial system which the Leader of the House was not willing to concede to the former Government. I do not accept the view that the pace of your legislative programme *ipso facto* confers the right to have a Personal Assistant to the Premier. It is what should be there in itself, and any Government or any Premier would be entitled to this. It is true that in our context, with Barbados being a small community with Ministerial Government, we have the country-bookie outlook about when you are doing things in town, and therefore not until the members get into Bay Street do they become initiated.

Now the Hon. Leader of the House said - and I tried to underline the words - that it would be difficult for the uninitiated person to appreciate all the implications of Government. As he was speaking, to members of the House and not to those outside, I would say quite modestly that I am not an uninitiated person in public affairs, but I knew, though I did not like to say "I told you so." I like you to experience for yourself that your programme for three years with $50 million cannot work, and I know that eighteen months from now you are going to come back and say the time was too short to carry out a $50 million programme. You said the Premier is a qualified economist. There are qualified economists all over the world who practice economics as their profession even more so than the Premier. I am not one of those people who believe, and I do not think the Premier would be so foolish to believe, that because he holds a degree in Economics, therefore he is going to set up shop as an economist. It is just like every man who holds

a law degree and has never practised law in his whole life entering a court to save somebody's life. If somebody wants to depart this scene, the easiest way would be to get a lawyer in Barbados who has not practised. I do not think one would suggest if you have serious litigation you should go for Ian Gale or Mr. Smith at Sandford who have degrees. Would you want to save the person from a prison sentence or would you want him to go to prison?

I say quite charitably, Mr. Chairman, that no one would expect the Premier, practising law as a profession for the last ten years but holding an economic degree, to sprout suddenly when he goes to Bay Street and become the grand economist of this age. That would be for the uninitiated; but to the person initiated in public affairs and knowing the implications, his mind would work easier on economic and financial matters now that he has time to devote to these things, and I appreciate that very well. I am not one of those people who is given to patting people on the back, but I believe I was one of the few persons in the early stages that accorded the Premier, if I may say so, the open door, and felt that the office of Premier was not one which he could not fill with distinction. I believe I did that even at a time when maybe some of his closer friends were not as enthusiastic about it as I was; but I was not interested in any plums of office, nor am I now interested in any, and I believe for a very long time I will be in the same position. Nothing I say therefore is any attempt to receive any reward whatsoever because I am as critical of the Premier as anybody else, since I do not believe he is sacrosanct; I do not believe he is divine; I believe he is just like any other human being who is going to die and does not know the day it is going to take place, unless he is condemned by revolutionaries - and I do not want to associate that with him - who decide that he is blocking progress and to the firing squad he must go.
5.05 p.m.

Fortunately, we do not have this type of Government prevailing here, and if this Government is taken over by another Government we do not forsee that action taking place.

The Hon. Leader talked of the programme of the Government. I myself, would welcome if the Government could more efficiently get through with its $50 million programme, but I want to warn the Hon. Minister of this. I say it as an outsider of the Government. No Government should be afraid or ashamed to say at some stage of its own life that the projected programme which it put into force cannot now go forward in the period in which they anticipated, and therefore, it would require a longer period. That is not anything which the Government should be afraid or ashamed to say. What it is to be ashamed of doing is not coming to terms with these problems and just attempting to do them and wasting public funds in so doing. You can attempt to spend $50 million in three years, but you may find yourself in the position where instead of a building going up to be of advantage to the people of the country, you will find the materials finding themselves in the domains of private people. As a matter of fact, this country can spend $100 million in a day if you put it in some people's hands. I have no doubt about that; so I do not accept the view that because your programme is an accelerated programme which you put to the electorate and said that you put it on a three-year basis, that it was put as a development programme which could be completed in three years.

Mr. Chairman, Russia has a programme of development for five years, India has a programme which is also for five years, France also had a programme which was for five years and there is no country which has an economic programme to carry out that can carry it out in the period uninterrupted and without modifications because it must be borne in mind that it is a programme for human beings, and human beings change as well as things change, and because of that you have to change.

Mr. Chairman, I say that to answer some of the points raised by the Hon. Leader of the House. What is more important as regards the projected programme of theirs, I see a little different from the Hon. Minister and his Cabinet. Barbados is a small place, and from the inception of Ministerial Government, Premiers have been suffering from an overdose of conceit in their physical and mental capacities. You have this pride that certain names in Ministries must of necessity be designated to the Premier and that was the classic difficulty which you had from the beginning. I say that if you have a man to assist and he can do it, let him do it for you. If you pretend you are a Hercules and all the others are just Lilliputians and you must have the Lilliputians coming up to you, well, it will turn out that you will leave all the Lilliputians and you, the Hercules, will be dead. Why I say that is because only a country bookie would believe that in a context like this the Premier can be all the things designated unto him and, unfortunately for the first Premier, it was his illness in the United Kingdom which brought him to his senses that he could not be all the things designated to him.

I say if you do not want to operate this country as a small peddling business, then within the context of this country what you want is a reconstruction of your Ministerial departments so as to meet the needs of the country. Now, Sir, I do not place as much emphasis on what the Hon. Leader of the House singled out as I place on reconstruction. I say that you should have a complete re-orientation of the Ministerial position in Barbados and I propose to show you why. The Hon. Premier really is a co-ordinator. He should not have any Ministry; but prejudice and conceit make him believe that he must be the Minister of Finance because finance is a thing which everything revolves around. Labour, Social Services, Health Services and all that sort of thing revolves around finance; therefore, each Minister would have to send the main files of his Ministry to the Minister of Finance before anything can go through. That must be so unless you are running a peddling shop in which you want to weigh the butter and do all the work yourself. As soon as you are running a big business, you have to delegate and you have to know at which point you can serve best. As I am not the Premier I cannot decide for him. There is a limit to what he can do and do well. My examination of this matter is as a member of this House and as it is a matter to which I have the right to give approval, I can now examine it in the light of reality. As I see it, there is now more the need for a Minister of Finance in this country if there is need for a person as an Assistant to the Premier. I say that because all the argument which the Hon. Leader of the House made is that if the Hon. Premier is to be relieved of some of his work he would have to get assistance. Relief can come from reconstruction. I am not making any jibes at any Ministry, but if you take the Ministry of Trade, which the Hon. Leader of the House has the honour to deal with, that is only one department - and I am speaking in respect of the Ministry of Labour the others are just Ministries in which there are heads of offices over which you preside and they prepare your papers and your stuff. There is not a Department of Trade in Barbados. Customs is not a Department of Trade. The Ministry of Development is only a word which the whole Cabinet would be in for.

This argument is not an argument for the uninitiated. I am not making an argument over people who are looking about for jobs or who want to be the next Minister because I would say that the Premier as Premier of his little Party has a very difficult problem to satisfy all his satellites. Every political leader has that problem. That is why Dr. Williams in Trinidad came out with the monstrosity of having a Parliament of Ministers, and of having members, when they were not Parliamentary Secretaries, they were secretaries to the Parliamentary Secretary, and, so to speak, he had thirteen generals. You have to give a fellow a plum: if not, you are not sure of his loyalty. That is one of the occupational hazards of political leader.....

Mr. Chairman, I have heard a voice coming from in the back - the Gallery - and it is a little louder than mine. If you do not have that voice removed, I will have to stay here until it ceases. This is Parliament to which we were elected and we have the right to speak and to be heard in silence from the people in the Gallery. If they do not want to keep silent, we will force them to leave.
5.15 p.m.

We have reached the stage where they have the uninitiated political satellites and Party supporters who want to carry out their Party sentiments even in here. That is

why I said that the Premier is not in the mental position of the South American leaders; and where you have these satellites, this sort of people whom you want to promote, then the country becomes a very dangerous one. If the Marshal of this House has to perform his duties, I hope he will perform them without any fear of any member of the House, so far as the gallery is concerned. We have to put an end to this idea that this Parliament will be the hunting ground for Party supporters to come in here and believe that they can intimidate members of this House. The day when we reach that stage, let us all come in here with .38's so that we can look back and see what we want to do; or we can face the other way so that we can see who our opponents are. I have absolutely no intention of making any fun whatsoever with any persons in any Parliament with the slightest idea that they can do things and look over to the Government side and see who would nod in approval of them. Members of the Government are elected to Parliament just as any other member is elected and you only become a member of the Government after you have been elected to Parliament. You are not a Government member in yourself.

My idea about the reconstruction of the Ministerial system is that you should not only put the Premier's position into one of a carrier. It is for me to speak about these things; you want to place Finance under a Minister where all economic matters can take place. I do not mind the personal remark of the Hon. Minister of Labour; the time has come when you should give closer consideration to these matters. The name of Minister is the same as obtains in Great Britain and the United States of America, and if you were to begin to examine the work of the President of the United States, thn I would say that no one man has the right of being the President of the United States of America, if you are going on that argument. However, you have only one President of the United States of America and he has to take decisions which he is endowed with authority to take. However, he has an array of advisers all over the country. It is not suggested that you should have a Sub-President or a President for the West Coast, one for Jersey, one for Philadelphia and what not. Therefore I do not accept the argument that you could put all of these duties together and say that you want a Personal Assistant. I will say this: Any Government which is taken over from another Government will find itself in difficulty to ask for some of the things which they have criticised. I believe that the Hon. Leader of the House is now on a soft wicket where you are not sure if it is taking spin or it is kicking up and you have to play off the back foot. *(Laughter).* When the wicket is soft, you do not go forward with the left foot; you always play on the back foot, because you do not know when the ball is coming through so that you can duck. If it comes to the question of projecting the idea that we need more Ministers, I remember that on one occasion the Hon. Leader of the House quipped the other Government and asked what they were doing running about on these trips and what they needed another Minister for. I believe that the Hon. Minister would have criticised the proposal vehemently if the other Government had brought it forward. Of course, he could say that the Opposition is not the same as the last Government. I believe that the time has come when you should have a re-examination of the Ministries and see what can be added on here and what can be added on there.

The last Government left this Government with the unpleasant spectacle of a deficit budget. I will say that I never allow the spectre of the old Government to worry me. You want to give whatever credit you can give. In fairness now I would say that I should be the last person in this whole world to have any good word to say for the last Government because the satellites of that Government who now write in the newspaper cannot find anybody else to attack but Frank Walcott. I would not need to give them any praise because their satellites have been attacking me and, fortunately for me, they are reaping the rewards or some of the rewards which they have sown. And I may say that they are just rewards too. Any Government which takes over from the last Government has to take over what has been left off. I do not believe that you should take all the credit side and not the debit side; you have to take over everything. We have had the Deep Water Harbour constructed and the workers have been displaced as a result of the construction of that Harbour. There are those who agreed to the construction of this Harbour but they did not know that developments would have taken place.

5.25 p.m.

It is a good thing that our great grand parents are dead. What would we do with them now? They would not be able to live with us; so we have to accept these as things we cannot avoid. I feel that the Ministerial system can be improved on and can be made to work efficiently. The last Government left, if you call it a good thing, a Minister without portfolio that I feel should be a dream. You call in somebody and put him in the Other Place saying that it is done elsewhere; but you have the Attorney General up there along with some other officials, and they finish work so quickly up there that a Minister without portfolio in my view should be a memory. The work being done in the Other Place can be done by any official or any member who is prepared to read his papers. That is not a political organ, as the members up there say, because nobody up there goes to the polls. A man has to be sensible and polite enough to answer the questions; and the ones he cannot answer he can take back and promise an answer the following week. He need only to be polite and diplomatic. It is different in the House where all of us are at the tape waiting until the barriers go up, and the members are not going to be so soft with Ministers when they say they will take something back and give an answer next week, because we have to face the tape each day with our electorate. I would say, therefore, that the circumstances that require a Minister without portfolio do not exist in Barbados, but it was one of those country-bookie activities which somebody was doing somewhere, and you were going to do it too.

Mr. Chairman, I am not an inquisitive person, and I do not hear things even by the grape vine sometimes. I understand that we have the right to appoint a political Attorney General. Well, when the time comes, you appoint one and let him do the work up there. There was a time when the Attorney General did work in here, and in comparison with what the work of the House of Assembly was fifteen or twenty years ago, the work in the Council is no greater that a person cannot do it. The Attorney General may have other legal work to do, but it is a matter of subdividing his work, because it is a question of presentation in the Other Place on behalf of the Government. I would say that any trained politician can go into the Other Place and present a case. It is just to be briefed on the Bills which the Government brings here, apart from having the factual information in presenting the case. We all know, as he said, that nobody would begrudge you doing this at this time; so it is no new argument. Why should we be saddled with a Minister without portfolio? The other Government had it and you have taken it over; but the Premier and his Cabinet did not say they did not want a Minister without portfolio. You have six Ministers; you have a Premier and Minister of Finance, a Minister of Labour, a Minister of Agriculture, a Minister of Social Services, a Minister of Communications, a Minister of Education, and then you have a Minister without portfolio. My view is that the six Ministers which you have, whether or not you want one in the Other Place, can be six Ministers serving this country with portfolios, but you should have this work re-organised in order that the Premier could be free; and I agree with the hon. member. The Prime Minister of Great Britain is not Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Prime Minister of Jamaica is not Minister of Finance, and Dean Rusk in the United States though he is Prime Minister *vis-a-vis* the Barbados or British system, is not the man dealing with the Treasury, they have Douglas Dillon; so you have a difference all over the world when you come to deal with financial problems. You do not reduce it to a hole-in-the-wall and putty shop business where you want to hold all the change and everybody must work, but you must be the grand cashier. If the Premier feels that his talents can be more used as Minister of Finance, — and I do not agree that the Premier's talents must be used in co-ordination, and that is the whole essence of freeing the Premier from day to day work — I will say it is a matter of a man's mental attitude.

Mr. Chairman, the Premier was acting like some bright school boy or some people who want to be every where at the same time, but you will find the time coming when it does not work. We have not yet evolved any method that

can put us in two places at the same time, and that is one of the problems the Government has run into, and that is what the Premier himself has seen — that he cannot make twenty-four hours a day more than twenty-four hours. The Hon. Minister said that the only way you can talk about too much work is if you find any of the members with thrombosis. Any man who plays that he can fight nature can try it and see who pays the price. We will give him lovely wreaths and sing nice hymns, but he will still be under the ground. I say that quite objectively, Mr. Chairman, because you are only fooling yourself to believe that your physical capacity is unbounded and unlimited. We have not yet been made that way, and there is a limit to what we can do. For that reason I see very good grounds for re-organising the system, and I say that quite charitably. Remember, Mr. Chairman, I am not saying this as a recipient or someone who expects to receive anything; so I can be very open in these things. It is true that his position might be a little bit on the lean side, and he is getting to the bone from the point of view of scraping off more meat; but that is always the problem with any new Party. You have to build politicians up until they reach that stage, and sometimes you get to the bone more quickly than you anticipate. The last Government had that same problem. You have got to the bone more quickly than you would like, but that is a problem we have to face, and the members of Parliament have to equip themselves and take on these serious responsibilities.

