

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 3rd December, 1963.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12 noon today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (*Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. E. MILLER; Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (*Minister of Education*); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P., (*Deputy Speaker*); Mr. G. V. BATSON, (*Chairman of Committees*); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (*Minister of Social Services*).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meetings of 25th and 26th November, 1963, have been printed and circulated to hon. members, and unless there is any objection, they will be taken as read and confirmed.

Hearing no objection, I declare the Minutes of those two meetings to have been confirmed.

Hon. members will recall in respect of the meeting of 19th November, an omission was discovered in which there was no mention of prayers having been said at that meeting. I understand that the corrected Minutes in respect of that day have also been circulated, and if there is no objection, I am to declare those Minutes to be duly confirmed.

I hear no objection, and I declare the amended Minutes in respect of 19th November, to be confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier, I am commanded to lay the following:-

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Scheduled Officers) (No. 3) Regulations, 1963.

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

The Customs Duties (University of the West Indies) Order, 1963.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of the following:-

Resolution to place the sum of \$100,211 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. 29, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour, I beg to give notice of the following:-

Resolution to place the sum of \$88,000 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. 31, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

I also give notice that it is my intention to proceed in all its stages today with this Resolution of which I have immediately given notice.

Also, on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Bill to amend the Stamp Act, 1916.

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

Resolution to place the sum of \$766 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1963-64, Part II, Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1963-64 No. 30, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to consider the first two Resolutions of which I gave notice.
12.25 p.m.

QUESTION

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

Is Government aware that the people living in Allan View, St. Thomas, are unable to get out of their homes after a rainfall?

2. Will the Minister make it possible to have the road so extended as to afford those people living therein some measure of relief?

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the Bill to amend the Stamp Act, 1916, was read a first time.

GOOD WISHES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Officer Commanding the Barbados Regiment and all other ranks their good wishes for the coming season, for myself and all other members of the House.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1 stands in the name of the Hon. Acting Leader of the House: To move the House in Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Colony.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply and further that it be an instruction from the House when in Committee of Supply to deal with the Resolution for the sum of \$88,000 of which notice was given earlier today.

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1963-64 No. 23

PART II — CAPITAL — HEAD 8 — COMMUNICATIONS

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$1,392 to be used to supplement the Estimates 1963-64, Part II, Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1963-64, No. 23.

During the years 1961-62 and 1962-63 sums totalling \$125,000 were provided for the purchase and installation of a stone crushing plant at the Mangrove crusher site. Of the total amount provided \$112,186 was spent, but the fee for the services of an Erector remains unpaid, and the sum of \$1,392.00 is required to meet this Commitment.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1963-64 No. 24

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I must ask leave of the Committee to take charge of this Resolution which stands in the name of the Hon. Premier.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, as hon. members of the Committee will see, this Resolution is for certain sums of money to be expended on various Government Departments and quite detailed information is given in the Notes which accompany each item.

Under Head 2 — Service Commissions — Item 20, we are asking provision for the sum of \$2,800 for the purpose of obtaining furniture and equipment. Hon. members will remember that some time ago, the House was kind enough to provide the Service Commissions with more staff and this additional staff in its turn calls for more comforts. In view of that, we found that the quantity of furniture in the Secretariat was totally inadequate, and for that reason we are asking the House to supplement this item by the sum indicated. I beg to move that Head 2 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 5 — JUDICIARY

Head 5 — Judiciary — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, as hon. members will see, Head 5, involves the amount of \$600 required for the purpose of meeting the cost of electricity consumed by an air-conditioning unit which was installed in the new Law Library in June.

Hon. members will agree that it would be a very silly thing indeed for large sums of money to be expended on bringing the Law Library up to date and then it is not taken care of; in consequence it would not be of very much use to Her Majesty's Justices.

In consequence of this, it was proposed to instal an air conditioning unit so that the books kept there may be kept free from dust and cold and this amount of \$600 is to supplement that charge.

I beg to move that Head 5 — Judiciary — stand part. 12.35 p.m.

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

The question that Head 5 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 6 — LEGAL

Head 6 — Legal — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Here again, Mr. Chairman, under this Head is another request for incidentals and furniture for the Legal Department. I would like to remind hon. members that we have recently brought before this House for its approval, proposals to augment the legal establishment of the territory which, of course, has been done, and it is obvious that this calls for more furniture and expenditure on incidentals. I beg to move that Head 6 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Chairman, while we are on this point, I would like to remind the Minister that the equipment in the Courts is far from being adequate. I have no hesitation in saying that barristers and sometimes solicitors appear in the Magistrates' Courts, and very often — I would not say that there is a scramble for chairs on which to sit, but some officers of the Court has to go downstairs in order to get a chair for a barrister to sit in. Where seating accommodation at the Bar Table for professional persons — whether barristers or solicitors or even probation officers — is concerned, the situation is far from being adequate. I am asking the Minister if he would go into the matter and have it remedied.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, while we are on this question, I do not visit the courts because I do not have the time to do that; but I want to say that we want seating capacity for every person who attends the court. I was in a court some time ago and the bench was falling down before you could sit in it; you had to be very careful that you did not get your clothes torn by the protruding nails. I would say, Sir, that the benches at the courts could do with a coat of paint at least. I do not know who is responsible for the upkeep of the court, but whoever is responsible for that should really make some sort of complaint to the proper authorities and ask them to go over there and see the conditions obtaining for themselves.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think both hon. members will forgive me if I cannot answer them in any detail on this matter. I am grateful, however, for having the matter drawn to my attention and I will see that the appropriate Ministry is informed about it. With regard to the point which has been made by the hon. senior member for St. James, I would say that there is an old maxim which runs that justice should be swift and certain, and I am hoping that the provision of new chairs and furniture will

assist in dealing with the delays which take place in court matters. However, I shall draw to the attention of the proper authorities the question which has been raised and see that some proper action is taken in this regard.

The question that Head 6 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 11 — PENSIONS

Head 11 — Pensions — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, this is a new item — it is an *ex gratia* gratuity the details of which are found in Note 5 to the Resolution. The Note explains that it is proposed to authorise the payment of an *ex gratia* award of \$985.60 to the estate of the late Cornelius Bishop. The Note further explains:

“Mr. Bishop was employed as a casual driver, Department of Highways and Transport from 4th June, 1955 to 9th November, 1961, when he became ill. He subsequently died on 16th March, 1962. At the date of his death he did not come within the provisions of the Casual Employees Pensions Act, 1961 (1961-44). If he did, his estate would have been eligible for a gratuity of \$985.60 and the award is being made on this basis.”

Mr. Chairman, it is just hard luck on Mr. Bishop's part that he died before the Casual Employees Pensions Act was put on the Statute Book. This supplementary provision for an *ex gratia* payment is made on equitable grounds because the Government feels that Mr. Bishop would have been fully entitled to this gratuity. Consequently, we are asking this Committee to grant this sum which will go to the estate of the late Mr. Bishop. I beg to move that Head 11 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I would like the Hon. Minister to explain one or two little things. Mr. Bishop died on the 16th March, 1962 and this award is now being treated as an *ex gratia* one. It is clear what his circumstances must have been even prior to his death, because he was employed as a casual driver at the Department of Highways and Transport. There must have been a number of things operating in the mind of the Minister in charge of this Resolution. I may say that the delay in this matter is somewhat frightening — from March, 1962 until today which is 3rd December, 1963; the condition of his family must have been one of dread and anxiety. If the Hon. Minister would give us the reason as to the delay, I should be very much obliged.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member repeat his question? I am sorry I did not hear it.

Mr. MILLER: I said, Sir, that Mr. Bishop did not qualify for this gratuity because at the time when he died he did not come within the provisions of the Casual Employees Pensions Act. His death took place on 16th March, 1962, and we are now in December, 1963. You can well imagine the circumstances which his family had to endure since he was only a casual driver at the Department of Highways and Transport.
12.45 p.m.

There must have been other reasons for causing the delay which has been certainly unduly long. I am just wondering if the Minister would be willing for the sake of his family to bring some relief by means of a pension.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, while we are on this question of pensions, I want to draw to the attention of the members of the Government a bad state of affairs existing among those people who are qualified for pension. There are many people who have to walk all over the place trying to find someone to sign an affidavit or some kind of recommendation to the Department certifying that he knew that the particular person was working in the Department for a length of time, and then that has to be sworn to before a Justice

of the Peace. These people usually go to those who have already resigned from the service and are drawing their pensions, but they refuse to sign the document certifying they know these people, and the retired workers cannot get a pension until this is done.

Only this morning, Mr. Chairman, I had to go with a man to a particular person who is out of the service and who refused to sign the document, because he says he is out of the Waterworks Department now and he is not signing anything. This man retired over two years ago and cannot get his pension. I, therefore, had to leave my business and go as Justice of the Peace to the particular person. I remained outside the man's office, and as soon as the man opened the door and saw the particular retired worker, he said that he had told him not to come back to him because he had left the Waterworks and was nothing more to do with it. I then had to knock and sound my voice and he let me in. As soon as I entered, I told him it was not the Waterworks he was dealing with today, but it was this poor man who was suffering, and with his signature it was possible that he would be saving this man's life and his family, and that is why I had taken it upon myself to come to him. He was very accommodating and said he would sign it as I had come. These people should not be put to all this trouble after working in a Department of Government for all their years. The particular man to whom we went did not have any trouble or did not have to go anywhere to get his gratuity and pension; so he did not care whether or not this chap got his. I cannot find out what is wrong with these Departments. Can't they go into the books or look at the Pay Sheets and see from what time these people were working and save them the trouble of having to look all over the place for a Justice of the Peace to sign documents?

Mr. Chairman, I know of another man from Highways and Transport who refused to sign a document, but he has got his gratuity and is getting his pension. It is not fair, and I hope the Minister in charge of this Department will see to it that these people are relieved rather than having to run all over the place. It is several years now since I have been a Justice of the Peace, and not a Head of Department or recognised Civil Servant has come to me to sign anything to get his or her pension. Why then should these people have to run all about and cannot get documents signed? There are some people who are very co-operative, but there are others who have a grievance and turn these people away. A Justice of the Peace cannot sign either of these documents until someone else signs it in front of him, and that is why I had to go with this man to get the documents signed. He is still late, however, because he will not get the money in time for Christmas. What is Government doing about this situation? I do not think this is the first time it had been drawn to Government's attention, and there is something wrong and some slackness in these Departments to have a man, after working for so many long years, butting about looking for people with whom he worked to sign an affidavit certifying that he was working in the Department. Do these men not sign for their pay? If this man to whom we had gone had died, this poor chap would not have managed to get anything at all.

I know another case in which a man who worked at Public Works was waiting so long that eventually he passed away, and now that his wife has gone there making enquiries, she is told that he was not eligible and she cannot get anything. This makes me feel that the Government is waiting until these people pass away and is keeping them back for that purpose.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, there could be no possible objection from this side to the hon. member making a speech which bristles with inaccuracies, but there is objection and it is now being asserted that the hon. member has absolutely no right to say that the Government wants to wait until these people die so that they would not have to pay the money. It is on record, as I shall prove when I speak; but I just want to challenge that remark, because it is not true, it is unkind and unfair.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking of a man I knew who was waiting so long that he had died; so they must have waited until he passed away.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, the hon. member is doing something which he knows is wrong and unfair. To castigate the Government for allegedly delaying a matter is one thing, but to say that we wait until a man died, I cannot accept that and the hon. member should withdraw that slur.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the man is dead.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I quite agree with the hon. member that the man is dead, but the implication with regard to the Government withholding the money specifically until the man had died is going a little too far.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I did not say the Government is withholding the money. I want the Government to act quickly now before others should pass away, and see to it that they would not have to be walking about begging people to sign an affidavit to prove that they were working in the Department. I want him to assure me that from today this state of affairs will cease. You should have books and pay sheets, even from the point of view of keeping accounts for the P.A.Y.E. system. These people are not paid anything until they can get an old retired Head of Department to sign a document for them.

12.55 p.m.

It is not fair to these workers.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. This Casual Employees Act before me came into operation in 1962 and this Government took office in December, 1961. Now, the old records and the old evidence which should necessarily be forthcoming in order to satisfy any authority to establish your rights for enjoying the benefits and privileges under this Act are not found, and the normal form of evidence would be by some form of affidavit. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph is one of the few members of this Committee who is a Justice of the Peace and if he is ready to assist in remedying the defaults of his Government, he should not be here saying anything or casting any aspersions at this Government because it is none of our fault. We must have some form of evidence which must be accepted in a Court of Law. It must be some sort of letter or evidence before we can pay away the taxpayers' money. We are just as sympathetic as he to the people, if not more. We move more on moral and equitable grounds and not just strictly on the legal grounds.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, it is honestly difficult to understand the statement made by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture. It is not consistent with the note and I will like him to read Note 5. If you read Note 5, you will see 'at the date of his death he did not come within the provision of the Casual Employees Pension Act, (1961-44). The Hon. Minister's statement is inconsistent with the Note presented before us by the Government.

Mr. SMITH: As the Hon. Minister said, you must produce something to prove that you worked in the Department. That was the same point which I raised. The question is the difficulty when one of these persons goes to get a Head of the Department or somebody like that to sign an affidavit for them. That is my point. What have you left that person to do? All I am saying is that if you are keeping records of people who worked with you, look back at the records and see whether those people's names were entered. There must be Pay Sheets made up and books of some sort. If they find the names of these persons, all that is necessary is to let these people make out the affidavits for themselves. Any time you discover that they do so falsely, the penalty is there for them.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph has already been told by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, that no records have been kept. If there were books or any records to be found, this Government would have been able to find the records of the people. They are now left at the mercies of begging someone to sign something for themselves simply because no records were kept by the people of the last Government.

Certain persons have been to me and said that they have been to Heads of Departments who have been retired and they are begging and beseeching them to sign affidavits for them. As long as that person worked and I am satisfied he was there during the period, I would give him the necessary affidavit. There is no data; no records were kept; that is why people were left at the mercies of unkind people.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph has been told that several times in this House by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. MILLER: I think that I should say this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for St. Joseph was still speaking.

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir, these points of orders are getting to gallons. That was not a point of order; that was a gallon of order.

What I am saying is that I was only drawing it to the Government's attention. The Hon. Minister said that time and time again I was told by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that they are no records; that no books with anything can be found. Are you going to tell me that a man whom I know, who is a Maloney from Sugar Hill, and who has worked in the Waterworks Department for a very long time - that no records were kept of him? How did he get this money? Surely, that Department ought to be able to show some record. If it cannot show any records of such people, the people who work there should be sent out of the office. They have to pay out money to these people every Friday. Every man like the Supervisor has a book and he has to enter the names of these people. Then he carries this book into the office. If I were the Minister, and a Head of Department under which I was in charge told me that they could find no records of a particular person, the very first thing I would do is to ask the person "How long were you working in that Department?" That person would tell me how long and under whom he was working. I would say that if they cannot produce any record, something is wrong and those people inside the office should be outside. A man draws money every week; therefore, you must have your Pay Sheets.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. This Government can only be responsible for what accounts have been kept since it came into office in 1961. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph was in this House for a very long time. We have been in office not quite two years, and all records from our time have been kept. But all those during the period of the B.L.P. have not been continuous. No service given by people during that time has been recorded. This thing dates back eight to ten years and prior to that, the Departments changed over. No records were kept and we of this Government can only be responsible for what has been kept during the two years which we have been in office. It is important to find any records.

1.05 p.m.

Mr. MILLER: On a point of order.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, do not let this matter get into any burlesque. With all due respect to the hon. member, we are in Committee and any hon. member can make a reply to anything; but you cannot have an hon. member, who has not made a speech on a matter, getting up on a point of order. Somebody gets up on a point of order and somebody else does the same thing. I myself am out of order now, but I want to bring in order.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, two wrongs do not make a right. I have a right to reply to an incorrect statement which has been made.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for St. Joseph is quite capable of replying himself.