I was not in the Chamber at the time, Mr. Chairman, but I came back here and heard that on one occasion the Premier spoke about Parliamentary Secretaries. I do not enter the caucuses of these Parties, because somebody would be accusing people; but it looks as if that had been drawn for this device of a Personal Assistant to the Premier. It seems to me that one of the things the Premier would have to give consideration to is not only this question of personal assistance, but having persons in Parliament. 5.35 p.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this Personal Assistant is not going to be answerable to me; he is going to be answerable to the Hon. Premier. I do not know what he is going to be saying. I do not think that even your own backbenchers would know. They may give me a little credit for what I am saying now. You must give further consideration to your Parliamentary Secretaries now that you are going to have stand-ins. Some hon. members are new to this business and they believe that the Parliamentary Secretary is a Cabinet member. What this man is in ordinary parlance, in Barbadian colloquialism, and what he would be termed as is a Minister's yard fowl. He would not be a member of the Cabinet; therefore, in that capacity he would be staying in the yard and just giving information to the boys. Therefore when a member asks questions in Parliament, the Parliamentary Secretary cannot come in Parliament and answer them.

You can have a Parliamentary Secretary for three or four Ministers or you can have two for the whole lot of Ministers. A Parliamentary Secretary should have a capacity for reading and understanding presentation. This House is different from the Other Place. If a Minister is of no use, he will come in and get beaten up easily, and when we are finished with him he would be a Parliamentary sausage.

When the Hon. Leader of the House said that it was difficult for the uninitiated to appreciate these things, I want to say that I am not in that class. On the question of the East Coast Road, although I do not want to reply to those things, that is a matter of policy and it is for the Minister to decide. What I would say is that you cannot build the East Coast Road in 18 months unless you want to build a gap or a track. You cannot build the East Coast Road between now and the end of your term unless you are going to build a little "nay-nay" gap.

Mr. Chairman, they took nearly six months to interfere with that bridge which we call the "Swing Bridge". I do not want to be touching on everything, but from the time the Government started its Crash Programme, it is still crashing into the Constitution Swamp. Of course that is a relief works programme, but your are going to have the same Barbadians to deal with when you are building the East Coast Road. Do you think that you are bringing in men from anywhere else to do the job?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am very sorry, but the hon. member is straying somewhat from the Resolution.

Mr. WALCOTT: I know, Mr. Chairman, that you would say that. Do you realise what the Hon. Leader of the House was talking about? I was going to rise on a point of order and ask what the East Coast Road had to do with the Resolution. You had the Minister coming to explain why the hon. Premier needed this Secretary, and he then branched off in order to show how much work there was, and he told you that they have decided to start the East Coast Road in two weeks' time. I say now that if you start it in two weeks' time, I see your legislative term will end before you finish it. Why I touched on the Constitution Swamp was because I wanted to show you that your programme on the Swamp was going on from your election in December, 1961 and up to now it has not stopped. I do not think that will take as long as the East Coast Road.

Sir, I am not facetious; I am serious. I just want the Hon. Leader of the House to realise that I am one hundred percent in complete agreement with what you set out in your legislative programme, but you must give careful and minute study to all of its implications. That is why I said that you cannot be afraid of going to the people and telling them the reason why you cannot do such-and-such a thing in such-and-such a time. None of the political parties in Barbados has ever sponsored an administration for which they have written a manifesto, and this is what the Hon. Leader of the House can tell his followers because they are the ones who are going to bother him. You must tell them that your manifesto is a statement of principles, and not a memorandum setting out the way in which to carry out the principles to which you agreed.

The political parties of this Island are still struggling under eighteenth century policies. Unfortunately the parties have to live in eighteenth century houses with eighteenth century administration, and they can only catch up when they enter the Government. The administration of the Government not only has to carry out their policy but to prepare a memorandum in their lifting the things up to the Minister. Each of them has written a manifesto on some of the basic things which they require, but the memorandum on how to carry out the things in the manifesto has to be written in the Civil Service. I am not uncharitable to the Government. You have taken over a lot of back-log when you took over from the last Government. Because you wanted to initiate a new policy, a policy which was different from theirs, therefore your problems would be the more.

I do not subscribe to your view of saying that when you took over the Government you had to do this and that. I feel a Government takes over a Government, and therefore if you had to take over the Government, you had to take over it with all the dead weight with it. You had to take over the good, the bad and the indifferent; therefore you would work on the good part and you will also know how to work on the bad part. In our domestic lives we have to take over all the parts of our wives. We have to take over the good, the bad and the indifferent. We cannot say to our wife: "Take the bad part of you to your father". When we buy a house and we feel that we have got a bargain, we must also understand that we have bought the termites too. All of the termites in that house are yours; therefore when you take over a Government and you take over a Ministry and the Premier takes over the Premiership, he must realise that he has taken over all the responsibilities too. I do not like the way in which the Hon. Minister harped on these things because any Government or any Party must know the present position of the Government which they are taking over. I would say that the present Government knew the position of the last Government when they took it over. They knew the things on which they could capitalise. They knew the things that the Government did to cause them to run out of money and you also knew the things on which you could make a credit.

Sir, when I look at this Resolution, I see that there is room for a change in your Ministerial system. The Hon. Leader projected the West Indian Federation into this debate and said what he had advised the Premier about on it.

I believe when you are talking about that, you have to be very careful.
5.45 p.m.

The Party in power was very careful not to make any pronouncement prior to the election as to their stand on West Indian Federation; and they may have been wise to do so. In the middle of your Session I do not like the idea that you are preaching West Indian Federation now as a programme for which you want to justify a change. For those of us who believe in West Indian Federation - and I am one of them - that is another thing which you have to let the public know. There are new circumstances which we are prepared to face. The Premier has said in one of his statements that Federation is going to cost us more and he is very cautious about that. A better standard of living will usually cost you more; but it is what interpretation you are going to give to the word "cost". I am very pleased to see that the Hon. Minister has come around to the idea that you cannot run a democratic country without having conferences; you cannot run a democratic country unless you are going to have these discussions. You have to meet people; but there is the idea projected in this island that whenever people leave Barbados and go elsewhere, they are going on a joy ride and it is a waste of public funds. I believe that I have left this country fairly frequently, and on each occasion I can say that it is something which has benefited me. I believe that I am a better man in leaving Barbados on the occasions when I leave here than I would have been if I did not leave this island at all. I have been exposed to things outside Barbados which I would not have had the opportunity of seeing here. I understand that the Hon. Premier is soon to leave the island, but I will say that at least when you come back, do let us know some of the things which you have discussed and do not let us see in the newspaper that a member of Parliament went to British Guiana or somewhere else and you did not hear some report or he did not take the opportunity of allowing this Chamber to know what has taken place in relation to those things.

I have been speaking on this matter for a long time. As I said at the beginning, as a matter of principle, I agree with the Premier that he should have a personal Assistant and a Public Relations Department. I will go further and say this: I do not believe that any one man can deal with public relations. Public Relations to the Premier will mean public relations to the Government of Barbados. I do not want it to be projected that this is personal in the narrow or inverted inference of "personal"; this is personal to the office of the Premier of Barbados. I repeat that I do not see that you can have any one man dealing with public relations.

I do not know what the Government intends to do about the Information Service; you can have that office as an integral part of a wider service. I am not querying who this Personal Assistant and Public Relations Officer to the Premier is going to be, because each country will deal with this matter in a way in which they feel like dealing with it. However, I do say that these people come from a pool of Public Servants. Mr. Attlee was at one time Private Secretary to a Ministry and that is how some Parliamentary people get their training. Mr. Iain Mc. Leod was in a position like that; these people learned politics by working with Ministers and then they leave. There is no royal road in this case, and it is purely the behaviour of the officer who is selected for a post of this kind.

I want to say this: whatever you say, you can have an opposite argument in a matter like this. I regard this office as a very important one, and it is an office which will require a person of the highest calibre, a person of the highest integrity and not merely a political satellite. You cannot have a Personnel Assistant to the highest office in the island reduced to a state of any Party manoeuvring or Party satisfaction. It has to be on the highest plane because this person, in some instances, will be in a more favourable position than some of his Ministerial colleagues. There are some things which the Premier knows and there are other things which he does not know. It may well be that his personal Assistant will know things which the others will not know, and therefore he has to be a man of qualities which I cannot describe; but these qualities will be not much less then the substantive holder of the office would require even if they are not the same qualities as of a political leader, because a political leader must have qualities plus other things. To the uninitiated person who does not understand politics, a political leader, I would say, has to possess a lot of qualities which cannot be written in a book; nor can you go to a University to be made a political leader.

Those are things which only politics can make you. For that reason, I hope that whoever receives this post will understand that it is a post which this House will have the privilege of debating from year to year. It is not an established post, but it is a post to be voted for; and therefore we, in Parliament, have the right in March, 1964, again to look at this matter when we come to deal with the Estimates. I have said all I have because I was hoping for the opportunity to be able to speak on the Ministerial System in Barbados and I welcome every opportunity to do so. I welcome the opportunity to warn the Government that the time has come when they should drop completely from their vocabulary things which the last Government did as a means of justifying what they have to do now.
5.55 p.m.

Do what thy conscience bid thee do; from none but self accept applause!

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I was quite at pains to listen to the debate on this appointment with a free and open mind, and I want to be as dispassionate in all this as is humbly possible. I do not know, Sir, that the Leader of the House would have been worried at all if Parliament was aware that there was a need for strengthening any of the Ministries in order to give the Government an opportunity to function at its very best. A number of things have happened during the debate. I was at pains to listen not only to the remarks of the Leader of the House, but to his emphasis and intonation, and I must say, Sir, that it is seldom that I had an opportunity of listening to him like this where he in his unusual style was undergoing a good deal of mental conflict -- there is no mistake about it - - and I do not know that he was at all happy, that there was even a ring of sincerity in his presentation of this matter today. He devoted at least two-thirds of his presentation to all of the several things that have kept the Party's programme and machinery from coming into being. After sixteen months he is still on the drawing board and in the Planning Committee, and hoping to get off the ground in another two weeks. All these things we were told which were totally unrelated to the claim made for this Personal Assistant to the Premier.

Now, if it is at all needed, I am more than sure that there would not be one dissenting voice in this Parliament, because we are interested in good government and the general progress of our country; but if we want to be critical of all that has gone before in attempting to justify the creation of this post, to say nothing of the appointment, what is unusual about all this is that it cannot be regarded as an Establishment Order where the officer appointed as a Personal Assistant would come under the Civil Service Regulations re terms of employment and conditions and hours of work, etc., leave regulatons and all these things. This is rather unusual, and the Leader of the House attempted to relate this unprecedented case to Dr. Eric Williams in Trinidad. I remember when he appointed C.L.R. James to a similar job which failed shortly and quickly; and if that is to set and establish for us a precedent, it is a question of incompatibility and impracticability in bringing such an officer into our service with the hope of success. We should look back at what was done and why Nkrumah elected to bring from England with him George Padmore, because there was no man alive with a better knowledge of all Africa, and he needed in the first place, not an assistant in the particular sense of the word, but an adviser; and a persistent dream which we will some day see in Africa come into being, either in my lifetime or if it takes another 100 years, is a Republic of Africa. That is not on all-fours with our case.

We were told by the Leader of the House, Mr. Chairman, of the prostration of the Premier to the verge of

physical exhaustion and all these things. I would be truly unhappy if this was at all true. I am wondering, if we had to deal with an Army, Navy and Air Force, if we would need four Premiers for a little island like ours; and to attempt to compare this with Trinidad where Port-of-Spain looks like Times Square, New York, and be in a country bubbling with progress, and the Premier spending four months on the Continent leaves you with something to think about. There are questions I am anxious to learn which only time can reveal. I could not expect any Minister to answer these, Sir, because I know it is impossible; but certainly it is rather an awkward position to attempt to condone today with any type of argument. A question I would like to ask is what relations are going to be like with the Permanent Secretaries. Are you sure right now that we are debating this that it is not similar to British Guiana where there is an awkward and ugly feeling between the Civil Servants of that country, and that it is a question of lack of confidence in the Service that they should want to throw out an individual, a man capable of being a Personal Assistant to the Premier of that country? They are in the street now revolting. I believe, to some extent, against independence, with the hope that the Premier of that country would certainly never be granted an opportunity to enjoy, if not to endure, what may be the independence which the country so anxiously now awaits. There is the question of destroying the very ladder, the escalator of progress in a Service. We know there is a great deal of screening; we know it is a question of filtering through to get the cream, because you are always anxious to get the best of your Service. You want to get those with the aptitude, and the cream is invariably there in the Ministries. Now what are you doing if you must go outside of this Service which is nearly 300 years, and where we know that the top, and the blunderbuss and the bulwark of our society as a whole is to be found in that Service? Are you not destroying the aspirations of those who burn the night oil and do extra studies with a hope that it is consistent with man's belief and his determination to go to the top? What am I to be told?

I have had five years myself in the Ministry, and I would like to know what is going to be the position of that Ministry with regards to the relations of not only the Permanent Secretaries, because eighteen months ago we were told by the Leader of the House of this jet propulsion and dynamism of this Party, and he was at pains to canvass support from this side of the Table, reminding us that it was not the 18th Century, but we were living in a period consistent with the 20th Century. We have been inconsistent in the very ideal of Government. We have been asking all the smaller islands to come together in some sort of union, if not a Federation, and asking that they should curtail Government expenditure more particularly in the Ministries which several of the small territories are willing to give up. Less than eighteen months ago there was a new creation and expansion in the Department of the Premier. The Permanent Secretary to Home Affairs is quite a recent addition. With him there is a high-powered Assistant Secretary sharing a common Registry, and also in the Department of the Premier there is a Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary and the other supporting casts which we elect to call the administrative bloc within his Ministry. Now there are two Permanent Secretaries, a Financial Secretary who is himself responsible for the Department, and with him there is an Assistant Secretary and the typists and the Registry and what have you in the Department.
6.05 p.m.

There is this Private Secretary whose job it is to make all the appointments and arrangements, to look at all the public documents and to make it easy for the Premier. I do not know if he wants to change that. I do not know if he wants to give up Finance and make it separate from what he is doing. If he is willing to do that, Parliament would be willing to grant his request.

But what is this that you want to do? You come with this Resolution and then the whole story is set out in a remarkable form for the Premier. You come for $7,230. We are complaining; we are almost up to our necks; we are in trouble with overdrafts and with loans. That is the position. I wonder if it is frustration that is worrying the Hon. Premier. If the Hon. Premier wants an additional officer at Permanent Secretary level, let him claim it and ask for it. Say that he needs this officer and ask for him. Are we not cutting right across the early, unchangeable tenets of democracy when we agree to a Resolution like this? I am thinking of the very process which has brought this Parliament into being. Owing to the way in which this man will be recruited, he will be removed from the operation and discipline of the Service. That is what I am unhappy about. That is why Civil Servants are making a mockery of the Government in British Guiana. The Premier of British Guiana also has this sort of set-up.

Now, Sir, this officer will probably start at a salary of $580 per month and he will not be responsible to the Civil Service Commission. How can he bind this country to a decision when he himself is not a Minister? The fancy of it is there for childish examination. If the Hon. Premier is going to delegate to him some of his work, and for that matter when the Premier is out this man will be giving his own decisions, imagine this officer coming to a decision to commit the taxpayers of this country to something. It is for this reason that we struggle for self-Government. It is for this reason that we abolish the Colonial Secretary attitude. What are we seeing today? We are seeing the impact of all this. We are responsible to the people, but you are going to bring in somebody from outside who can make decisions. It is a sad and sorry spectacle.

Mr. Chairman, have you looked at the middle-class of our society? Examine this and see what it is. See what this means to all the Heads of Departments. In less than a day you are breaking down what took 300 years to build up.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member addressing the Chair?

Mr. MILLER: I could not do otherwise. I am focusing your attention on the particular change. As I look at it, if this officer takes an interview with some overseas member or investor, it must be put to one of the Ministries. What is going to be the position with the particular Ministry? What we must be aware of is that a Ministry must have a mind and soul of its own. It must be able to start its projection with political stature or it has failed. How can a decision be taken from an officer who is not responsible to the electorate? You can see the failure of all this.

Are we going to destroy that expensive Department which we have just set up — the Information Department — with all that equipment in it and the money which we have spent on it? Are we going to cut right across the functions of that Department which issues out information to the public through the Press and radio? Are you instituting somebody who will be Minister of Propaganda, who will be responsible for giving out things just as you want them given out rather than giving out things which are factual? If you need another Minister, say that. If you want a Permanent Secretary, say so, and come to the House for that and we will grant it.

You are creating this post of Public Relations Officer and Personal Assistant to the Premier. Is it fair to the Civil Service? How do you expect the Civil Servants here to react to a thing like this when you are having this officer promoted over their heads? The Minister who introduced this said as much that this would be a special creature designated from on high. He would be some unusual creature and we must have this thing established. I say that it is impracticable and it cannot work. Suddenly this man would find himself with power which would probably prevent him from giving of his best. He would be in a position where you would not be able to stop him from throwing his weight about. You say that he must operate in the same way as the Premier and that he must be a reflection of the Premier. As it will be, the Permanent Secretary will have to submit all things to this officer who would never be in a position to stand for public examination. It must be so because the Premier will always have to come to this House and take the responsibility. This Officer cannot take the responsibility. Tell me then if a Permanent Secretary must

accept this man's dictates. Would that be right? Tell me, cannot this thing be devised other than this? When you want to see the Premier, there is no substitute for the Premier. You must see the Premier. People come to see the Premier about personal matters, and nobody else can act in place of the Premier. That is the position and it is the same position in every Ministry. You have a hard-working Permanent Secretary. He wants to relieve you as much as he can when people come to you for these private interviews. You find that every single attempt which he makes fails, and the individual comes back again and again just because he or she wants to see the Minister personally. The same thing applies to those who want to see the Premier.

Sir, imagine some person from some big organisation comes to see the Premier of Barbados and he is not available, and this gentleman who is to sit in for the Premier sees him. Can he say "yes" or "no"? How can he? He is not the Premier. This must be wrong. It must be because it is impracticable and you can see quickly the incompatibility of this. If you read it over just once, you will see that it cannot work. Are you implementing it just because it seems to be working in a Communist organisation? Because you have seen it functioning in that Communist organisation, it does not mean that it would function in a community like ours. You must cut across and destroy the functions of your Department of Information because the Information Officer will now have to take his direction from this part-time officer for which this money is voted. This officer will not be responsible to the Governor, nor to the Public Service Commission. He will be responsible to the Premier and to the Premier alone.

This is wrong and you cannot produce any satisfactory precedent. The Premier of Trinidad attempted the same kind of thing with Mr. C. L. R. James and he failed miserably. There was any amount of trouble for him to even get a quorum of his Cabinet. We know this because they were not prepared to explain themselves.

6.15 p.m.

He was in trouble to have a quorum in his Cabinet, because they were not prepared to accept this. What are you going to do now? In a few minutes you are creating a sinecure, an officer who is drawing $500 a month, and you would treat him like a leper. You want to make a success or failure of your Ministry regardless of whatever happens; you want to express yourself, and dare any man including the Premier to say otherwise. I have listened to the speech made by the Hon. Deputy Premier and you could see that he was enduring solid conflict throughout the whole effort. He is in charge of affairs as Premier when the Premier is away from the island, and the country will not tolerate this state of affairs because they will not be satisfied. This new officer will be responsible to nobody but the Premier and he will be faced with the awkward position in which he will have to defend him, because if they fail in any single measure the Premier will be responsible for it.

On the question of the Civil Establishment and the number of additional posts which have gone into this particular Department, you have two Permanent Secretaries in a Department which handles Local Government matters which were handled by only the Ministry before. I want to say that if this is something which is justified, then you will get it; but nobody who is not responsible to the Civil Establishment should make a decision which will bind this country and affect its taxpayers. I can remember the Hon. Leader of this House struggling in his paper to break that old contract with the Colonial Office. We have strenuously tried to have self-government, and now today we have this cold-blooded departure from that because of some fancy belief that this is an approach to the twentieth century. This is not the donkey-cart age, but the Jet period for which we were waiting and all the plans are still on the drawing Board. That is what we have suffered for; now you are doing something which must cut across the elementary principles of democracy. Down in your heart you know that is true. I have spent five years in a Ministry and you know that what I am saying is true. You need adjustments in order to make this work. If this officer had to have an interview with ten persons in any one day, he would write bales of paper and the Premier has to spend hours to read it. Would it not be better for the Premier to re-distribute some of this work to the Ministers? Of course, Mr. Chairman, we are powerless to do anything about this; we know that it will be passed. Mr. Nkrumah wanted to make a Federal Parliament of Africa and it is true that he fought for his country; but he got friendly with Dr. Clarke and I can see one of Dr. Clarke's friends in a room sharing with George Padmore, and Dr. Clarke and George Padmore flew to Africa in order to serve him. That was his contribution. This is undoubtedly a different matter; Dr. Eric Williams tried it with Mr. C. L. R. James who failed; he was the offspring of George Padmore, but he failed miserably. You are destroying the confidence of our society, and you are creating feelings of insincerity in the Civil Establishment in this way.

Mr. Chairman, we can make mistakes, but let us face the facts. Will you help us to persuade the Hon. Premier to postpone this Resolution? The consequences will be for the country, not for this officer. You know what it is to go through the ranks of the Civil Service and you have a sense of discipline above everything else. You look at the Heads of Departments; this is something which is fundamentally wrong. If the Premier needs another officer, well, let him ask for that officer and there will be no debate on the matter. We still love our country first, and if you want an additional officer then you can ask for him; but this proposal will destroy something which we cannot repair. I appeal to the Minister to leave this matter alone and go off and see it in its true and proper perspective. This is something which is incompatible and impracticable in a society such as ours. The Hon. Leader of the House will probably take a division on this matter, but I do not think that I should be present in supporting it. You have so much evidence; look at the Mother of Parliaments and look at the Commonwealth of Nations! Would you look at the Prime Minister of Canada or the Prime Minister of England and tell him about a Personal Assistant? Suppose with our independence we had to handle 30 or 40 Embassies overseas and run an Army at the Airport! In that case we would want 14 Premiers. Are you telling me that this is a new divine dispensation that the economy of the country hangs in the balances without this office? I am saying that you can have another Permanent Secretary; but do not put this proposal into effect. I repeat that we are powerless and defenceless in this matter because we do not have the votes which are necessary on this occasion; however, if you think calmly, your reflections will tell you that this is not right; this is bound to cause a man to be self-important. Will the Permanent Secretaries have to submit their work to this officer and be expected to have approval of their decisions and proposals? The Ministry will fade into childish insignificance because you have allowed this thing to take place.

6.25 p.m.

Remember that a Ministry must have a soul and a mind of its own where you reflect your personality, your very thoughts and your image, as at the Hospital. Now you are bringing a man who is not responsible to the electorate and he can curtail movement and development. Now that savours of dictatorship — and would to Heaven this would not be created and accepted as a way of life to be followed! I implore you to defer this; give it further thought and come for more money to appoint another Minister. What is developing in our community? Do you mean you are going to destroy and wipe out what you had in the Information Officer and send him back to teach in a school? What can you do with over-riding authority? I have worked five years in the Ministry and it is a fascinating study, and there is so much literature to read on it. Read it and you will see the impracticability of all this and how it is likely to do harm more than what you feel. I appeal to you. I must vote against it, but I know that is exactly nothing, because the majority is there. I can only ask you to save what is our country, whatever you believe, and then I believe you would have made a contribution to your own self. Defer it for further examination and come back and ask for another Minister and we will say "yes" in advance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I cannot remember listening to such a sparkling and hypocritical speech as the one I have listened to coming from the Leader of the House. I

say "hypocritical" because it reminds me of a lawyer who knows that his client should be locked up and still tries to convince the Trial Judge to let him go. Now Sir, this Resolution reads as follows:-

"Supplementary provision in the sum of $7,230 is required to meet the cost of the engagement of a Personal Assistant and Public Relations Officer to the Premier for the remainder of the financial year as follows:-

Salary at the rate of $6,600 per annum (May 1963 to March 1964)	$6,050
Travelling Allowance at the rate of $80 per month (May 1963 to March 1964)	880
Furniture and equipment	300"

Now, Sir, in this office there is already an officer of this sort, but with a different name. You have a Permanent Secretary, and I am thinking that there are about seven Clerks; and now this particular office is costing the taxpayers of this country roughly $62,000 a year, and this Committee is asked to sanction another officer.

Mr. Chairman, I will deal first with the Travelling allowance of $80 a month. I feel that if this sum of $80 per month was added to the salary, it would look more like business; but $80 a month travelling is a lot of money, and entails at the present rate of travelling allowance not less than 600 miles per month. Where on earth is this officer going to do all this travelling? There are other officers whose job mainly is travelling, and I think they would have to show the ball that shot Nelson to put up 600 miles per month. This officer should be in an office acting in the place of the Premier, and the Premier should be doing more travelling than the officer. There are Civil Servants who do travelling, but they are not paid on a flat rate, and I am wondering if the month this particular officer does three miles or if he does 100 miles he will be drawing this $80 and if he does 800 miles whether he will be drawing the same $80. This is not fair to the other officers in Government who really have to do travelling, because they are paid for so many miles at so much per mile, and the more they travel, the less they are paid for it; and I doubt there are many of them who exceed $80 per month travelling. Rather than putting this money on to the salary to make the other Permanent Secretaries feel funny, you are going to bring a commoner and put him in office and you will be paying him very nearly the same amount as a Permanent Secretary.

The Hon. Leader of the House, Mr. Chairman, said that the uninitiated person would not know the workings and activities of this particular office. I would not want to know them, but my common sense tells me that this particular officer will not have $6,600 per year in work to do, because if you are going to compare the salary with that of a Permanent Secretary — and if I am wrong you can correct me — a Permanent Secretary gets more in salary than the Ministers, and I feel that it is the responsibility that is thrown on him that merits the salary you are paying him. 6.35 p.m.

Now, what this officer is going to do? By virtue of his office he will be in charge and over the Permanent Secretary because he will be the assistant to the Premier.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I have heard a lot of these remarks and I have refrained from interrupting any speaker so that they may have the liberty of expressing their views; but at some stage you must say something. This officer cannot be compared with a Permanent Secretary. All this officer would be is a Private Secretary to the Premier. That is all. When the hon. junior member for St. George talked about this officer being responsible for making decisions involving taxpayers' money, that is sheer fabrication. All this officer will be is the Private Secretary to the Premier with no voice in the conduct of the Government's affairs. As a matter of fact, he cannot attempt it. He is the Premier's Personal Secretary and that is all.

Mr. SMITH: I was speaking comparatively. I am talking about money. He will be more than a Permanent Secretary because if the Permanent Secretary has all these responsibilities thrown on his shoulders and has to carry out his job with efficiency, he practically is responsible for the office and for seeing the Minister in charge go right. Now, you are getting one who is only an assistant and the Confidential Secretary to the Premier, and his rate of pay is very near to that of the Permanent Secretary because if we are going to take what the Hon. Minister said on introducing this Resolution to be true, then this man or woman, whoever they may be, will have very little to do.

Do you mean to say that he is only the Private Secretary to the Premier and you are going to pay him $80 a month for travelling allowance? This job is an office job. I am taking it to be so from what the hon. introducer had to say. He said that he would be the Private Secretary to the Premier. Where then does this travelling come in? When then does this travelling of over 400 or 500 miles per month come in for this officer to do? Is he going to leave the office and drive all over the country? When he is doing that, will he have to do the job in the office? You will have to call on the Permanent Secretary to do his job. If anyone should call on the Premier and the Premier is absent, and whoever he may be the Private Secretary to the Premier is absent also, the job devolves on the Permanent Secretary again. If this salary to be given to the Confidential Secretary to the Premier is not more than the Permanent Secretary comparatively speaking, I do not know. The majority of people today are not looking at the job or the work which they have to do; they are something to do with the pay. They do not care how hard the job is, they will leave an easy job and take the one with the most money. In this case I am doing the work and the other fellow under me is drawing the money. This is not fair.

According to the Addendum, the demands of the holder of the office of Premier have become so exacting that it is impossible for him to keep pace with the work. These demands include important interviews, personal correspondence, official correspondence addressed to him personally, day to day public relations with the press, radio and public, visits to places both in and out of the Island and attendance at official functions, all of which are additional to his normal duties of responsibility for the Ministry of Finance, his general office and the Home affairs Section, Chairman of the Cabinet and a Minister and a member of the Legislature. It is therefore proposed to employ a Personal Assistant and Public Relations Officer to the Premier who will undertake all duties associated with a confidential secretary and personal aide. These are the duties which fall on the Premier and are what is taking up his time and he needs help.

Now, Sir, what was being done about it by the last Government? What was done about it by the last Premier? Regardless of what you may say, the last Government did not call for this - and I am speaking under correction now, I think the Hon. Minister who introduced this said that the lack of an officer of this sort was responsible for the condition of the last Government. In other words, I believe you mean to say that if the last Premier had an officer of this sort, you may not have taken over this Government in the financial position it was in when you took over.

This Government only had to carry on from where the last Government left off. What have they done up to the present moment to merit the spending of this $6,000 more? Of course they are going to do it, but what has this Government done more to merit this provision? If you want to relieve umemployment, say so. If you want to give a man a job, say so. I would not say anything against your relieving umemployment, but do not come down here with this and try to get it passed by using such nice phrases. No doubt if you had listened to the hon. introducer of this Resolution, you would say: "Yes, let us pass it without saying a word." Do not think that he did not put it over with an oily tongue.

Sir, I am saying that they do not merit an officer of this sort for the Premier. Let them first of all do something

so as to let me say that they are doing good work. The explanation by the Minister of Trade has not convinced me because what he said would fall on this particular officer to do, if you put two more Assistants to the Premier, you will find that there are certain things which the Premier will still have to do himself. When the Hon. Premier took over the Government, he knew he had to work and he also knew that he would meet conditions of this sort. What do you find? He came in here with the pruning knife cutting off everything and trying to get ends to meet. Trying to get ends to meet is a wise thing to do, but while he is trying to get ends to meet, he is carrying up the expenditure in this respect. I am not saying that the Premier's Office cannot be overworked. What I am saying is that if the Premier's Office is overworked and there may be too much on the Premier himself, it may be that all the Ministries are not overworked. Even if they are overworked, there may be a time when they will be able to do something to help the Premier's Ministry.
6.45 p.m.