Mr. MILLER: But I must be permitted to reply.

Mr. WALCOTT: No, the hon. member cannot do that.

Mr. MILLER: I will reply to a statement which has been made; it is for you, Mr. Chairman, to rule in this matter.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member cannot get up on a point of order like that.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. junior member for St. George is entitled to make his speech, but not at this moment. He cannot get up on a point of order because he has not addressed the Chair in the form of a speech. I rule that the hon. member cannot speak on a point of order now. He can address the Chair on the Resolution, provided that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has concluded his speech.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I have never resisted the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I think that the hon. member is out of order and he should be named.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I think that the hon. junior member for St. George has understood my ruling. I am listening now to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and, when he is finished speaking, the hon. junior member for St. George is quite in order to address the Chair.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, was the hon. senior member for St. Peter in order? Are you sure that you are not discriminating in this Parliament?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for St. Peter was drawing a misdemeanour to my attention.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I have never resisted the ruling of the Chair. Why are you discriminating between one hon. member and another?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am listening to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. MILLER: I have equal rights.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I repeat; I am listening to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am making a motion that the conduct of the hon. junior member for St. George to the Chair is reprehensible, and I ask that you, Mr. Chairman, leave the Chair and call his Honour the Speaker to deal with the misconduct of the hon. junior member for St. George to the Chair.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I was on my feet.

Mr. WALCOTT: I have made a motion where misconduct in this House is involved, and that matter comes before any other matter. The hon. member was disrespectful to the Chair in no uncertain manner and he has not made any apology to the Chair. After you ruled that the hon. member could not speak, he continued to speak despite your Honour's ruling. He made absolutely no apology to the Chair, and I would be failing in my parliamentary duty if I did not draw that matter to the attention of the Committee. I move that you, Mr. Chairman, summon Mr. Speaker to the Chair and put this matter of misconduct before him.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, before you deal with that motion, I should like to say that you can deal with anything which comes before you from a disciplinary point of view. Your Honour is vested with all the powers of the Chair, but I am wondering whether the hon. member would not amend his motion. The motion is quite acceptable to hon. members on this side except for the reference to calling the Speaker.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am not suggesting that you, Mr. Chairman, cannot deal with the matter, but it seems to me that there was gross misconduct to the Chair and the appeal from the Chairman was of no avail. That was in the course of debate. If we are going to have one hon. member dis-

regarding everybody else, well, that should not be the case. The hon. junior member for St. George wants to reply; I am saying that we are in Committee and if anybody makes a speech, the hon. member can reply. That was pointed out to the hon. member and he promptly ignored it.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would not for one moment try to mislead you or the Committee. The hon. senior member for St. Peter has made a motion that the hon. junior member for St. George has disobeyed the ruling of the Chair and that that was misconduct which should be dealt with. I sat here and every time Your Honour rose from your Chair the hon. junior member for St. George and others took their seats. There was no time when Your Honour rose that the hon. member and others did not take their seats; that means that all of us regard you as Chairman. In this particular case, if you made a ruling and the hon. member persisted in carrying on, then it would be for you, as Chairman, to warn the hon. member telling him that if he insisted in doing that, you would have to name him; but you would have to warn him first. (Mr. MOTTLEY: He cannot name him). The Hon. Leader of the Opposition says that you cannot name the hon. member. I am telling you, Mr. Chairman, that you can name him. (Mr. MOTTLEY: No). I say that as Chairman you can name the hon. member. You have the same powers as His Honour the Speaker.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, really and truly the last speaker has referred to me. I was not speaking on the Resolution and he was quite out of place to refer to me because I said something in a *sotto voce* remark to my colleague. I have always been known to throw oil on the troubled waters. I looked across at the hon. junior member for St. George, knowing his tendency to avow his unswerving loyalty to the Chair. I thought that that would have finished the matter..... However, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph heard what I said *sotto voce*, that is, that you cannot name the hon. member.
1.15 p.m.

You may very well say that you are not hearing the hon. member, but you never got bad behaviour yet, because nobody here can behave worse than I. As a matter of fact, I would say that when the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and myself rose together, we looked across and allowed the hon. member to speak. This House is in Committee, and there is no point in talking about a point of order. The next person according to custom who should speak should be me, because you said the hon. member had caught your eye first and only the two of us were on our feet. However, all I am trying to do is to throw oil on troubled waters, and I believe both the hon. senior member for St. Peter and the hon. junior member for St. George will agree with me.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, a charge has been made by the hon. senior member for St. Peter about misconduct. I am not capable of it; it is not part of my fabrication, and at no stage in my life have I had any association with such; hence at this late age it is not likely to even come. We were debating a matter, the Minister of Communications and Works who was not in charge of the Resolution - though it is correct to say that this is within his Ministry - rose on point of order and criticised the last Government, and I am entitled to the same facility which I am demanding and requesting as a normal member of this august body. If the Minister is acting in place of the Minister of Finance and handles the Resolution, the Minister of Communications would not be entitled to address the Chair on a point of order until he had spoken on the Resolution. If that was permissible by the Chair, it would be unfair to deny me the right on a point of order to deny something the Minister said. I drew it to your attention and simply asked rather than have it appear that you are discriminating that I be allowed to speak on a point of order, because I would be reluctant to have the Chair feel that I would be capable of any misgiving. I have been taught and I know how to respect the Chair, and on no occasion in my fifteen years in this Parliament has it otherwise been said. It does not matter who is in the Chair, I have an unswerving respect to his authority since the majority has decided that he must go to the Chair. I understand that and that was taught early in my life.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Chairman, with due respect to you, I feel that the hon. junior member for St. George should know better, and I feel that you should have the right to call on him to apologise for misbehaviour in this House.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should just like to quote a Standing Order for the benefit of hon. members. It is Standing Order No. 36 (2) and it reads as follows:-

"The Speaker or the Chairman shall order Members whose conduct is grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of that day's Sitting, and the Marshal shall act on such orders as he may receive from the Chair in pursuance of this Order. But if, on any occasion, the Speaker or the Chairman deems that his powers under the previous provisions of this Order are inadequate, he may name such Member or Members, in which event the same procedure shall be followed as is prescribed in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 of this Order."

I quote that to let hon. members understand that the Chairman, like the Speaker, has authority to name a member.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I was speaking when the hon. senior member for St. Joseph interrupted. It is not likely that my conduct could be regarded as gross, and I do not feel that anyone can persuade you to believe that anything I say on this Resolution could be treated or even regarded as misconduct. I simply asked the Chair not to let it appear as though it was discriminating. The Minister of Communications spoke on a point of order.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, most of these unfortunate people who have been mentioned as not being able to draw their pensions are people from the Waterworks Department, Highways and Transport and Public Works. They are under my Ministry and I feel I have the right to draw to the attention of this House what I know, and not what I think. It is my duty as Minister under whose portfolio these unfortunate people fall to say what is the position, and not sit down and let people think I am hard-hearted and disregard unfortunate people.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, if the Minister of Education is taking the responsibility in Parliament for financial matters and is in charge of a Resolution, he is free to call on the appropriate Minister for anything in mechanics or detail; but if the Minister without having made a speech on the Resolution gets up on a point of order, that is the exact position here. Before I sat, I reminded you, Sir, of my unswerving and unchanging respect earlier in my life and education, and I sat at your request to sit, and when you called on the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to continue, I discontinued my debate. If you say it is misconduct to request the Chair not to have it appear that it was discriminating since the Minister of Communications spoke on a point of order, and it was a criticism of the last Government, I happen to be the only member in this House of the last Government and it is my duty and right to have been permitted to speak. That is an elementary right. I am not capable of misconduct anywhere, and that is traditional and goes through my family, and basically it will forever remain. People who are anxious to suspect these things are people who have been imbibed. I have never contradicted my father, and he was with me up to the time I was 48 years old.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am calling on the hon. junior member for St. George to withdraw the word "discriminating," and I will be quite satisfied to go on with the Resolution. The implication was made that I, so to speak, tended to discriminate. If the hon. member withdraws the word "discriminate", we can get on with the Resolution, and I believe that will satisfy other hon. members.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, it has been my teaching that any ruling of the Chair, whether right or wrong, you are expected to accept. However, you misquoted me when you said what you did about the word "discriminate". I simply requested the Chair not to have it appear that it was