If the Premier has to listen to so much and do so much, if he has to attend a function today and the work demands him to remain in, could he not send another Minister to take over from him? When one Ministry is being overworked, another Ministry may be "blowing a comb". I feel that with the set-up today there is no necessity at this moment for this Assistant. How many big countries have this post?

Mr. Chairman, at this stage, I beg to move that the debate on this Resolution be temporarily postponed.

Mr. MILLER: I beg to second that.

The question that the debate on this Resolution be temporarily postponed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

CHAIRMAN REPORTS PROGRESS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

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

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

The CHAIRMAN reported and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, at this stage I beg to move that Standing Orders 5, 14 and 18 be now suspended in order to facilitate the remainder of the day's sitting. I may add that it is my intention to suggest the adjournment of the House at a little later stage in order that the Staff and hon. members may have some light refreshment.

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

The question that Standing Orders 5, 14 and 18 be now suspended was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee of Supply.

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

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume Committee of Supply was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: When the Committee reported progress, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was speaking.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, when I left off speaking just now, I was making this point. I was wondering if the other countries like Jamaica and Trinidad have an office of this kind: as you know, Sir, those countries are bigger than we are. They have more work to do, and I am wondering if it is so that they have an office such as this. We have a Minister without Portfolio and he should be able to help with some of this work. I feel so, because he knows the business of the Cabinet; as a matter of fact, he knows more about the Government than the Government's backbenchers. I have heard, if I am not mistaken, that that Minister acted as Premier some time ago; and therefore if he has reached to such a height, then he can help with the correspondence and things of that sort. I am suggesting that they make use of the Minister without Portfolio instead of creating another office.

The Premier says that they want money to spend and that they cannot spend money on certain things. They are not able to do certain things, but still they are able to do other things. They cannot even think of increasing the poor Government pensioners, but whenever they are ready, they can ask for a post and get it. I know Sir, that this Resolution is going to be passed; but I still feel that in the interest of the people, this is money which could be saved at this moment. If the Hon. Minister wants to know about hard work being done in an office, I will say that there are some businessmen who have to work like h-e-l-l-; they have to work hard and what are they receiving? They are only working in order to keep themselves alive and pay a handsome income tax to the same Government. When these people come to realise how their money is being spent, they cannot feel happy at all. I know about working hard; your hands, your feet and everything else have to work. If it is hard on the Premier this week, do you mean to say that it will be hard on him all the time? You will meet it hard for a little time, but you have to make up your mind to weather the storm. I will say that the last Government had it harder than this Government, and the Ministries have to be working now because the foundation has had to be laid and it was laid by the last Government.
6.55 p.m.

I may be foolish, but everybody would not call me a fool. The foundation had to be dug and they had to build to the surface, but they did not ask for an office of this sort. As the Minister said, if they had one at that time, they would not have found themselves in the financial condition in which they found themselves. If they were so badly off, how could they find such a handsome sum to start a crash programme? I did not hear that they stole it; so money was still hanging around somewhere. There are some people, Sir, whose physical resistance is not as great as others, and figures really and truly can worry the entire body of some people, and, the Premier being an economic expert, figures may have him a little dazed. If that is so, let him relieve himself. He can come to the House and say it is more than he can do and we will relieve him, and bring in one of the others, but not an outsider. There are members of his Party who can come up to Permanent Secretary standards, and they would be answerable to the electors too. They would have to keep themselves upright because of their responsibility to the electors; but you may bring in a man who does not care two hoots and can go there and do as he likes. He would not have to say anything to the electors or to the representatives of the people, because he would be an ordinary Confidential Secretary, and I do not think he would be as easy to sack as a Minister, since I understand the Premier can throw away a Minister whenever he likes; but you cannot put a man in that job and throw him away whenever you like; so he has more chances in that job than a Minister has in his, and comparatively speaking, he is drawing more than a Minister. It will be a happy and lucky chap who gets this job, and our duty here tonight is to sanction it, after which we have no more say in the matter, and that is why we should be more than particular in saying "yes" to these matters. The hardest job the introducer has to do is to pilot this through this Committee, and after that the matter is fixed. It is not fixed yet, however, with the electorate, because the Minister said - and I can see it and am in sympathy with him - that

they cannot do everything that is expected in three years. That is true, but the people were told so. They were told to put you in for three years and you would do the job; but the Minister said today that it would take eighteen months to make a start with some of the projects. He is beginning to backfire. This is the thin edge of the wedge. When you write a manifesto and put it to the people, you are elected on what is written in the manifesto, and I am sure they are not ignorant people over there; they are sensible people and they knew at the time that they could not get through with the projects in three years, though the people elected them on that.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, it is of course futile to attempt to make the hon. junior member for St. Joseph understand exactly what I said for the simple reason that he does not want to understand, not that he cannot understand. It is just his mischievous mind.....

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, is the Minister accusing me of being mischievous?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: No, he is not. He has risen on a point of order.

Mr. SMITH: Yes, but did you not hear the remarks?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am still listening to the point of order by the Minister.

Mr. SMITH: Now, Mr. Chairman, this is Parliament; so do not let us make sport. We have Rules to go by. The Hon. Minister referred to me as having a mischievous mind. That is a serious statement he has made, and you heard it, Sir. I am therefore objecting to those remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I did not hear it the way you related it.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, in no Parliament in the world would the word "mischievous" be unparliamentary, and I am saying, Sir, that the hon. member does not want to understand what has been said here today. He is merely trying to twist and distort the entire situation to be able to present a case for the Opposition. The hon. member knows full well, as we said earlier today, that this official will have absolutely no power in the formulation of Government policy, that he is not being placed above any Civil Servant, he would not be attending any Cabinet meeting or anything like that. I do not want to be continually rising on points of order; but in order to keep the records straight, I will have to each time the hon. member gets up and distorts the facts of this case.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to distort anything; I am merely replying to what the Minister said. The Minister has asked for an office of this sort, and I am saying I cannot see the necessity for it yet; but I would still have to prove my case. Now if this Officer has no power, cannot attend Cabinet meetings, or do anything at all, do you mean to say that his job merits $6,600 a year? 7.05 p.m.

Well, now, I am going to believe the Minister: I am going to take the time from him. This man will not have any power and he will not be above any person, and yet you are giving him so much money per month along with $80 per month for travelling. If what the Minister has said is true, then you are paying this officer for doing nothing. He has no power, no authority and he cannot even go in when the Cabinet is sitting. He will know nothing at all, and yet he is getting nearly as much money as the Permanent Secretary who has to do everything. What travelling will he have to do to merit $80 per month for travelling? For him to do all this travelling you will have to pay him for travelling from home to the office, from the office back home and for where he cares to drive to at night. That is the only way he can work for that $80 a month travelling. If I am not mistaken, I think that is the same amount of travelling allowance provided for the Ministers. Some times they have to do travelling. I am now reminded that these Ministers do a lot of travelling, not through the Island but by air. What would this fellow have to do now to earn travelling? Probably he would have to travel by air too.

Sir, this does not make sense. As someone has said, if you want another Minister — I am not in the position to contradict you — say that you want another Minister. You have the country to run and if it is too much on you, say so. Personally, I do not want any man to kill himself on the job. All that a politician is going to get is a kick in his pants. Do not care how much he has done and what he thinks. That is the reward for a politician; therefore I would not encourage any Premier to kill himself on the job for the Government. It would not be fair. If you need assistance, ask for it in the right way — not in this way at all. This particular person will know nothing at all. He will be powerless and you are going to pay him as much as a powerful person. Appoint someone who will be responsible to the electorate. Appoint someone who will have to care something about the members of the Legislature. You will not have to pay him anything more because this particular salary which you are paying to this person is a handsome one. It is $6,050 per year and $80 per month for travelling. This salary is an attractive one. Let it be paid to one of the others, but not to a stranger. You want somebody who has power. This is a power job, not a powerless one. If it were a powerless one, you could bring down a Resolution to give the person $200 a month. Then I would believe the Hon. Minister, but I still have my doubts. I am still Doubting Thomas. An intelligent Government such as the Government over there is not going to pay a powerless man all this money, and on top of that fine salary such a nice and handsome travelling allowance. Mr. Chairman, I am not in favour of the travelling allowance at all, because I term it high class robbery of the Treasury. What is he going to do for it?

Mr. Chairman, I hope the Hon. Minister will tell me how many times a month this man will have to go to St. Andrew or St. Philip. Is he going to travel to all the constituencies? What is he going to do for $80 a month travelling? There are a lot of Civil Servants who have to do a lot of travelling. What are they going to say about this? They have to work like anything and they have to keep within the travelling allowance rate. As soon as they find you doing 200 miles a month, down goes the rate. You start and pay a Civil Servant for travelling at the rate of 20 cents per mile for travelling and the rate of travelling goes down to five or 10 cents per mile, depending on the mileage you have done.

Sir, you are not creating harmony with these people when you do this: you are creating disharmony with the Civil Servants. They are not going to feel good about it. I am not going to vote for this $80 a month travelling. As a matter of fact, I am not going to vote for the Resolution at all. If you are going to create a job, create another Permanent Secretary. Create a job that the person can go into any Ministry: create a job for somebody who can know something about any file and who will have some power too. This job is for someone who does not have any power but is getting a good pay. How can I be in agreement with a Resolution of this nature? This is not fair to the taxpayers of the Island or to the other officers in the Civil Service or to anybody at all. I do not think it is even fair to the holder of the office because you will be paying for work which he is not going to do.

I am not twisting anything, as the Hon. Minister has tried to accuse me because my joints are too stiff to twist. I cannot do it. I want to face facts and I would like the Government to face facts too.

This is my belief and do not blame me for it. I doubt very much that every one of the Ministers had a say in this matter. You know who the Hon. Premier is. That is my feeling because I know that some hon. members over on the other side would kick the barn down. You know that some hon. members over there are not satisfied with it and I wonder if any backbencher knew anything about it before today. So they cannot be satisfied about it. They cannot be satisfied over your taking someone who has not faced the electorate, who has not stood a nip bottle of rum for anybody and whom you will put in office to sit down and draw $600 a month. Do you mean to say that you only need to stand aside

and make sport and you can be put in this job while you have other men in the wilderness who have spent amounts of money to support the Government? Do you mean to say that now that you want a man to do this job, you are going out in the wilderness and looking for a stranger to put into this job? It is not fair. I am counselling the Hon. Minister that it is not fair although I know that he will pass this. Do you know how many people are going to be vexed with you about this? This is going to cause you to lose some support. Members of the Government do not know that by doing this they are doing themselves more harm than good. I think I hear the hon. senior member for the City firing his gun on this thing. Of course I need not remind hon. members that he used to say about a former Premier that that Premier was genial and a very nice man, he was one of the best things born; but one day during election time I went into his constituency and I heard him talking the other way about him. I warn hon. members not to take the hon. Leader of the Opposition too seriously.
7.15 p.m.

I know that the hon. member has his people to represent and especially the rich people; and it is these same people who are not going to feel happy. *(ASIDES).*

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. I am keeping quiet, but I do not like the hon. member to take things out of their context. Let the hon. member say what he means. What does he mean by saying that I have my people to represent and they are rich people? If that is so, then I represent a lot of rich people.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member did not allow me to finish my statement. I said that even the rich people are not going to be satisfied with this matter. The hon. member seems to have got clothes hung out and he is looking for rain. We do not mind paying taxation, but let the money be spent in the right direction. Nobody will shout about the money which was spent on the Deep Water Harbour because it is money which has been well spent. Are we to work for money and then it is frittered away in this manner? No, Sir. I am going to sit now, but I am appealing to the Hon. Leader of the House to think over what I have said very seriously. I am measuring the hon. member's corn by his own bushel. This officer whom is proposed to appoint cannot go into the Cabinet room when they are sitting (Mr. MOTTLEY: It may be a woman.) Well, if it is a woman, I am finished speaking. *(ASIDES).*

Mr. Chairman, I was making the point just now that they won the votes of the people by offering them things. They wanted to win the Government and I do not mind that. We go into the boxing ring as good friends and sometimes one boxer kills the other. He did not mean to do that, but the man was killed in the same way as if he had been previously hated. Imagine that they can carry out their programme in three years' time. They have promised to go to the country within three years. Anybody can go to the Public Library and read the Government's manifesto and see how much they have done from that manifesto. The manifesto is covering a period of three years, not five. They have spoken of certain things in one direction, but now they are going in another directon. They have taken off things: The only things which they have not taken off were the legs of the table in the dining room. This Government is composed of vigorous young men, but we had some old men in the last Government. I cannot vote for this Resolution because it appears as if they have somebody sitting down waiting for this job. I cannot do that; it is not fair to the people of Barbados or to the taxpayers in general to be paying such a handsome salary to a man who is not responsible. If the Premier wants another Permanent Secretary, let us give him one; he is an economic expert and he can tell us how to run the country financially. We have a lot of people who can do this work, and the Premier is not supposed to sprain his brain in dealing with economics. You have an economist already; and look how far you have travelled! Go to the Pine, go to Grazettes, to the Deep Water Harbour, to Gall Hill; you go all over the country and you will see how much has been done without the assistance of this person whom it is now proposed to appoint.

It is now that you have got to the top of the wall where you can stand the storm that you are telling me or this Committee that this office is being overworked. I am asking why you did not increase the personnel of various Departments? Go to the Post Office and to the Customs Department in order to transact business and you will find that you have to remain standing for a long time before you can be attended to. Why do you not think of that? You want more Clerks working in these departments. You can go downstairs here at the Government Savings Bank, you can go at the Customs; as a matter of fact, wherever you go you can see the need for more Clerks. I understand that certain Heads of Department have asked for an increase in their staff and the request was turned down.
7.25 p.m.

You turned down that suggestion when I know you would have been doing a good job in relieving unemployment and some poor persons would get a job, and I would not have to stand two and three hours waiting to be attended. First things should come first. This money would go a long way in that avenue, because you are not starting the Clerks at a high salary. You are having this top-heavy administration with one man drawing all the money from the Treasury and telling me about an over-worked office. The last Premier was an old man comparatively speaking; he was the grandfather of this Premier, and I did not hear that he dropped dead in the office, and the work still went along. I never heard that any person died from being a Premier, and now that you have a young Premier, you are telling me that he is over-worked. Very often you bury children, but old men are still alive at one hundred years. It is true that it is not always age, and that you may have a complaint. There are old people whose organs are in good order, but you may get a child born with a disease; so we cannot talk about age at all. The Premier may look young and healthy, but he may not be well, and I know that too many worries can throw you overboard, or make you fretful, angry and vindictive. I would not like to know the Premier lost his life through overwork; but let him ask for help and we will give it to him, though not in the way he is asking for it. I feel this Government is doing this country an injustice by creating an office of this sort.

Mr. MOTTLEY and Mr. COWARD rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Bridgetown caught my eye first.

Mr. COWARD: The hon. member knows I do not waste time in the House, and what I have to say would only take ten minutes.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I bow to your ruling, but I will give way to the hon. member.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Chairman, as an independent Socialist in this House, I speak for no Party and no Party speaks for me. I do not know what is happening at Party level, but I can only be guided by what comes in front of me, and as I have no intention of forming my own Party, then it is my duty to support any measure which is brought to this House by a Socialist Government. The explanatory note to this Resolution and the explanation that was given by the Hon. Leader of the House set out the case so clearly, that I see absolutely no need for exaggeration. We all know that the office of the Premier carries with it much responsibility, and the Premier himself has quite a lot of things to deal with; therefore I feel that we should support this Resolution to give him an Assistant. I also hope that the general public will take full advantage of the services which be available to them.

You will note, Mr. Chairman, that one may sometimes go to the hospital or to a solicitor and have to return home without being attended to because that particular officer is not available. This is why I feel that when this officer is appointed, Government should make a very strong statement or put it over Rediffusion letting the public know what are the duties of this officer. *(Hear, hear!)* I say that to say this: there may be times when one may go to Government Headquarters to see the Premier and he may not be avail-

able, and if there is a substitute there who is able to give that person the necessary satisfaction, I am sure that person would go away feeling happy.

Mr. Chairman, that is my contribution to this debate, and as you know, from the time I came here I never wasted time. I am here to say what I have to say and that is all. I heartily support this Resolution.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member has really lived up to his promise and was very short. Now I purposely did not speak earlier in this debate because after listening to what some might consider the mellifluous and impassioned outpourings and what to others seemed merely a diarrhoea of words with absolutely no meaning, I believe the truth really should be told to the public. This Resolution, when I got it, gave me some sleepless moments, and I had to consider myself and with members of my Party whether we would give it support.

Now if what the hon. junior member for St. George had said in here tonight was true, I would blast this Government to the limbo of forgotten things. As a matter of fact, this Government would not be so drunk as to come here and say they would be flouting the constitution of this country by carrying anybody to the Cabinet other than an elected representative, that is a Minister, as provided in the constitution, besides a Clerk who is sworn to secrecy. It is a nice thing to get up and fool people with that, but that is as impossible as it is for me to fly to Trinidad without an aeroplane. It is just not true and it cannot happen. I hope if this is reported in the Press that every hon. member will realise that this is just so much criticism for the purpose of criticism.
7.35 p.m.

I am going to point out to you in a few words what I think of this matter. I am going to support this Resolution and for various reasons. I am also going to be a strong critic of the Government. I want to draw to your attention something which I consider to be rank dishonesty. I do not mince words: I am going to give it you exactly as you want it.

Now, what does this Resolution say: It says:

Supplementary provision in the sum of $7,230 is required to meet the cost of the engagement of a Personal Assistant and Public Relations Officer to the Premier for the remainder of the financial year as follows —

Salary at the rate of $6,600 per annum (May 1963 to March 1964)	$6,050
Travelling Allowance at rate of $80 per month (May 1963 to March 1964)	880
Furniture and equipment	300"

That worried me somewhat until I began to think of what this officer would have to do. As you turn over the page and look at the other paragraph of the Addendum, what do you find? You see that it is impossible for the Premier to keep pace with the work and the demands of the holder of the Office of Premier include important interviews, personal correspondence, official correspondence addressed to him and so on. There is nothing in this about decisions of the Cabinet. Do you think the Hon. Premier would be so drunk as to tell a Public Relations Officer what tax he is going to put on rum or cigarettes or what he is going to take off? It says important interviews, personal correspondence, official correspondence addressed to him personally, day to day public relations with the press, radio and public. Of course it might be so if the man was going to become a Premier like some of the other Premiers who as soon as he entered the Ministerial steps, no longer would he be able to do things for himself. But that is not his nature. I know what it is because I was the Major of Bridgetown for a short time and I found out that if you want to keep in touch with the people you could not sit on Mount Olympus. If a man must attend to the business of the State, there is the necessity for someone to sit in for him and attend to his personal interviews.

The Resolution goes on to say "visits to places both in and out of the island and attendance at official functions all of which are additional to his normal duties or responsibility for the Ministry of Finance, his general office and the Home Affairs Section, Chairman of the Cabinet and a Minister and a member of the Legislature. It is therefore proposed to employ a Personal Assistant and Public Relations Officer to the Premier who will undertake all duties associated with a confidential secretary and personal aide."

Now, I am going to say this and I hope the Press will record it.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. You may not be aware of the Rules of the House. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition cannot address the House and in addressing the House draw attention to outsiders. It is against the Rules. He cannot say "I am going to say this" and say along with that that he wants the Press to take note of it. He should only address the House. We have Rules in here and he has to adhere to them. As I have said formerly, some members have their own rules.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have not bought any of the two-penny books which the hon. member bought when he was in London. However, I do not care if the Press took it up or not. As far as I am concerned, the Hon. Minister who introduced this Resolution used two words which caused me to have apprehension. He said it was necessary to have someone on whom the Hon. Premier could place complete reliance and confidence. Those are strong words — complete reliance and confidence. There can be no mistake about them. They have a strong meaning.

I have heard my hon. friend, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, in his criticism saying that you are paying a Public Relations Officer $500 a month and travelling allowance. During the last Estimates, I said — and I still say so — something as regards the Head Public Relations which can be found on page 103. I have heard very much from hon. members who have spoken against this that there is going to be great dissatisfaction in the Civil Service. What is the real position in this country with a person being appointed to the Civil Service when a new job has been created? I think it is usually advertised, and after the Civil Service Commission has gone into the matter, the Commission usually makes the appointment.

Mr. Chairman, I am addressing my remarks to you. An hon. member in criticising this Resolution said that there is going to be great dissatisfaction in the Civil Service. When the last Government appointed a Public Relations Officer, so called in the Estimates under Head 36, Information Officer and who is now a Civil Servant and who was taken from a job at a salary of $160 a month and given $600 a month, was there any hue-and-cry? Did he have the necessary qualifications? Was there a master at Harrison College getting that salary? Did any of them who burned the midnight oil get that salary? Was it not common knowledge that this man was removed from the job he was doing and given this job for personal reasons? Look at the salary which is set down here to that officer. It is $7,440 per annum and he was taken from a job for which he was getting $160 a month. These things must be said in this country. Even this should be said because I believe myself that the Ministers could hold weekly Press Conferences with Reporters where each Ministry can say all that they want us to know because the things which I hear over the radio have absolutely nothing to do with this country except when you hear the Hon. Minister of Education broadcasting something about his department.

What is worrying me really are the words which the Hon. Introducer of the Resolution said: "that it was necessary to have someone on whom the Premier could have complete reliance and confidence." You have a man in the Estimates to whom you pay a salary of $620 a month under the Head Ministry of Education, Public Relations. What the Minister mentioned was, Public Relations Officer, someone on whom the Premier must have complete reliance and confidence.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I just rise on a point of order.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sit down and keep quiet. This is the best thing that that Government can do. You want honest people. Let me put it this way. You do not have complete reliance and confidence in certain people in this country. I tell you this. If you have a man already to whom you pay $620 a month and you had now come for another one to do the same thing, I would not vote for it.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I rise again on a point of order. I would not like the hon. member to read more into my remarks than what is intended. I should not like the inference to be drawn from my remarks that there are not Government servants in whom we have complete confidence. All I said was that the purpose of this Resolution was to provide the Hon. Premier with someone as a personal aide and someone in whom he will have the utmost reliance and confidence. This does not mean that that there are not other people in whom he has confidence.
7.45 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I can quite appreciate the position that there are party politics in this country; I say what I have to say because I am not a social climber. I never expected any of these people to vote for me. You said clearly and distinctly that it is absolutely necessary for the Premier to have somebody in whom he has complete reliance and confidence as a Public Relations Officer. You either mean that or you do not mean it. I would like to have somebody in whom I could have complete confidence and reliance; I would know that, as Premier, with these personal interviews and letters to be attended to, I would like to have somebody in whom I could have complete confidence and reliance. When the hon. junior member for St. George talked about a man having all of this power to make decisions when the Premier is out of the Island, I laughed at that. Imagine the Deputy Premier acting as Premier and allowing this man to make decisions! Everybody knows that that was only a red herring being drawn across the line.

The question about the salary is so much nonsense. You have taken people out of the blue, so to speak; you have taken a man who was in the Civil Service; he goes up to $620 a month and you make him Public Relations Officer. If the feeling is that there is not going to be any confidence, I would like to have my own personal confidence. If it is argued that if this appointment is made, it is the Premier's personal appointment, and what the other Civil Servants would say, I ask: What would you say about the Housing Authority when they had people getting $80 a month and they appointed them to posts at $400 a month when you had Civil Servants working for 20 and 25 years? What did they say when all of these people were brought in through the back-door, so to speak? I have looked through the Civil List and I say these things. I am voting for this Resolution because I accept the word of the hon. introducer of this Resolution. It is obvious to the general public that this office is costing us the sum of $11,784 plus the travelling allowance which this gentleman will get. I have met Civil Servants like Mr. Pinard to whom I have to complain about letters being written to me to whom they think they are writing for complaint. Unfortunately, I am not the Premier and I do not take back what I say. Unfortunately, in Barbados, you find that there are those who are still serving the last Government and they are bringing out everything and they are talking everything. I know that they are Civil Servants who are loyal to the core, but I do not want to call any names. I believe that if one Minister did not attend a Cabinet meeting, and that Minister went and asked them what happened, he could not get it out of some Civil Servants; but there are others who are undermining. They do not come to me; they do not vote for me. They are getting $700 a month and a lot of them have not got the ability for it. I make no apology for saying that. If you find that you must have someone in whom you have complete confidence, I do not blame you for that. In my small capacity, naturally I would select the nearest person there is to me in the Service, a person in whom I have complete confidence and who will not say something which I have not said. Naturally, I would want to have somebody in whom I have complete confidence.

I was questioning the wisdom of having this appointment made by the Public Service Commission, but I realise that the Public Service Commission may appoint somebody possibly with the necessary ability and possibly they may appoint somebody not with the necessary ability. How on earth are you going to pitch fork people without the necessary qualifications? When it comes to the question of Public Relations, you have people like Mitchie Hewitt with all sorts of things. How can you pitch fork people who are working for $160 a month in jobs overnight and give them more than the Headmaster at Harrison College? The qualification which a particular person had did not qualify him for teaching except in the Preparatory Form. I suggest that you put him in a School and we would save money.

Mr. Chairman, I can quite see the danger in not sending this matter to the Public Service Commission because a similar thing may happen. Do you think that I do not understand this country? The hon. member says that I am genial and so on, but let me get on a platform and you will hear what I would say.
7.55 p.m.

I know who applied for that job but if I told the Press and the general public why one man was given the job, what would happen? Now they come to tell us that they cannot vote for this today. Of course, we are going to vote for this, and I am going to vote for it with pleasure. On the other hand, what do you find? The hon. junior member for St. Joseph should vote for this, if for no other reason than that when Sir Grantley Adams was Premier and was dealing with the formation of a Federation, which took up a lot of time, there was no question of Ministerial status, and there was no question of carrying Ministries, but beside that he had around him some very experienced people; but now you have the Premier of this country who besides being Minister of Finance, has to guide the destinies of these eight Islands which alone takes a tremendous lot of time. At that time, Mr. Chairman, Sir Grantley Adams was not a Minister, did not have Ministerial Government or Cabinet Government, but today we have Cabinet Government with a Minister of Finance who is Minister of Home Affairs, and I may tell you, Sir, that sometimes it takes us weeks and weeks to get things back from the office of the Premier although there are all these people.

If I can read correctly, this has absolutely nothing to do with his handling the official or Government business of the Premier; he cannot formulate or make any policy on Government's position in handling, say, Bagatelle Quarry or something at the Deep Water Harbour. It is set out here quite clearly. These demands include important interviews. An interview from a person in St. John as a shopkeeper must be as important as one from Mr. Bowring; if not, he is a fool, and would not warm these seats again. If he thinks an interview from a woman from Martin's Bay who wants to see him because her son got drowned off Puerto Rico, or an interview from a man at the Pine whose pig was stolen or killed by a Civil Servant and the money stolen is not as important as having an interview with Mr. Tomlin. Let him think so and see how long he would be here. The thing that keeps him there is how well he handles his constituents. When the note mentioned "important interviews", I took it to mean not only V.I.P's but his constituents from the parish of St. John. We all know that St. John, like a city set on a hill, is considered the seat of learning in this country, and when you speak to an agricultural labourer from that district, you can see the difference. The note also mentions personal correspondence. Can you be Premier of Barbados without having a tremendous lot of personal correspondence? In my capacity at the Local Government Council, I had correspondence I could not keep up with. What do you think then of a Premier who has the task of bringing together a closer association of the Islands? When the hon. junior member for St. Joseph spoke, he should have realised that Sir Grantley Adams at the time did not have the responsibility of collective Government. There was no Cabinet Government in 1948 when they were having all these meetings. Today there are meetings that call for greater attention and scrutiny, and greater thinking; and in addition to being Minister of Home Affairs he is Minister of Finance, which is to my mind important.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member referred to the fact that the last Premier did not die, because he did not have

all this; but some of us have a way of living through which we might live forever or live like Methusalah. You never worry about anything; you never do anything wrong; so you never do anything right. The note goes on to state "official correspondence addressed to him personally." I heard some *sotto voce* remarks about people addressing correspondence to the Premier. As a matter of fact, people address certain things to the Premier. You can imagine a woman referring to the hon. member as Premier in a letter feeling that she is giving him some political kudos; but when one of his officials opens the letter, it is really more to the member for St. John himself and nothing to do with him as Premier; but it is addressed to the Premier; so if the *sotto voce* remark was meant that I did not know that, I just say I would not worry about that anyhow. The note goes on to say "day to day public relations with the Press." If a man — unless he is a superman — is dealing with the finances of the colony, and at the same time is dealing with the closer association of the West Indies, the Press will want to interview him on something, and no matter how brilliant he is and what kind of degrees he has, he would shudder at the stupidness he had said to the Press when it is reported; so he should have someone to whom he can say that the Press wants information on a pig that got killed at the Pine Farm, or about Civil Servants not having the right to sell milk. Incidentally, how can a man say that his 18 cows give 418 pints of milk a day? I would have to ask how many standpipes he has in his yard. These are things the Hon. Premier cannot answer off-hand. There are people with a lot of qualifications where degrees are concerned, but they are unable to think quickly, especially if they are tired.

Now, Mr. Chairman, all these things are additional to the normal duties of responsibility for the Minister of Finance. No one wants to say that the Premier of Barbados is perfect. Of course, he makes mistakes; but who never makes mistakes never does anything. Sometimes you feel you would take his head off for making mistakes, but I would say that in the eighteen years odd I have been in here and listened to speeches prepared by people who occupy financial positions, I have not heard better speeches than the ones he has delivered on the question of finance, and even his greatest opponents offer him congratulations on them. That is not done by coming out of a pub or parlour and coming here and doing it; it must take some thought and preparation; and therefore when a man is preparing such an oration for this august Chamber, it is not expected that he can tell me these things. All the Premier is asking for is to have a Personal Assistant. I notice that someone is trying to throw a spanner into the works. I am accustomed to this, and I hope the backbenchers never fall for this. I am a man who highly respects education.
8.05 p.m.