discriminating since the Minister rose on a point of order, and you are asking me to withdraw this. You can read the Rules and if you think it is misconduct, I will apologise. I requested and repeated it a dozen times not to have it appear that the Chair was discriminating, and it would be unfair for me to say I apologise or to withdraw the word "discriminate" in the context in which I used it. If my speech or my attitude has caused any inconvenience to the Chair, I will withdraw that, but to ask me to withdraw the word "discriminate" in the context in which I used it, I could die.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I have sat here and listened to this harangue which unfortunately went on, and I think it is my duty as a senior member in this House to rise and draw hon. members' attention to Standing Order No. 35 - *Decision of the Chair final* which reads as follows:-

"The Speaker in the House or the Chairman in Committee shall be responsible for the observance of the Rules of Order in the House and Committee respectively, and his decision upon any point of order shall not be open to appeal and shall not be reviewed by the House except upon a substantive motion."

I think the hon. senior member for St. Peter made a substantive motion which was duly seconded by the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, but it was never put. Then it goes on as follows:-

"Notwithstanding anything in Standing Order No. 20 (Manner of giving Notices), such a motion shall not require more than two days' notice."

The whole point is that the final word and decision rest with the Chair and in the absence of a substantive motion which was put by the hon. senior member for St. Peter at the appropriate stage and which was duly seconded, this has been allowed to run into a harangue.
1.25 p.m.

They wasted the time of the House, probably wasted the taxpayers' money, and at the same time they are keeping back and delaying the business of this Chamber.

Mr. MILLER: The hon. member is still reading the Rules.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, you must rule: you cannot go on this way.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is a motion before the House which I intend to put now.

Mr. MILLER: I apologise to the Chair. If anything has caused him any discomfort, I withdraw it. I have already made that apology to the Chamber.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is a motion before the House. I can deal with that motion without calling on the hon. member. I am going to rule that the hon. junior member for St. George withdraw the statement, "not to let the Chair appear as if it were discriminating." In a previous statement, the hon. member did not use the word "appear". I ask the hon. junior member for St. George to withdraw that statement now.

Mr. MILLER: Rather than causing you any discomfort, Sir, I willingly withdraw the word "discriminate" if it is your feeling that it is unparliamentary.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Now that the hon. junior member for St. George has withdrawn the word "discriminate", I will hear the hon. junior member for St. Joseph on the Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, I know my stuff and hon. members know that I know it too.

Now, Sir, I do not want the Hon. Minister of Communications to think for one moment that I am doing or saying something to make it appear as if he is hard. I am not blam-

ing any Government at all. No Government is responsible for the keeping of books. It is not the job of any Minister to go into a Department and see how books are kept. One Minister wanted to say that all of this sort of thing was carried on during the last Government's time. But no Government should be responsible for this. I am drawing it to the Government so that they can remedy it.

The Hon. Minister said that his reason for the taking of photographs was to get things straight. You only take photographs of people going out of the Island. If you are leaving the Island or you are a real criminal, the police must keep your photographs so that when they want you, they will be able to find you.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, that is no point of order.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, I do not want all of this trouble. When I resign, no affidavit will have to be made out for me. However, as a Justice of the Peace, I know the people. Up to last Saturday, a man came to me and I had to sign up a whole lot of papers for him and after that he said: "Skipper, help me with a bus fare." I do not mind that.

No Head of Department or no person can fool me that no records were kept of people who work in the Waterworks Department or the Highways and Transport Department, because if no records were kept, how then would this man's name appear on the Pay Sheet? I am sure you would have the Pay Sheets if you do not have the other records. All then that the Minister would have to say is that you would have to go into it again. Check the Pay Sheets and you will see the names of both persons, and if you find their names, well by all means, you do not want them to go about and look for any resigned Head of Department. Let them sign to their own affidavits.

As I have said, Sir, some of these retired Heads of Department refuse to sign the affidavits of some of these people; and when they refuse to sign, it means that these poor old fellows cannot get their money. Sir, I have it wrapped up in a nutshell. Rather than puzzle any person, all that needs to be done is just to check the Pay Sheets and if the name appears on a Pay Sheet, let them swear to their own affidavit, so that if someone should say that Lloyd Smith was not working there, you will have Lloyd Smith's name there to show. Some of these people are wicked. They are getting theirs; so they do not mind who else gets. I have overheard someone saying: "Man, I did it to this man." What has happened? That man has resigned and still has another big job in an office, and that poor fellow is walking all about hoping to pick up a day's work here and a day's work there.

Sir, I am here to protect the small fellow as much as I can. That is why I am accused of prolonging the debate. It is hard on these poor fellows. Another man went to me this morning with a long list. He wants to raise money to rehabilitate the boat which he lost. When I look at the list it contained names of people promising to subscribe 50 cents; some of them 20 cents. I turned to him and told him that he would die before he would be able to pick up sufficient money to rehabilitate his boat. That is the sort of thing which I have to under-go daily.

Sir, I am still appealing to the Hon. Minister to see to it that this harm is not carried on. I am not blaming any Government for it because no Minister or no Government can be responsible for that. Those who are responsible are the people at the various offices who have the job of entering up the names of those who work. This sort of thing has to be done first of all outside of the office by the supervisor or whoever he is. You must find the records; but it may be that you do not want to give yourself that trouble. There is bound to be records; if not, no money was paid out.

Mr. MILLER: Sir, I requested some information as to the delay in the payment since this man died on the 16th March, 1962. In addition, I am bound to ask for further information and it is in reply to the statement made by the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing, 1.35 p.m.

This House has been harassed as to the failures of the last Government with regard to records. However, we have just one simple and burning example before us in Note 5 of this Resolution. It says this:-

"Mr. Bishop was employed as a casual driver, Department of Highways and Transport from 4th June, 1955 to 9th November, 1961, when he became ill. He subsequently died on 16th March, 1962."

I am asking how on earth, how in living memory, could you have the information that this man was employed from the 4th June, 1955 to the 9th November, 1961 with the Department of Highways and Transport apart from records? Where would you get that information apart from records when you have a casual employee who may not be employed for four or five months? How could you arrive at this amount of \$985.60 as a gratuity for this man? How could you arrive at that as the index of his ability? I am saying that ambition is made of sterner stuff, and when a member of Parliament accepts the responsibility of being a Minister at cost to the taxpayers, he should not make these untrue, reckless and wicked statements that there were no records.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I am not now commenting on what the hon. member is saying, but how he says it; when he says that statements are wicked, reckless and untrue, that is unparliamentary and I ask the hon. member to withdraw that.