I am a man who knows my own limitations. Because electors elect us in here and I can go on a platform and rabble-rouse the people, that does not necessarily mean that I am a good journalist or a good writer. People expect politicians to know and to be able to do everything. People expect you to god-father their babies and sometimes they expect you to father them.

As far as I am concerned, when it comes to this Ministry of Finance, I should say that I heard one of the speakers in opposition to this Resolution trying to throw in this spanner in the wheel by saying that there are very many members over there who can do this and that. What is the point in fooling people? Of course you are not fooling hon. members over there. (A VOICE: He tried to be mischievous.) I feel that that was not necessary, and no member over there would take to that bait because I know well enough the members over there.

Mr. Chairman, on this matter, I can appreciate why it was not sent to the Civil Service Commission because what has happened there and in the Education vote under the Head "Public Relations", if that were to repeat itself, the Government would be in a similar position.

The Hon. Premier went to British Guiana recently. That visit seemed to worry a lot of us. Some people asked: "What next, what has he gone there for? How is this going to interfere with the closer association of these Islands?" As soon as you see something like this, you begin to worry. As soon as he came back he plunged right into a job and we have not heard a proper report nor have we received any report of actually what transpired and what happened as a result of his visit. You must have somebody in whom there is great confidence. Confidence there may mean confidence in their ability. Anyhow, we have not heard one word about that visit. Maybe, the Hon. Premier would have to go to another conference. If I were in his position, surely I would want a Public Relations Officer in whom I would have confidence.

Sir, I will just throw this out as a warning. It is no sense fooling the public. Having said that there is this lack of confidence, that is what you mean. As I see it, it is not politic for me to get up in this Chamber to tell the public at large what I know Permanent Secretaries have done to Ministers. I know Permanent Secretaries have done some things to their Ministers, and those things were so much out of the way that the only thing which some people would have done about it is to put down something for them to drink in the office. Those are the things which I know. Ask me who told me and you will not get that out of me. If you say you have no confidence in some of them and you are asking for this officer in whom you can have confidence, then you should get him. Fortunately, it is an appointment which is not pensionable. Whoever the Hon. Premier gets, he will have confidence in that person.

There was the suggestion that the person should come from among the backbenchers. I ask hon. members on the other side to take that suggestion for what it is worth.

I am going to support this Resolution. It has given me a tremendous amount of thought. I will only say that it is time that as regards the $11,000 which you are spending under the Head "Public Relations," you give thought to what the officer under that Head is doing. It is time that you send him around to do something if you only send him around to inspect the food which you are giving to elementary school children. It is time that you have this young man doing something for the money which he is receiving. I will vote for the Resolution without any amendment at all.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, there is one statement made by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition which I am going to speak strongly against. I have looked at Head 36 in the Estimates which is Education (8) Public Relations. Now, I take the complete opposite view to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition: and if by any semblance, by any innuendo, he is asserting that the Government Information Officer should not be the Government's Information Officer because you are appointing this man, I would vote against this Resolution. It is scandalous for the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to suggest that the Government Information Officer was not appointed on the basis of the highest propriety to the Service. This was a Civil Service Commission appointment.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. When the hon. member said that it is scandalous for the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to suggest that, what does he mean? All I said was that you took a man from a $160 a month job and you put him in a $600 a month job. What is wrong with that? I said that. I will go further and say that it was done with an ulterior motive, and I do not care who says "No". He did not have the qualifications, but he was appointed. That is what I said. I do not care if the hon. member votes for it or not. It is scandalous; and if the public knew all the reasons, they would say that it was scandalous. If only you knew what took place behind closed doors!

Mr. WALCOTT: I do not want to know anything that took place behind any scene. For the hon. member to say that the salary that the man was working for was $160 a month and you put him in a job at a salary of $600 a month, I just would say that all of us are products of poverty.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I rise on a point of order. I said that you took him from that job at that salary without any qualifications and paid him more than what you paid any master at Harrison's College.

Mr. WALCOTT: You said that you took a man working for $160 a month and put him in a job at $600 a month; what does that mean?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order again. The hon. member cannot take that passage out of the context. The Hon. Minister of Education ought to be able to bear this out. I went on to say the qualifications which he possessed. The hon. senior member for St. Peter knows me well enough. He knows that I would not take up anybody on the salary which they are getting. I went on to say that I had the greatest respect for education.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. members went on to say a lot more things than that. He started off by saying that this man was working for $160 a month and you appointed a man who was getting $160 to this post.
8.15 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I said it anyhow; I definitely said it.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. The hon. member made many speeches on this point; he repeated it some eight times. He said that you took a man who was working for $160 a month and put him in this post; he also said that this man did not even possess the qualifications and he compared him with what the man at Harrison College was working for. But this idea of a man receiving a salary and going to another salary has absolutely nothing to do with this matter. The hon. member said that this post was never advertised.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I object to that, Mr. Chairman. I said that this post was advertised and I went on to mention the people who had applied for it. I went on to speak of people who had greater qualifications and more experience. I was comparing this appointment with the one which has been made.....

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not suffer from prejudices against people; I am not going to be a supporter of any man unless the other man is not doing the work. I ask: Where would the Ministers get $26 million from so that they could employ people? It is the public's money which they are spending in employing these people. You have a Public Service Commission and the Government Information Officer has been appointed by the Public Service Commission. You think that if this appointment comes about then the other one can go. What the hon. member said is this.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: I said that under Head 36 — Ministry of Education — you have a Public Relations Officer. If you have that officer, then you should find something for this officer to do. I never said that the other one should go.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, there should not be any mix-up with the Government Information Service and this post. Suppose the Governor, who has a Private Secretary, is going to make a release that something is going to take place, that he is going to have something for children to attend| Do you think that he will ask the Premier to do this? You can have 89 Public Relations Officers within a Service; but you cannot say that you are wasting money because the Government has agreed to a Government Information Service. (Mr. MOTTLEY: There is money wasted.) The hon. member should not say that if one comes in another should go; you are dealing with persons and not the office.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, am I not entitled to say what I like? I am not dependent upon the hon. member or anybody else to tell me how to vote. I have said to the Hon. Minister that he should find something for the man to do.

Mr. WALCOTT: What he says is absolutely necessary, but what are we dealing with now? The hon. member can only be a mad man. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Not a fool.) or a fool because only a fool could read this and hear the demands made on the office of the Premier and relate it to the Government's Information Service. It is only a fool who does not understand that the Prime Minister has a Private Secretary who is nothing to do with the Government Information Service. They are absolutely nothing to do with each other. If the hon. member does not agree with the programmes which the Government is running, well, let him say so; but do not let him deal with the Government Information Service because this matter is nothing to do with that. The Government would be very foolish indeed to abandon the Government Information Service; the Hon. Premier is not going to be the Government Information Service; that Service relates to all aspects of such service and to the programmes which come over the Radio. Those are the functions of the Government Information Service. Do you think that the Government Information Service will be set up merely for the purpose of making broadcasts? The first holder of the office was Mr. Oliver Jackman, and this is something which was pressed on the last Government for many years. You can have a Government Information Service and a Government Information Officer. The suggestion that the Hon. Premier is asking for this office would be a most erroneous suggestion to me as to the reason why the hon. member says it is being asked. The words used were "lack of confidence".
8.25 p.m.

Now the Premier could not take a man who is Government Information Officer and turn his office into a political appointment. This is a political appointment, and that is why it is not a Civil Establishment post but one which as the Hon. Leader of the House said, the Premier would have the right to deal with. I made my speech on this already, but the Hon. Leader of the House did not mention a lack of confidence in the context that there is lack of confidence in somebody who should be appointed to this post and therefore he is seeking this appointment.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, the hon. member did not complete the sentence in which "lack of confidence" was mentioned.

Mr. WALCOTT: It is not a lack of confidence in the person you are appointing.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The hon. member must not put it that way. The necessity for this was that there was not complete reliance and confidence, as the Leader of the House said himself that he said so.

Mr. WALCOTT: He did not say that there was no confidence in an officer; he was saying that this person must be a person in whom the Premier has complete confidence, in the positive and not in the negative sense.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The hon. member said he must be a person in whom there must be complete reliance and confidence.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member thinks I do not understand what the member said, but I say that is different from what he has interpreted it to be. That could not mean that, because he said so, therefore *ipso facto* there is somebody to be appointed or there is somebody there that you do not have confidence in. All this is saying is that this person to be appointed must be a person that must have these things. We could not accept it being mooted about that the reasons why you were forced to take this step was because there was someone holding an office in the Public Service that could be regarded as a Public Relations Officer whom you could not use. There is nobody in the Public Service that you can make a political appointment of, and all I said in my opening remarks was that this was a matter in which the Premier could choose to make it a political appointment by various means. It is a political appointment because you are appointing a person to be a Personal Assistant and Public Relations Officer to the Premier, and therefore it must be a political appointment in that the Hon. Leader said himself that the Premier is to have a free and unfettered right in appointing this person. This is nothing for the Public Service Commission or anybody else, and I said when I was speaking that you can have two ways of choosing. You can choose this *via* your Service through which the Premier would be free to take somebody as in England where you take some of your Civil Servants and make them Private Secretaries, so that when you go out of power they are not there anymore, or you can do like

Dr. Jagan. I also quoted Dr. Williams who appointed not a political man, but an industrial adviser, a man like A. E. T. Henry, the Prime Minister's personal adviser on industrial relations matters. What I want the hon. member to see is that the person is Public Relations Officer to the Premier and not to the Government.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, what I did say and will repeat is that it is this officer's duty to be loyal to the Government in power. If the question of complete reliance and confidence comes up, it must leave you with some feeling that the general run of people are not loyal to the Government. What do you want me to say?

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to confuse his mind. The Addendum which was read by the hon. member states that it is therefore proposed to employ a Personal Assistant and Public Relations Officer to the Premier who will undertake all duties associated with a confidential secretary and personal aide. The person therefore is Public Relations Officer to the Premier and not to the Government, and would have nothing to do with a Press Release being sent out by the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a bad thing if you set out to support something and do it badly, because you are likely to give a wrong image to the role of your own honourable position in the House of Assembly. As Leader of the Opposition you should be clearer than I am on every single issue that comes here. You have an official role to perform. I am not a member of the Opposition nor am I a member of the Government, but I read my papers; and as Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, you are the counterpart to the Premier, and you must therefore understand what the Premier is propounding, because you cannot give an in-between interpretation that is neither fish, fowl or red herring. Your interpretation, therefore, of what a Personal Assistant to the Premier would be should not be a Personal Assistant to the Governemnt; and when you put that question to the Minister of Education, you are mixing the whole thing up.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a few words on this Resolution. This Resolution seeks the sum of $7,230 for a Personal Assistant and Public Relations Officer to the Premier, and I do not think, Mr. Chairman, from what I have seen that this needs so much criticism and debate. On one occasion when I visited Government Headquarters, I saw about sixty people waiting on the Premier, but he was at a meeting with his Secretaries and other Ministers. Those people were keeping as much racket as a group of people on the fish bay when fish are scarce. I had to try and control them; and when the Premier came out he could not talk to them, they were so mad. If the Premier had a Personal Assistant to see them when they came with their grievances, they would not have to disturb the Premier in his work. That Assistant would be able to go all over the Island and bring back word to the Permanent Secretaries, thus leaving the Premier free to get ahead with the task which is confronting him. When the hon. junior member for St. Joseph asks what he would do with $80 a month for travelling, he can very well see that this Assistant can travel through the eleven parishes to see where any evil exists. 8.35 p.m.

The Personal Assistant can consult with anyone who goes to see the Premier and then turn to the Permanent Secretary and let him know what is happening. The Hon. Introducer of this Resolution said that the work of the Hon. Premier is increasing; therefore, he needs an assistant. There is this lot of work which the Premier has to do as regards Federation and there is the everyday work which he has to do. I am saying that he needs an assistant, and I am sure if he gets this assistant he would be able to speed up his work.

Sir, a Resolution like this had no right to keep us in here all night. What are you fighting for over it? Is it because they sent a lot of money out of the Island? However, I am not going to make any debate on that now: that would be my chief topic during the campaign for the next elections. What I am certain about is if they are trying to disturb this Government that they cannot disturb it because this Government has a period of time to serve the people and they are given that, not by man, but by God. The last Government was weighed in the scale and found wanting for the evil which they had done. If you conduct yourself against the wishes of the people you must be punished. They have been punished because they failed to bring about a social security scheme for the poverty stricken people of the country. The money which they took up and invested in Nigeria could have been invested in this country. You talk about the poor and coming back again to run the Government. I, John Wesley Corbin, say: "not again"; so you may as well hold your peace. I am sure that if the Hon. Premier appoints the two officers that we will have proper co-operation and the people of the Island of Barbados will be surprised to see the work which these two men will be doing. The work which these two officers vill have to do is to go out and visit and bring back the word.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think any more should be said on this Resolution. I feel it is rightly deserving of support and I am going to support it.

Mr. SMITH rose to speak.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Premier caught my eye first.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I think most of the difficulty on this Resolution has arisen because a lot of people do not understand what is going on today. I want to clear up a lot of the misconceptions in the statements which have been made by hon. members, particularly those on the opposite side. I think the best illustration which I can give is this: Yesterday, the Prime Minister of Trinidad released a document which is going to be Document No. 1 of that country relating to the basic agreement of 1954 between the United States Government and the United Kingdom Government. No member of the Legislature took any part in that exercise at all. And what was revealed was that the Officer administering the territory of Trinidad had to take upon his back the full responsibility of negotiating the Agreement with the gentlemen from the War Department in Washington over the protracted period of time. It is a very illuminating document because it shows the remarkable steps which we have moved from the colonial era to the present emancipation of the masses of the West Indies. Unfortunately, we still have a colonial set up in Barbados, but the structure of the Civil Service — I am not talking of the persons — is one which we can say is admirably careful and one which is an efficient outpost of the British Empire and one which is independent.

If you start with the Officer administering the Government, you will see that he cannot initiate any legislation and he does not. He is not any longer Chairman of the Executive Committee except on certain occasions, neither is the Attorney General or the Financial Secretary or the Colonial Secretary. All of the things which those officers used to do now revolve around Ministers of the Government, and those officers had a staff which was four times my staff — although at that time, ten years ago, they had one-fiftieth of the problems which I have to deal with today. The situation is so ridiculous.

I do not want to repeat what the Hon. Leader of the House said, but I think he over-stated the case when he said that I had a Permanent Secretary, an Assistant Secretary and somebody else. What I want to say, however, is that the present staff which I have in my Ministry is one-fourth of the size of the staff which I had in my office when I was running my private business.

Sir, I have no indictment to make against any member of the Government Service in so far as their capacity to do the work is concerned; but the Ministerial system calls for a lot more than that. I will give one particular reason why I want this Assistant. I do not work according to rules. I work from 8.00 o'clock in the morning, and if it is 4.00 o'clock in the evening that members of the staff leave the office, it is 4.00 o'clock the next morning when I go. I cannot ask Civil Servants to sit in the Ministerial Buildings and work with me until 4.00 o'clock in the morning; but if I appoint a man to work with me, he is subject to dismissal when I leave him to do some work and he does not do it, and he will have to be there when I am working.