Mr. MILLER: That is all right, Sir; I withdraw that. I will withdraw to my castle on the grounds of "Solitude" and at an election I will come back with you. We have been told that there were no records before, and up to this moment we have been told that there were no records; but the Hon. Minister says that he is responsible for the records.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: On a point of order. I went back to the days when there was a Central Road Board and there would have been no records of that. I mentioned that it is unfortunate for these people that we have had to refer to the heartlessness of people who would not give them any pensions. Nothing was foreseen until 1962 when the Pensions Act came into being, that records should have been kept so that you could pick out how many days a man had worked, at least 150 days a year. It is no mean joke to have the records of 2,000 employees to go over in several Departments. Some of these employees may be attached to one Department at one time and to another Department at another time. I have pointed out that one of the reasons why you should have photographs taken is that by the time a person is due for his retirement or his pension you would know offhand how much pension that person is entitled to, so that when he retires you could say that his pension is so much and so much. That is what I said.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, it is difficult to understand what would be in the mind of the Permanent Secretary on the absence of records when he made this note. This man was employed as a casual driver in the Department of Highways and Transport from the 4th June, 1955. The Permanent Secretary would not remember that; he was employed from 4th June, 1955, until 9th November, 1961, when he became ill. He died on 16th March, 1962. Do you think that you could come down with a note stating the date of this man's first employment and now you can work it out and say that you agree to give him this gratuity of \$985.60 in the absence of records? It all shows that you must have made reference to the records in order to ascertain how much money should be paid to this man; the records must have shown the date of his employment; and, remember, he was a casual employee, which means that his day-to-day employment had to be stated. The quality of mercy is not strained; the Government was holding this pension for this man from 1962 until 1963 and now we are told by an hon. member who must accept some modicum of responsibility in this matter, that there were no records! It is only in 1962 that there was instituted the scheme by means of which all the detailed information could be stated, and you can now state what this man was entitled to. I am saying that in the absence of the records of the last Govern-

ment, it would be nothing short of a miracle for any Minister to state what this man was entitled to. This is the type of process of democracy that the early pilgrims of democracy did not foresee. They are today telling you what this man was specifically entitled to in the absence of records.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I think that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and myself before anybody began to make this matter a riding horse, had raised this question. We received a reply and we said that we would go through with this matter. The Hon. Acting Leader of the House gave a reply which was a reasonable one, that they had to search at the Drill Hall for records, but the hon. junior member for St. George today has made his comment and it may be that he is in an extraordinary exuberant mood. The hon. member has made his speech, but I think that he should have congratulated the Government. Records do not apply to every case you bring forward; because you find records for some cases, it does not mean that you will find the record in every case. The real point is that you are paying a gratuity to this man or to his estate where he was not entitled to any gratuity. We are not dealing with the strict legal grounds; we are dealing with this matter on grounds of morality. We are passing this Resolution to pay this gratuity to the estate of Mr. Bishop who was employed by the Department of Highways and Transport as a casual driver from 4th June, 1955 to the 9th November, 1961, when he became ill and subsequently died.
1.45 p.m.

The man would not have had an estate unless he had worked, and he could not be entitled to anything because he worked from the 4th June, 1955, to 9th November, 1961 when he became ill. He subsequently died on 16th March, 1962 and was not entitled to a pension under the Pension Act because he had only worked six years. A claim has been made, and although he is not entitled under the Act of 1961 which is the most recent Act, the Government has come along with this, but we can reject this here today in spite of that Act. This is an *ex gratia* payment we are being asked to pass, and by doing this you are forming a precedent, because by giving an *ex gratia* payment for six years' service, it shows that the Government is not standing on legal grounds. Had the Government been on legal grounds, we would not have had to pass this Resolution, because the Act would say what he should get. We are asked by Government to give a man, who is not entitled, a pension, and the hon. member is castigating the Government for doing something which is a magnanimous gesture, when instead, he should be complimenting Government and not going over this rubbish that should be in the basket of antiquity.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I just want to add one little rider. The hon. member has more or less explained what I was saying earlier and what probably could have saved debate. The person in question does not qualify on the face of it. In order to qualify he must necessarily have put in ten years service, but he has merely put in five or six years service, and must have worked a certain number of days in each year. He is not qualified as such, but on sympathetic, moral and equitable grounds we have come and asked the House to agree to this Resolution in view of the man's straitened circumstances and the family he has left behind. From all this talk here today you will no doubt see that we are more sympathetic towards the Bishop family than the last Government, because the last Government would not consider giving them anything at all. This Government says that he is not qualified because he has only worked for six years, but we have come here with this Resolution on sympathetic, moral and equitable grounds and asked that consideration be given to this specific case. We hope we are not creating a dangerous precedent and causing other people to come forward who are in as straitened circumstances as the Bishop family.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I take a slightly different view because in part I agree with the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, and I agree partly with the hon. senior member for St. Peter. The Government should be commended on their magnanimous action in this matter, because, as the explanatory note says, this gentleman had

in five years, and had he been on the established staff and died while on duty after putting five years' service, he would have been entitled to one year's pensionable emoluments. If he had put in ten years' service and then took ill, he would have been entitled to a pension. I speak, however, subject to correction by the Minister in charge, but I believe that is the case. What I want to say is this: the hon. senior member for St. Peter has said that we have continuously in this House raised this question and not only over the past two years. Hon. members in here will remember — and no one should remember more than the hon. junior member for St. Joseph — that I came to this House with a Resolution for a woman who had worked 28 years consecutively without a break at Codrington Agricultural Station, and I did not go down on my knees and that was all to prevent this woman from dying at the almshouse without getting one cent remuneration, because I was told then — and this was not the present Government — that there was no record. This is a woman whom we had to support. As a matter of fact, an employee of the Agricultural Department became so extraordinarily rude, maybe because of what he considered limited pigmentation, that he said that if she wanted anything she should come back to me. He refused to give any assistance, but this is where I agree with the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. I would never be a good Minister, because I will never defend any Head of Department or any Government official who does not know or does not appreciate how to treat people beneath him. I do not care if he is blue, white, black or green, and that is always going to be my position in public life.

I therefore commend the Government on this Resolution for this gentleman, but I would advise Government not to make use of this type of language any longer because it could not be true unless you are going to a Department or 'fire' somebody. If you are telling me that this is true, then there is absolutely open room for stealing, because if \$1,000 is to be paid out at Codrington Agricultural Station or at the Transport Board or any place at all, the Auditor General has a right to see the signatures of persons, and these books or pay sheets should be kept for a period of years. I challenge any Government to say that is not so. Do not make use of these remarks anymore; otherwise they will have a tendency to make people believe there is some slackness in the Auditor General's Department, when I know there is not. As a matter of fact, only quite recently I had a case in which a pension was to be paid to a woman who had been employed for over 35 years, and the Auditor General was so stern upon it that he wanted to see up to the last pay sheet and also when the change-over came about, and we had to go into the files and get all that before he would come to a conclusion. The case of this man is not unlike that of the woman of whom I spoke. This is not a criticism of this Government; this is a criticism of a most unsympathetic set of people who did not see their way at the time. In the last Government you had individuals who took personalities, and felt that if they did something which would give the particular person who brought it into the House any kudos, they would not do it. Are you telling me, however, that \$1,000 could be drawn from the Treasury under a particular Head voted in the Estimates and an officer can pay that money out without a signature, or, if the person could not write, without his or her mark and those sheets were not kept? I sat over that side and asked if it was humanly possible or fair to the woman who had given of her sweat and blood as an agricultural worker to produce the type of canes in this country.
1.55 p.m.

The last Government did not see fit even to say or suggest that a Messenger be put at Codrington or some place like that. Let me say now that to every department in this Island that spends Government money, the Auditor General must send an Inspector to see that the money is paid out or if something has gone wrong. Every Department that pays out money must have a Pay Sheet to show the amount and the persons to whom that money is paid and that Pay Sheet must be kept. It is either kept one place or the other — either at the Department or in the Audit Department. Therefore, I say, I commend you for the magnanimous attitude which you have adopted in saying that if this man had been pensionable he would be entitled to the emolu-

ments set out here. As I see it, he might have been on the unestablished staff because he was a driver; therefore, he must have been a lorry driver or a roller driver.

I repeat, I have had such experience in here. I remember distinctly the now Hon. Leader of the House — and Mr. Chairman, you ought to remember this as well as the hon. junior member for St. Philip, when the last Government came down here for a pension for the Manager of Dodds Plantation where it was stated that he worked for 40 years, that I asked what consideration have you given to the agricultural labourers who worked the same time there with him. Those hon. members would remember that the Hon. Minister of Trade backed up very strongly the idea of putting the labourers also on in the same way where they could receive attention. It will be seen, therefore, that we do not throw any blame on the Government. We commend you for what you have done. All I say is that you should not make any mention again that files cannot be found, because the files must be found.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair at this point.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 2.00 o'clock this sitting now stands suspended until 2.30 p.m. o'clock.

On re-assembling,

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the Bell be rung as there is no quorum.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thank the hon. member. Let the Bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now the time for Questions, but I am advised that there are no replies ready for today.

The first item of Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael. I shall only call the name of the hon. member under whom the Order stands. The hon. member is not in his place.

Item No. 2, the hon. junior member for the City; Item No. 3, the hon. senior member for St. Peter; Item No. 4, the hon. junior member for Christ Church; Item No. 5, the hon. senior member for St. Michael; Item No. 6, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph; Item No. 7, the hon. junior member for the City; Item No. 8, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph; Item No. 9, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph; Item No. 10, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph; Item No. 11, the hon. junior member for St. George; Item No. 12, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, who is in his place. Is the hon. member prepared to proceed with the Resolution under his name? It is to move the passing of a Resolution relating to the difficulty of residents in the Clifton Hill Tenantry, St. Thomas, in getting in and out of their homes after a rainfall.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to proceed now with that Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 13, stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, who is not now in his place.

RESOLUTION re PAVILIONS AT TRENTS AND THORPES PLAYING FIELDS

Mr. SPEAKER: The next item under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. and learned senior member for St. James: To move the passing of a Resolution relating to the erection of pavilions at Trents and Thorpes Playing Fields, St. James.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is one which I think all hon. members of this House would

agree with. There is no doubt that just as education in this country and throughout the West Indies is advanced, as well as the attempts and efforts which are being made now in all fields of education, one would not hesitate in agreeing with this Resolution when it comes to the spirit of it. Games, as everyone knows, is a vital part of the education of children, and it is for that reason that so much emphasis is laid in schools on that even where children of very tender age attend.

Sir, I do not think it is expected of me to lecture on what is the use of games to children in schools.
2.40 p.m.

I do not want this Resolution to be regarded in any way that the present Government is absent minded or heedless about education in the form of games; but I think it is my duty with particular reference to St. James, to draw to the attention of the Government that there is need for something to be done with respect to the playing fields in that parish.

Up to about fifteen years ago we can think of Queen's Park where the most important matches were played, particularly cricket and football, and in the metropolitan area, Wanderers Club had their own playing field; Combermere and Harrison College also had their own playing fields; and when you come to the rural areas, with the exception of the Lodge School and one or two other places, there were no playing fields. However, in the last five years, interest in sport has been awakened throughout the island and, as to regulated forms of games throughout the island, you found young men and women, boys and girls forming their own Clubs, not only in relation to cricket and football but also in relation to basket ball, netball and the like. Some of these clubs have gone even further; because of the progress they have made, members of these clubs have been invited overseas as guests of other clubs, and they have very often become the hosts of clubs from overseas who are playing games here.

When this House met on the last occasion, I remember that the Hon. Minister of Social Services asked this House to grant a sum of money for further equipping the Sports Department, which would be a benefit to the whole island. On that occasion I thought I had done the right thing when I asked for playing fields or pavilions at playing fields for the parish of St. James. I am not selfish in this matter and I am therefore saying that pavilions for playing fields are necessary wherever these playing fields are known to exist. On the surface, the presence of pavilions may appear to be an accommodation for persons who only go to watch games, but the matter goes further than that. Many good matches are played at some of these playing fields, and I speak with particular reference to Thorpes and Trents. Many important matches are played at some of these playing fields; sometimes you find that clubs from overseas come to Trents and very often the games are failures not only because of the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the players, but it is a question of who is watching these games. You may have somebody coming in a car and sitting and watching a game, but there is no inspiration for anybody to go and witness a game where there is no accommodation for them. Where there is a pavilion at a playing field, there can be better organization; because of the absence of a pavilion, people wander all over the field and that is very often out of the interest of the players. After a football match is played, what does a player find at the end of the game or at half time? Where has he to go? The thing which is accepted by players is that they should have the conveniences of the pavilion; it is a question of the sanitary and the cultural benefits which should be provided at these playing fields.

Mr. Speaker, I am not asking or suggesting that these pavilions should be of an exorbitant nature; because of the Government's Development Programme money must be reasonably spent. A pavilion can be erected in order to accommodate a reasonable number of persons, but this pavilion should have its sanitary conveniences. You may have a pavilion without these conveniences, but that is separate and distinct from a pavilion which will have its

own conveniences. Such a pavilion should have a toilet and bath so that the players would be able to use it. With a pavilion at Thorpes, that is even more necessary. The pavilion at Thorpes should be built particularly to help the playground at St. John-the-Baptist.

Mr. Speaker, imagine that you have people at a playing field. Nature calls and where are you expected to go? At Thorpes the children as well as adults use that playing field and what I am suggesting would be a simple thing not only in theory but in practice; it should be carried into effect. Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is very much more that I can say on this Resolution. I have already pointed out the need for pavilions with sanitary conveniences at these playing fields and they need not be too expensive to erect. I speak with particular reference to the parish of St. James, to Trents and Thorpes playing fields; it is a question of providing small pavilions for these two places.
2.50 p.m.

While I am on it, I would suggest that even though there may be other playing fields that are entitled to these pavilions, I would say that particularly Trents is now a hive of activity when it comes to sports, and there should be no hesitation that as soon as possible some provision be made for these two places to have a small pavilion according to the funds and place they may take in the Government's Development programme.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, in seconding this Resolution I heartily commend the hon. senior member for St. James for bringing this Resolution to the House, and in supporting it I should like to say that the playing field at Bagatelle, St. Thomas really requires some improvement. The seating accommodation there is, I am afraid, not enough when matches are being played. Then we have the Welches School in close proximity to that playing field, and I am sure that if some improvement was made to the pavilion and the field itself, the children who attend the Welches School would be able to have the same facility as the people living in the area. Many complaints have been made to me in connection with the inadequate condition of the playing field at Bagatelle, and the pupils are very perturbed because from time to time they would really like to use the playing field since the school has none.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am wondering if the hon. senior member for St. Thomas would be prepared to move an amendment to this Resolution including other parishes, not excluding St. Lucy. He has seconded this motion of the hon. senior member for St. James which refers specifically only to pavilions at Trents and Thorpes.

Mr. BATSON: It is not my intention, Mr. Speaker, to move an amendment, but I am sure that the Minister concerned will be listening and will not confine his remedy to St. James alone, but will extend it to the rural areas including St. Lucy, because I feel that now that the scope of the Sports Officer will be extended it would be rather appropriate for the officers to visit this playing field and see conditions for themselves and make recommendations to the appropriate Minister who, no doubt, will come to the rescue of the people living in these areas. I am sure, Sir, that if this Resolution is taken to heart seriously, all the playing fields and pavilions throughout the Island will come in for some improvement especially now that Government is trying to take sport more seriously, and pavilions and playing fields would be matters which would require priority.

In associating myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. senior member for St. James, I will in closing remind the appropriate Minister not to forget Bagatelle Playing Field and that the children at Welches Boys' School which is in close proximity are clamouring for the use of the playing field as well as seating accommodation at the pavilion itself.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I am supporting the Resolution and I, like the last speaker, would like to welcome it because, although we do not wish at this moment to interfere with the Resolution as it stands, now that the Minister of Social Services is here and is listening and tak-

ing notes, I think we can go back and give a little history about the playing fields generally in the area.

In 1952 funds from one of the sugar funds, the rural Amenities Fund, were allocated for playing fields. We had a start with the Princess Alice Playing Field and we put one at Carrington. In Christ Church we had been allocated funds sufficient for two playing fields; one was established at Sargeants Village. I remember well that we got the owners of that property to sell it to Government for a very small sum. In January or February 1955, through the instrumentality of the Minister of Agriculture and myself we approached the then Government, and Dr. Cummins, then Premier, visited the site south of the Christ Church Light House, an area of sour grass land which we considered suitable. That land was owned by Mr. Armel Yearwood. I approached Mr. Yearwood and asked him if he would sell, and because it was for a playing field would he give consideration as to a reasonable price. To this he acquiesced, and the Premier and Minister of Social Services at the time visited that site on a Thursday, my half day, and we thought we had convinced them that that would have been a suitable site and they would have taken steps to acquire that five or six acres of land to put a playing field there.