I do not think it would be fair to call upon Civil Servants to work with me after their alloted time. But that does not mean that there are not Civil Servants who do not work after their time. There are about three or four Civil Servants who stay in and do some of their work after hours; but they are not attached to Ministries, and therefore, I cannot call on them. One of them probably is attached to a Minister, but I do not want to call any names. However, there are Civil Servants who work nearly every night, but they are not attached to me. The work which they are doing is the kind of work which comes not directly but only indirectly under my control.

In order to get things moving rapidly also, there are one or two of them who work out of the normal time. I cannot call on a lady who is married to stay with me until the early hours of the morning. That would be highly improper; neither am I going to ask for the transfer of an officer because he or she cannot work the hours which I work. Quite apart from that side, there are other considerations. I think the hon. junior member for St. Andrew has explained how he, himself, had to come to my rescue. He mentioned one occasion when he had to pacify a crowd outside of the Ministerial Buildings which had gathered there to see me.

Let me tell this Committee that the people who come to see me start at 6.00 o'clock in the morning. They start coming to see me at my home. Then when I get to the Ministerial Buildings, I am ambushed by people who work in the Highways and Transport Department, people who want jobs and all that kind of thing. Of course, it may be said that this is the normal hazard of one who is in political life and I am not complaining about it.
8.45 p.m.

By the time I get into my office, I have seen probably 17 people at 8.30 o'clock already, and then in the office I have to do a lot of interviewing. I do not think that the Officer administering the Government of this country some 15 or 20 years ago or even 8 years ago, had to see anybody except by appointment; but no Minister could sit down in the Ministerial Offices and tell anybody that he could not see him unless he has an appointment, because your tenure of office would be exceedingly short, and your days would be numbered. Some of the Permanent Secretaries could be referred to, but this would be taking the Secretaries off their work. Under the Head "Premier - Home Affairs" in the Estimates, you will see "Permanent Secretary"; my Permanent Secretary is the Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet, and I cannot expect him to stay in and work all the hours during which the Ministers and I have to work.

Mr. Chairman, the job of the Officer administering the Government of this country fully deserves the salary; but he does not have the work which a Minister has to do. He has an Aide-de-Camp, a Private Secretary, an Assistant Private Secretary, an Orderly, a Chauffer and all of that. He has a full regalia. There is one person in my staff, Miss Bibby who is an efficient Secretary who has to type with one hand and answer the telephone with the other. I want to correct the impression given by the hon. senior member for the City that there is any post of Public Relations Officer. We think we need a Public Relations Officer because that is vital when we have the imported proprietorship of newspapers, and the Press is only interested in sensationalism and is completely irresponsible because they are not committed to this community and they are introducing deplorably low standards of public morality. A Minister should not be diverted to answer letters in the Press and that sort of thing. I do not think it is fair to call upon a Government Officer to do a job which is really a political job. Let us face that fact. The answering of letters in the Press is a matter of public relations; correcting what slanders are made from day to day is not what a Government Officer should do. I think that we should try to point out what the work of the Government Information Officer is. Under Head 17 of the Estimates "Premier - Home Affairs" - the job there is "Government Information Officer."

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. If the Hon. Premier would look on page 103, he will see "Head 36 - Ministry of Education (8) Public Relations."

Hon. E. W. BARROW: There is no post in the Establishment of Public Relations.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member is looking at the Notes.

Mr. MOTTLEY: You look at page 103 and you will see Head 36 - Minister of Education (8) Public Relations.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: In the Estimates for 1963-64 under this Head, I see that there is Item 1 "Information Officer".

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. And what do you see under Ministry of Education?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Public Relations. But the post in the Civil Establishment Order is the post for Information Officer. If you look at the Estimates for 1962-63, it was under the Head "Premier - Home Affairs." That is general. What the hon. member is referring to is just the marginal note, but the post is one of "Information Officer." You will find that 90% of the Officer's time is taken up with radio programmes, with the Visual Aids Department programmes over Rediffusion Service and the School Service. The job of Public Relations Officer is a political job; there is no question about that. The criticisms you get in these uninformed, semi-illiterate periodicals issued in this country are clearly political and they can only be answered at political level. No Minister has any time to deal with that. When I was in private practice, I used to see deliberate mistakes both in the debates and in the newspapers and they had to go by default. You cannot take an officer away from his work and tell him that he must do this and see about that.

I think that the hon. senior member for St. Peter made a statement to the effect, on the question of appointment, that for this person in England they will appoint a senior Civil Servant as Assistant to a Minister or the Prime Minister, as the case may be.
8.55 p.m.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, I said that the Premier has a free choice in selecting whom he wants, and that there is in England a pool of Civil Servants available to become Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister. I also mentioned that there were Parliamentary people and I quoted Mr. McLeod and Mr. Attlee as examples to show that there was no royal road as to whom he should choose. He can choose whom he likes, because he goes out of the Party and out of the Civil Service to choose a man.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I have a Private Secretary right now, and I would not like anybody to think I do not have one, but I would say that instead of inheriting a Private Secretary from a previous Government, I should have a pool of private secretaries to choose from; and if the hon. member would cast his mind back to 1945, he no doubt knows that the Editor of the Daily Herald, a Labour newspaper, was Mr. Williams, and Mr. Attlee chose Mr. Williams as his Public Relations Officer, completely outside of the Civil Service, and that tradition has continued down to today. You do have Private Secretaries, and Confidential Secretaries and Public Relations Officers as well, which are two different things altogether. I would just like to clear that position, but the position is that a Minister going into Government cannot choose his staff; he has to accept what is there. He can ask for minor adjustments either in the size or number of the staff, but Ministers do not like transferring people because it looks like a reflection on the Civil Service; therefore since the Government has a political as well as an administrative and executive function to perform, the Government also has to have a certain amount of freedom in the selection of people who will present the right kind of image of the Government's activities. You cannot ask a public servant to give a certain slant or emphasis on the work which the Government is doing, because if I went out of office and another person came in, say the Leader of the Opposition — and he is suffering from fears today through misconception of what the duties are — he would certainly view the holder of that office with a great

deal of suspicion as happened to Mr. A. E. T. Henry, and the hon. senior member for St. Peter would know what I am talking about. Mr. Henry was such a good Public Relations Officer in the last Jamaica Government that the Government coming in gave him a golden handshake so that they could get him out of the way, because he was too efficient a Public Relations Officer. But he was a member of the established Civil Service, and in order to clear the decks, they had to pay Mr. Henry, I believe, a substantial amount of money. He is a first-class journalist and really presented an image of Jamaica and did it properly.

With a Personal Assistant such as we are asking for in this Resolution, when the Government changes, that is the end of his job or her job as the case may be - not that it is likely, as far as I am concerned, to be a member of the fairer sex however desirable that may be; but that is the end of that person's employment as such, and therefore he must be a person who has a certain amount of economic mobility and be able to work for his living perhaps in more than one direction, and not be a satellite by any means. We have got to the stage where we are changing over from the colonial type Civil Service to a Civil Service in an emerging country; and like every exercise of this kind, you will find that there is a terrific amount of resistance when you get a change. But we have to face the facts of modern day life, and I would not like anybody to think that this is just a device to relieve me of work which I am reluctant to do. I am very willing to do the work, but the point is that the programme of this Government is not going to be effectively done — and this is the opinion of a lot of the senior Civil Servants as well — until we have a post of this kind created.

I would just like in conclusion to point out to the hon. senior member for Bridgetown that the Information Officer, as he himself is aware, is in the Ministry of Education now where I think he properly belongs. In addition to that, there is a multiplicity of duties which I quite honestly find it impossible to do; but if I were running my own business, I would have had it organised already and had people to relieve me of some of the duties which it is not fair or right to call upon members of the Civil Service to perform.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The hon. member has pointed out to me that the Information Officer is now under the Ministry of Education, but I want to say that on several occasions two or three years ago this officer penned his signature to letters saying that he had been directed by this or that Minister to say that something was not true, and put the position. It was my impression that this officer had this job to do and actually did it.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member would let me explain, I have no doubt that the Government Information Officer or the two of them have attempted to do this job, but I am saying it is an unsatisfactory state of affairs to call upon a Civil Servant to do that particular type of job. There is one more point which the hon. member made about not having confidence. It is not a question of confidence; it is a question of a different category of person and a different type of work he will be called upon to do. The fact that the Leader of the House said that it must be a person in whom I personally have confidence is not to be taken as an indictment against anybody who may have been trying to fill the gap in doing a job which neither the Establishment Order under which his job was created or the dictates of commonsense call upon him to perform. I do not think it is the function of the Information Officer to do this type of work, and there must be an emotional difficulty because it would not be fair to call upon him to do someting he is not entitled to do. He is entitled to his own view point, and if you call upon him to do a job which is a political job, you are making severe inroads into the doctrine of separation of powers, and obviously you cannot have the two things operating and overlapping in that way, although there is a theory that there is a considerable amount of overlapping already. But certainly overlapping in the Service where a quasi-political job is designated to a particular officer who is on the Establishment is an undesirable state of affairs, and we are not making any secret about this being a pure political job.

Mr. Chairman, I am not going for any panel from the Public Service Commission or anybody else. In the same way that I appointed my Confidential Secretary in my office, I will be having the discretion to appoint whom I personally consider the best person to do the job I want done; so I would not like members to be in any illusion at all when they are voting for this Resolution that they are voting to do me a personal favour. They are doing something which will expedite the work which the Government is called upon to perform and allow our programme to go forward with the alacrity and smoothness we would like to see.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to be long, but I am very unhappy over a few remarks the hon. senior member for Bridgetown made to the Minister of Education. He said this officer is under your Ministry, and I challenge the Minister of Education to get up and say he has no confidence in this officer. That is what the hon. member said and the Minister said nothing. It is not fair to this particular officer and if the Minister does not say anything, I will believe that you have no confidence in this officer.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, we have already made it abundantly clear that the remarks made by the hon. senior member for Bridgetown could only spring from a misconception of what the duties of the officer were supposed to be. The fact that Mr. Oliver Jackman and the present holder of the office have both on request, not voluntarily, tried to carry out certain public functions as well is not to be taken that that was any part and parcel of their duties, and we have recognised that it is difficult for the normal Information Service to be properly discharged and performed and a public relations job be done as well; but there would be a lot more work in this job than merely public relations. As regards the challenge, the hon. member knows that members of the House are not to accept or issue challenges; and every time somebody says he challenges somebody to do so-and-so, that is only rhetorical. You do not have to take on that kind of thing, especially when there is nothing at the end of the line.

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

9.05 p.m.

On motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA in each case, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the sitting of this House be now suspended for half an hour.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

9.10 p.m.

On re-assembling.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, there being no quorum, I ask that the Bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the Bell be rung.

The bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

THE OVERSEAS SERVICE AGREEMENT BILL, 1963

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: Second reading of a Bill to

ratify and confirm the Overseas Service (Barbados) Agreement, 1962 and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, this Overseas Service Aids Scheme has had a very long history. I think it is now over two years that Her Majesty's Government has been negotiating with the territories in the Caribbean — all those which comprised the former Federation, the Governments of British Guiana and British Honduras — for the implementation of a Scheme to pay inducement allowances to officers from overseas who may be working in these territories.

I do not want to go into the details, but I think the attitude of the Government of this territory ought to be made clear. When we came into office at the end of 1961, negotiations had already been well underway for the acceptance or rejection by the Government of Barbados of this Agreement. We had a very close look at the provisions in the Draft Agreement which Her Majesty's Government was asking us to accept, and it was only after very close scrutiny and after satisfying myself personally, the members of the Government satisfying themselves and the Civil Service Association having a full opportunity to study the implications and the impact of the scheme on the structure and conditions of service of Local Government Officers — and when I say Local Government Officers I mean the officers recruited from here — eventually, after much pressure and their saying that the time was running out and that it would lapse, that we agreed to the draft proposals with certain amendments which were actually suggested by the Civil Service Association.

I should also mention that the Government of Barbados was the last British territory in the Caribbean area to accept the provisions of the Overseas Service Aids Scheme.

Now Sir, roughly the *rationale* of the scheme is that now that most of these territories in the Colonial Empire are emerging and not only getting full internal self-government but are rapidly, one after the other, achieving the status of independence within the Commonwealth, certain territories may not be able to pay the kind of salaries which would induce highly qualified officers either to remain in the Public Service of that territory or would enable them to recruit suitable officers into the Public Service of the territory either on the eve or immediately after independence. If I may quote a case, I can quote the case of Tanganyika. I had a good look at the Service in Tanganyika and I was surprised to discover that in that country which had 37,800 Civil Servants, the top administratives in the Service were getting salaries of £750 a year and the Long Grade Clerks were getting a salary of 56/- a month and Policemen were working for 39/- to 75/- per month. Tanganyika has now emerged to a state of independence and there was a large exodus of Civil Servants from Tanganyika as a result of the constitutional change which took place there. I believe the change took place in 1961 and was completed in 1962.
9.50 p.m.

There was a large exodus of Civil Servants and they had a programme for the Africanisation of the Tanganyikan Civil Service. I have mentioned that to show the type of situation which I personally, think the scheme was tailored for. Obviously, in a country which is becoming independent with a low-qualified and a low-paid Civil Service, if that country is going to be run efficiently, then it is desirable that the top administrators in the Public Service should not be paid salaries which would tend to drive them away rather than to retain them. That is the only *rationale* of the scheme which I can see. Personally, I was surprised - and I make no apology for saying this; I am not attacking anybody, but knowing our general attitude in Barbados to this kind of frills of the Colonial set-up where you give leave passages and pay extra allowances, we are a country which is not really tropical in that sense of the term that you have malaria afterwards and that sort of thing. Therefore, I do not think that we need these inducements as much as you need them in the other places. This was created for a situation which you would find in the far East and in Mid-Africa, both East and West.

However, the scheme was sent out to all the West Indies; it was referred by the Government to the Civil Service Association and they had some idea as to allowances to parents whose children were educated in Barbados; and after making suggestions about leave passages, we accepted these amendments. The Department of Technical Co-operation in London accepted them and it was only after I got notification of this acceptance that I signed the Agreement which is now before us. I want to make it clear that at no stage did this Government act without having consultation with the Civil Service Association. One of the features of the Scheme which I did not like was that particular officers were designated as officers who were entitled to these inducement allowances. Even here in Barbados, generally speaking, with our beautiful climate we do get situations from time to time where it is difficult to recruit a properly qualified person to a particular job because of the short supply or because of the fact that the salary which we can afford to pay is smaller than that which the people would normally demand, because it is a question of supply and demand too. I will not say that you will not get applicants because if you advertise a job in Barbados, if you put an advertisement in the newspaper for filling a job, the average Barbadian is not concerned with whether he went to a University or if he worked in a arsenal, but he will apply for the job because he is a Barbadian. I am referring to applicants with qualifications to fill certain jobs; these jobs are so scarce that with everything which is coming in, the average Barbadian feels that after he gets into a particular job he will pick up in that job.