Mr. SPEAKER: I really must remind the hon. member who is speaking that this Resolution deals with the inability of the Northern District Council and not of the Southern District Council to provide playing fields in that area.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, as the other hon. member for Christ Church, I should like to say that the only reason why the other playing field in Christ Church did not actually come to fruition and is now a playing field and enjoyed as such is owing to the intervention of hurricane "Janet" which struck at that time, and the scheme gave way to other priorities and houses in Silver Sands and other areas that were flattened where people needed homes in which to live, and not playing fields.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think we are going very far now from the Northern District Council and Trents and Thorpes. We have reached "Janet".

Mr. GODDARD: With your indulgence, Sir, we are recapitulating on the Rural Amenities Fund, because I still believe there is an amount available in that Fund for continuation of this scheme. I am sure money is still there unless it was used for something else. It was the intervention of "Janet" that held up that scheme, but Christ Church is the second most thickly populated parish with one playing field, and that playing field is very near to St. Michael. As a matter of fact, since the extension of the City Council, it is just on the other side; so we have the expense and St. Michael enjoys the benefits, and I am drawing this to the attention of the Minister of Social Services. There is a wide area of land generally known as "Below Rock" in that area at Enterprise that can adequately do with a large playing field and community centre. As a matter of fact, in the days of Miss Betty Arne, her idea was to have a scheme right on the beach. We opposed that because we felt people wanted a playing field and not just swimming facilities which she thought more suitable for Christ Church. To get back to the Resolution, however, I heartily support it and wherever there are playing fields, in keeping with the size of the fields, pavilions and the necessary amenities of toilets and running water and so on should be part of the playing fields, because that would be handed over to the Local Government Council and the recurrent expenses would be theirs.
3.00 p.m.

All the playing fields are now administered by the Local Government Councils; and so long as a playing field is provided out of the Rural Amenities Fund, the recurrent expenditure falls to the District Councils. I am sure that any District Council would be only too pleased to take that playing field in hand and run it for the citizens.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Joseph rose almost simultaneously with the Hon. Minister.

Mr. COWARD: Sir, I think I would be lacking in my responsibility to the people of St. Joseph, if I allowed this Resolution to pass without taking this opportunity to say something on it. I sat here and heard hon. members speaking about playing fields for the parish of St. James and St. Thomas, but I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Social Services to the fact that up to the present time there is no playing field in the parish of St. Joseph. I would like to mention to the Hon. Minister of Social Services that all the people in this Island help form the inhabitants of the Island and all should be similarly treated.

I have no intention to envy hon. members who already have playing fields in the parishes which they represent and who are now asking for improvements; but what I feel is that something should be done in so far as the parish of St. Joseph is concerned, and I am appealing to the Hon. Minister, with as little delay as possible, to find ways and means to purchase a playing field and erect a pavilion thereon for the benefit of the people of St. Joseph who are all Barbadians.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Sir, without any attempt to steal the thunder of the Hon. Minister of Social Services because he is perfectly capable of answering any question pertaining to his Ministry, I just rise to say this. In the first place, I wish to congratulate the hon. senior member for St. James who brought this Resolution on the floor of this House, and also to support the remarks and the plea which was put up by my colleague, the hon. junior member for Christ Church.

I would like to set his mind at rest. A way back in 1955 — I think the sale was completed in 1956 — four and a half acres of land was bought in the Silver Sands area for an extension of the housing scheme; but that land is of a rocky nature, and may not comply with land for a playing field. I believe the Hon. Minister of Social Services has plans to erect a Secondary Modern School there which in itself will provide a playing field for the children of the area; but over and above that, the Government has already purchased 15 acres of land so as to provide not only playing field facilities for people in that district, but also facilities for the fishing industry and a park for the adults. Therefore, the needs of the people of Silver Sands and of that area of Christ Church may be said to have been served, and I think that, given a little opportunity first to work out the appropriate plans by the people who are knowledgeable in such matters, that 15 acres of land would provide a park, playing field and other facilities for children in the area and essential requirements like public facilities. I would like to see our public facilities raised to a higher standard in accordance with what I see existing in other places.

Mr. SEALEY: Sir, in supporting this Resolution, I would like to draw to your attention certain facts which exist in the parish of St. Michael. The Pine Housing area has become densely populated especially since houses from the flooded area are removed there. If you pass at night you see people assembled just at the corner of Howells Cross Road, up by the junction of Haggatt Hall and St. Barnabas Road and other places near around there; therefore, I would like the Hon. Minister to add to his quota for next year a playing field or recreation hall somewhere near around the corner of Chapel Gap. It would be a lot of help to the people around there. As I have said, you will find a lot of people gathered around there. That playing field or recreation hall would serve for people as far as My Lord's Hill, Haggatt Hall, Two Mile Hill, Friendship, the Pine, Clapham and Britton Hill — people around that area.

Mr. LYNCH: Sir, I would like at this stage to support the contention of all hon. members who have spoken in regard to their particular parishes and the need for playing fields. The parish of St. James can boast of a population of 13,533, the parish of St. Joseph can boast of a population of 8,580 while the parish of St. Michael have 93,000 people, but only have two small playing fields.

Mr. Speaker, when these other parishes are granted playing fields, there must be some central stadium to which the athletes, etc., who are produced in them can come and show their skill and prowess. It is about time that we acquire land on which to build a stadium. I am not necessarily insisting that we build the stadium immediately, but certainly we should acquire the land. For some time now there has been talk about the acquisition of a place called "Blenheim". It is a property of about ten to twelve acres of land and it would be a good place to make a stadium. It can be easily reached from all points of the local compass.

I hope that the Hon. Minister responsible will heed what I have to say about the acquisition of a stadium because since it has been talked about, land has become more and more valuable; and if this scheme is to be constantly put off, the time may arrive when the land would cost so much that it may almost be not worthwhile to purchase it. 3.10 p.m.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I must rise to support this Resolution which has been moved by the hon. senior member for St. James. We have a playing field in St. Andrew; but there is a place called Hillaby which has the second largest population in St. Andrew and complaints have been made to me not only now but from the time of the last Government, asking me to call upon the Government to purchase land so that the children could have somewhere to play. If you want to prove what is the skill of the children from the various districts, go to Belleplaine. There is a playing field there and you can see children from all walks of life going there to compete with children from other places; that is because they have no place in Hillaby at which they can play. At Belleplaine sometimes the vehicles have to wait on the people who are always playing cricket in the road. If the Government could find it possible to purchase a portion of land in Hillaby for use as a playing field, that would benefit people from places like Prior Park and the surrounding districts and even people from a part of St. James would gather at this playing field. At the present time, the children have to leave Hillaby and go down to Belleplaine for the purpose of playing games. I am sure that when these children go to Belleplaine to play games, the night falls and still they are on their way back to their homes. We know that this Government cannot do everything at one time but, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to see that as long as this Government is in power they will make provision for some playing fields in other places so that the children can have their games.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, there are several points to which I have to reply, and I am going to reply to all of them in due course. First of all, I should like to point out that we, on this side, are not unaware of the needs of our community where the field of sport is concerned, and where pavilions for these playing fields are concerned. As you know, Sir, we have embarked on a sports programme and I make bold to say that, for the first time in the history of Barbados, there has been any appreciable amount of money being spent on sport. That has been possible during the regime of the present Government. Last week I had occasion to reply to a similar question asked by the hon. senior member for St. James and, at that time, I gave the assurance that the question of the establishment of pavilions at Thorpes, Trents and at other areas throughout the island was engaging the active consideration of the Government. It is to be appreciated that a Government can only spend money within its resources; and if the resources of the Government are limited, we have got to face the fact that we have to wait until the economic position of the country is such that you can think of the things or most of the things that are needed. As I said before, we are well aware that these things are necessary and it is our intention to provide them all within the scope of our economy.