I thought that a scheme of technical assistance would designate the posts rather than persons. Of course, we agree that the Civil Service Association is the mouth-piece of the Civil Service. As a matter of fact, I will read out something later on which will disclose that I am not just talking in the air, that despite the attitude of the Civil Servants of not caring less what happens, that was the attitude which you could read into their action at a particular stage. I think the members of the Civil Service had a double take; you have an impact reaction, and when you really wake up and see the implications of something, you have a completely different reaction to the same set of conditions. There were about thirty designated officers not because of the scarcity of their jobs, but because of their country of origin and you have a state of affairs which I, personally, think in these days is slightly obnoxious. But the Civil Service Association accepted that state of affairs. You will find a junior master turning out at a school because he was a designated officer and he will get a 20% bigger salary than the Headmaster because he came from a different part of the world, and a junior medical officer would get more than the Surgeon Specialist. It was when cases like that came to the attention of the Civil Service Association that they had an interview with me and suggested that the Scheme was not really what they thought it was. They made a very strong protest against the Scheme and I informed them that they had the opportunity of discussing it and they were not as careful in their analysis of the situation as other members of the Government would have been; but we relied on their acceptance and our signatures had been attached to the Agreement.

We did not talk about holding up the scheme because of political reasons, but if the people who are most affected find it congenial, it does not mean that it must be so; that would be contrary to all established and constitutional principles. The upshot of this matter was that when a detailed analysis was made of the scheme some months later and when particular cases and anomalies arose and were drawn to the attention of the Civil Service Association, they did make further representations and came around, I think, largely to my point of view that it would have been more desirable for Her Majesty's Government to assist in these areas.
10.00 p.m.

I want to make it clear that I am not being churlish or I am not saying that we do not need assistance in this area. I am not in any way biting the hand that feeds some of the designated officers, or anything like that, or being ungracious about the matter, but I certainly feel that if Her Majesty's Government wants to help these areas, it would

be better for them to evolve a scheme in which everytime there is difficulty in filling a job, they say they will pay the difference btween what we can afford to pay and what a suitably qualified person would want to get for performing those services. This scheme unfortunately does not do that. This scheme takes people who are already in the Civil Service and some of them are contract officers. These people are on the Establishment and it picks those people who are quite happy. Some of them want to die here in Barbados if they possibly can, even if they do not die in the Service; they have no intention of going back to what is known as the Mother Counry, and yet straight out of the blue the Department of Technical Co-operation said they were picking all these thirty officers, because they were recruited in the United Kingdom, and were going to pay them these inducement allowances. The result is that it creates a certain amount of uneasiness amongst people doing a similar type of work in the Civil Service. In other words, the principle of equal pay for equal work no longer applies in so far as the Overseas Service Aid Scheme is concerned, and I personally think it is an unfortunate principle to invoke at this junction and stage of our constitutional, political and economic history. It is an unfortunate principle to be imported into the West Indies at this stage; but you get the Governments of Trinidad, Jamaica, British Guiana, Dominica, Antigua and the others where the people are drawing their money already, and Barbados would have been sticking out like a sore thumb.

Mr. Speaker, the Civil Service Association appeared to be satisfied with its provisions at the time when I signed the agreement; so it is nothing really to do with me. If they were satisfied, my attitude was that it is entirely a matter for them. Anyhow, Sir, I had further talks with the members of the Civil Service Association, and with your permission I will read an excerpt from a letter from the Civil Service Association received on 14th December, 1962. It reads as follows:-

"Dear Sir,

Overseas Service Aid Scheme

I am directed by the Council of my Association to bring to your notice our views on the above scheme, now that we have had the opportunity of studying the mechanics of the operation thereof of which we were not aware at the time we forwarded our letters of 19th September, 1960 and 3rd May, 1961 addressed to the Chief Secretary.

I desire to state at the outset that the scheme, as it will be implemented, is totally unacceptable to my Association, and to all of the senior local officers of the Service. I think, Sir, that this statement is not all inconsistent with the views expressed by us in the letters above referred to.

In our letters we expressed the view that while we did not think the proposals were really applicable to Barbados, we accepted them in principle in view of the fact that there might be a few "posts" which could not easily be filled by the normal method of recruitment. In our last letter, we asked specifically that a list of "posts" which would qualify under the scheme be prepared. We also asked that some of those funds which the United Kingdom Government was prepared to spend be diverted to train suitable officers to fill the "posts" which fall under the scheme. We also expressed quite strongly our concern that the scheme would tend to give expatriate officers feelings of superiority and that it would result in discrimination against local officers.

You will note that we have all along stressed the question of "posts" and not individuals, since we find that despite our suggestions, the proposal is to have officers, and not posts, designated. My Association was of the opinion that the scheme was intended, like similar schemes, to assist the Barbados Civil Service in obtaining, by way of recruitment, officers to fill posts for which we had had difficulty in obtaining suitable persons. This scheme was devised for African colonies or territories where United Kingdom officers had been accustomed to a different scale of pay from local officers. This differential had never existed here and ought not now to be imported.

It never occurred to anyone in my Council that this scheme would be made applicable to officers who were already in the public service of Barbados and who had been 'induced' to come here by means other than the proposed inducement allowances or that it would be made applicable to officers in permanent and pensionable posts."

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member either read a little more slowly or be good enough to let the Official Reporter take a look at the document which he is reading?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I will let him see the document afterwards. I will continue to read.

"In some cases, officers who, in our opinion, came to Barbados of their own volition — because they came on promotion — have subsequently obtained further promotion within the Barbados Civil Service and all of them have obtained the benefit of at least one, in some cases two, revisions of salaries. If the interpretation of the principle aback of this scheme is to induce those who are already here to remain, it would appear that this is unfair both to the British taxpayer and to the local Civil Service and even the importee himself who will find that relations between himself and the local officers must become strained."

For the benefit of the Reporter, that is the end of paragraph 6, and I am leaving out paragraphs 7,8 and 9 because it goes on in the same strain. I am not saying it was repetitive, but it is the gist of what I have already said. The last paragraph reads as follows:-

"I shall be grateful if you would accord representatives of my Council the opportunity of discussing the matter more fully with you and to draw to your attention cases of the type of anomalous situations that might arise. My council is certain that the Public Service Commission can confirm the fact that this scheme is neither desirable nor acceptable in its present form."

Of course that is a complete departure, because I never consult with the Public Service Commission at all. As a matter of fact, I had to enquire a few days ago exactly how many people were members of the Public Service Commission because it is really no part of my duty to interfere with them or ask them questions. This was addressed to me and therefore I make no apology for reading it out. I think it is only fair to members of the Civil Service that I should read what they say in December, 1962, but the fact is that in 1961 and even down to the time I signed the agreement, I believe early last year, they appeared to support this scheme, and they did not appear to have any reservations over and above those which we had inserted in the agreement. I say all of that, therefore, to avoid a lot of accusations and perhaps unnecessary debate, because I like to put both sides. I put our side, the Civil Service side, and the Department of Technical Co-operation's. Their case is really bound with the agreement itself.

I have explained, Mr. Speaker, what I consider to have been their motives in wanting to extend a scheme like this to the West Indies, although I personally thought a scheme like this is a necessary application in the form in which it had been incorporated in the agreement. Well after I granted this interview to the members of the Civil Service Association, and we had been through voluminous files and checked up on their attitude and so on, they informed me that in view of the fact that the agreement had already been signed, and it was induced not by misrepresentation but by a misunderstanding of what their attitude had been, and they themselves perhaps did not make it clear that they objected to the scheme out and out, there was nothing that the Government could do but to ask for ratification by the Legislature. 10.10 p.m.

Therefore, Sir, if you find that this legislation was on the Order Paper for only a short time, the Scheme has been held up in Barbados now for well over a year. I will say again that members of the Association are prepared to go along with its provisions and let it come into force without any further objection.

Before I came in here, I dispatched to the Department of Technical Co-operation after repeated requests from them on the progress being made on this scheme, the following telegram. It was not a confidential telegram: so I think I can read it. Perhaps I should say that this scheme is not to come into effect in this financial year.

On the 8th April, I sent this telegram: "Secretary for Technical Co-operation, Overseas Service Aids Scheme. Validating Bill ready for introducation in the Legislature on 16th April. (2) Earlier postponed by this Government in order to consider renewed representations from Civil Service Association on implication structure of local service and also findings of Regional Council Ministers. (3) The Premier would welcome permission to make statements in Legislature during debate next week that in future scheme will be limited to contract officers born outside Caribbean area and designated only at request Government. Existing list designated officers not to be effected by any undertakings by Her Majesty's Government. In the absence of such a statement passage through both Houses Legislature cannot be guaranteed. Reply urgently required. Time regretted."

In other words, my answer was that unless they gave me an undertaking that in future they would designate officers at the request of the Government here, which would be tantamount to designating whom we want, I would have to give a free vote in this Honourable House and let hon. members vote for it according to the dictates of their conscience. Anyhow, I am glad to say that shortly afterwards - three days after - I received a reply definitely giving me the undertaking which I asked them.

Sir, this agreement does not bind the Government for all times. In future before an officer was designated, the request would have to come from this Government to designate such an officer: and as hon. members know, we only designate officers on contract - there are about two or three of them - because of the difficulty of getting someone on the established post and because we pay a different kind of salary to an officer on contract than what the Establishment normally would carry. The Civil Service Association has accepted this state of affairs and after I received these assurances from the Department of Technical Co-operation, I interviewed the Civil Service Association and the present arrangement, if not 100% congenial to them, they do not find as obnoxious as the scheme which they first saw.

I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to hear the full explanation given by the Hon. Premier on this matter because in reading this Bill, I had made my own notes and just to show you what I had written before going through this Bill, I said that this amendment has come from persons of a colonial mentality and that Civil Servants have not yet emancipated to the stage of making representation for a territory fully independent.

The Hon. Premier said, and I am very pleased to hear him saying it, that the Civil Service Association has studied this Bill. At one stage, from my talking to some of them, I was of the impression that they were opposed to this Bill and that was even before I saw it. At one stage I thought that you had fallen into the usual trap and it looked as if you were paying for everything. I know that if you have a Technical Assistance Programme from someone like I. L.O., they would put somebody at your disposal and pay them without these strings attached. What the Hon. Premier has said and what is really offensive is to find that Barbados is now at the stage of having internal self-government where it is responsible for recruiting its own Civil Servants without reference to the Secretary of State, and from our own point of view, what is really repugnant to a territory moving towards independence, is to find at this stage that the Secretary of State was calling upon us and holding back this rod for designating officers to posts and as the Hon. Premier has said, it is not even to posts only.
10.20 p.m.

I feel very strongly about this idea of the Secretary of State for the Colonies dealing with these designated officers and this agreement will run until 1971. I do hope that by 1971 we will be utterly independent without out brothers and sisters in the Caribbean. We do not want to find that the Secretary of State for the Colonies is designating people to hold posts. I believe that the British Government is thinking in this way because of the comparison with the Congolese whom the French did not do much to educate; therefore they had the problems and this would be the sort of thing which the Colonial Office and the Brtish Government would like to do.

Mr. Speaker, I was very glad to hear what the Hon. Premier had to say, what he is going to ask them to do about these things. What is worrying me is that it means that you are landed in Barbados with some designated officers but you are going to keep them for the next eight years; they are going to be landed on you but they will be here for keeps. I do not want to call any names, but there are some designated officers whom you are not going to get out. The worst thing to happen is when you have somebody whom you want to get rid of, but it comes along that they have better conditions. I am worried to think that at this stage of our existence we have a right which is being taken away from us by our having this situation. I can very well see the present position of the Civil Service, that this thing would have affected other people or perhaps they think that there were designated posts; but there were designated persons. You will get an anomalous position in Barbados in which you will find that your junior, being a designated officer, will get all of these privileges, and you who were born in Barbados cannot get them. The Headmaster of a school is born in Barbados, but a designated officer comes here and gets more money. I have had the privilege of hearing of a designated officer coming to Barbados and getting the equivalent of £800, and you can very well see that £800 will make a lot of difference.

It is true, that, relatively speaking, we have a few people here; but if the British Government wanted to assist the Barbados Government, if this thing had not taken place, it would have been better for this Technical Assistance to be in a form where it would put money into a pool or provide the officers; but this is obnoxious to our sense of pride and independence. To have this sort of thing is really obnoxious. The Hon. Premier has expressed my views on this matter and therefore we seem to share the same point of view on the matter with all the reservations he has mentioned. I would say, finally, that the Civil Service Association agreed to this thing and the only thing I will state is that at our stage I do believe that for St. Lucia or Montserrat, this may be of some assistance, but it will prevent some of these Governments from sending out their local people to train them. I do think that this idea of a gift from the outside is for helping some of their officers overseas. Like the Hon. Premier, I will say that there has been so much done and there is very little which you can do about this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I support this Bill with those reservations which I have made because I resent any form of colonialism entering into the Civil Service, and the Barbados Government cannot, by the text of this Bill, designate its own officers to its own services but they will have to be designated by the British Government. I am very glad to hear that the Premier has sent out a telegram to the effect that they will not be designated until there has been prior consultation with Barbados. These are matters on which Barbados will be held for ten years after. We have the stage where the Barbados Government has been throttled down in dealing with these matters, because if we make any changes we will be told that we cannot do anything about these matters. That is the problem with which we have to deal.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that the Premier has expressed views similar to mine and I am in complete agreement with him on this matter. I would have been very strong in my condemnation in this matter if I did not hear the Premier's views. This is the type of legislation which is being passed and, as the Premier has said, when he heard about it, he voiced his opinion on the matter. I support this Measure with all the reservations and reluctance which I have expressed.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that.

The question that His Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on the Bill was put and resolved in the affimative without division.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair, and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

10.30 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive were called and passed.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill 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. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

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

DISCHARGE OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the hon. member makes the motion which one expects now that Government Business is concluded, I will avail myself of this opportunity to discharge three Select Committees whose labours have been concluded. One is the Select Committee to consider and Report on a Bill to authorise the sale of certain lands at St. George's Rectory, St. George; another is the Select Committee appointed to consider and Report on a Bill to authorise Edward Parker Edghill to construct a groyne with or without seawalls at "Rostrevor", St. Lawrence; and thirdly the Select Committee to consider and Report on the Bill to incorporate "The Trustees for Roman Catholic Purposes" as a Trust Company.

These three Select Committees are discharged with my thanks for their services.

I have the honour to report to this Chamber that at a meeting this afternoon of the Barbados Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, a selection was made of a delegate to represent this Branch at a course taking place in the United Kingdom next month. In consequence of the fact that I am the person who has had the honour to be selected, I have to crave the leave of this Chamber to grant me leave of absence from my duties as a member and as Speaker during the month of May, 1963.

I do not know if there is any objection, and if there is no objection, leave will be taken to be granted. No objection being audible, I assume that leave is granted, and I thank hon. members most sincerely for so graciously granting me leave for the month of May of this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 7th May, 1963, at 2.30 in the afternoon. It may be necessary, Sir, to summon a meeting before, but in case it is found so necessary, the Hon. Deputy Speaker will issue the necessary instructions.

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.

10.38 p.m.