I should like to point out here that so great is the emphasis which is placed on sports and recreational facilities for our people, especially our workers, that the Government has even decided to place, as a priority, the provision of certain recreational facilities for workers at beaches

in preference to the construction of workers' resort houses. We have decided to do that because we feel that more people can benefit from recreational facilities at beaches like River Bay, Bathsheba, Martins Bay and the various other beaches where people go on Bank Holidays and where our workers spend most of their time. We are convinced that most of our workers cannot afford a two-week holiday at the seaside, but they can afford going on an excursion, as most of them will do, on Boxing Day and on other Bank Holidays so as to enjoy themselves at these resort places.

It is, therefore, the policy of this Government to provide recreational facilities for the workers and especially the children of those workers. We are, therefore, not at all unaware of the needs of our community, and hon. members who have spoken on this Resolution can rest assured that provision will be made for these things in the not too distant future. Those hon. members need not have any fear about this Government not doing as much for sports as it is humanly possible for the Government to do. I refer to Bathsheba where so many of us go. In dealing with Bathsheba I shall reply to the question which has been posed by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. We are aware that there is a great need for recreational facilities and playing fields in the parish of St. Joseph. As a matter of fact, I was born in St. Joseph and I was so ashamed of the position with regard to that parish when the last Government was in power that I had to leave St. Joseph and come to live in St. Michael. Notwithstanding the fact that I have done that, I will still go to St. Joseph at some other time. I am proud of my heritage in St. Joseph and I would like to see everything possible done for that parish. The hon. member can rest assured that the parish of St. Joseph will have its playing field. As a matter of fact, soon from now the Hon. Minister of Education will be inviting the two hon. members for St. Joseph to visit the site on which the new St. Elizabeth Village School will be constructed.

3.20 p.m.

In collaboration with my Ministry, the policy will be to provide as much land there as possible so that there will be for the first time in history — after St. Joseph had been represented by the Prime Minister of the West Indies, the first Premier of Barbados for many years — a playing field. Despite the fact that this Government does not have representatives of its Party in St. Joseph, that parish will yet get a playing field when that school is constructed. The land has already been acquired and at the invitation of the Hon. Minister of Education and myself, the two representatives of St. Joseph will be asked to visit the site, and their fears will be allayed when they see that, despite the fact that two members in high ranking position of the last Government and representatives of that parish did not see fit to provide a playing field in St. Joseph, it took the sweeping out of the Barbados Labour Party at the general elections in 1961 for St. Joseph to have a playing field.

Now in answer to the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, we are aware of the condition of the playing field at Bagatelle. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture has already agreed to let us have the uses of the equipment, whether it be at Sedge Pond or wherever it is, for levelling some of these fields. I think what is wrong with the playing field at Bagatelle is that it is a bit hilly and it would take some levelling. We are prepared to do that. There is a centre at Bagatelle, and I do not say that the question of providing a pavilion would carry a higher priority than a parish where there is no shelter at all, but in due course these things will be done. What things are necessary to make the inhabitants of those areas and the people of Barbados in general more comfortable will be done. The fact cannot be gainsaid that where the Government spends a reasonable amount of its funds in recreational facilities and on social welfare, the incidence of juvenile delinquency reduces; and if money is not spent on social welfare and on improving the social and cultural state of the country, it will have to be spent at Government approved schools or prisons. The problem in Barbados is the needs of the youth. We are conscious of that. One may say that we put a lot of emphasis on the youth; but that is where the problem is, and we are prepared and determined to meet the problems and deal with them satisfactorily. It is therefore our intention to

keep our boys and girls from the Government approved schools, and in order to do that we have to indulge in preventive methods to keep them out.

In reply to the hon. junior member for Christ Church, I should just like to point out that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has ably answered that question. He has stated exactly what I would have said, and I do not see it necessary to go any further in that respect.

With respect to the question posed by the hon. senior member for St. Michael, he has asked Government to consider the question of providing a playing field at the corner of Chapel Gap. The hon. member might not be aware of the fact that already there is provision for a playing field at the Pine. The land is there and it only means the preparation of the playing field. I should also like to point out that it was only last year that I made representation on behalf of the people of the St. Barnabas area who wanted to play cricket in the B.C.L. Competition to the Ministry of Education, which Ministry did agree to permitting the residents of St. Barnabas area to use the playing field at the Pine Primary School. If the hon. member is not aware of those things, it is then that he could ask a question; but I like, when questions are asked, that members be sure of what they are asking before they are asked, because in the case of St. Barnabas there is adequate provision being made for St. Barnabas where playing fields are concerned. A playing field is being provided in the Pine Housing area itself, and the people in the St. Barnabas area who use playing fields are permitted to use the Pine Primary School playing field. We would even go further if these do not satisfy the needs to permit them to use the one at the Parkinson Secondary Modern School. We do not think they should be closed up when the children are not there. We feel that as much use should be made of not only the playing fields at the schools, but of the schools themselves as much as possible, because that is part of our policy.

In answer to the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, I would like to ask the hon. member this one question. Where is there one spot in the district of Hillaby where a playing field could be sited? This is a question I went into long ago. The district of Hillaby is very mountainous and the terrain is not the type where you can have a playing field sited, and perhaps the hon. senior member for St. Andrew is just as narrow-sighted as some of the residents of the area who ask for a playing field. Hillaby is an area which is divided into a sort of peasantry. You will find that all the land in the area of Hillaby is owned by small farmers — one-quarter acre of land, half-an-acre, and so on.....

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the hon. member has said that there is no land apart from the small peasant owners' land at Hillaby, but I can assure the hon. member that there is much land belonging to Gregg Farm and land which belongs to Turner Hall that does not belong to small farmers, and that is in the area of Hillaby.

3.30 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the district of Hillaby is the district of Hillaby; the district of Turners Hall is a separate district. I am not saying that the representative does not know the district. Gregg Farm is a plantation there by itself. If the hon. member would like to investigate the possibility of acquiring land from Gregg Farm, let him enquire and see whether it is available. There is absolutely no place in Hillaby for the construction or provision of a playing field. That is the point which I have been trying to make. This is a matter which I went into thoroughly. I remember that representations were made to me from people in the Hillaby district and I went and visited a site. It was two or three acres of land belonging to a man who had about six or seven children, but it was agricultural land.

In answer to the question posed by the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown who referred to two small playing fields in St. Michael and also made reference to a sports stadium of which he said that there was a plan afoot to acquire "Blenheim", I would like to say that I am very

cognisant of that fact; but the intricacies of that are that "Elenheim" is situated in the Zone 1 Area.

It must be appreciated that much of our water supply comes from the Belle area and "Elenheim" is within a mile's distance from the Pumping Station. Both the Director of Medical Services, the Town and Country Planning Officer and all those concerned with the water supply of the Island, that is to say the Water Board, have objected strenuously to any additional sanitary convenience, whether it be septic tanks or otherwise — being constructed in the Zone 1 area. Therefore, the question of the acquisition of "Elenheim" is out of the picture.

The hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown is aware that it is the policy of the Government to acquire land in the Cave Hill area where there will be housing estates and where the provision of playing fields or recreational facilities will be permitted, and the Government is at present considering whether Cave Hill would be a good area for the long term planning of a sports stadium.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that so acutely is the question of recreational facilities engaging the attention of the Government, and so determined is the Government to provide these needs where necessary, that a children's playing park is now being planned for the site opposite to Government House, known as the Quakers Burial ground. It is a very cool site and we think that it can make a beautiful park for children from the surrounding area, including children from Belmont Road, to go and enjoy themselves.

Mr. CARMICHAEL rose to speak.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the hon. member rose because he is the Mover of the motion and was exercising his right of reply. I have risen because there are one or two comments which I would like to make not only in the light of the debate which took place on this matter on the explanation of Government's policy which was given by my colleague, but at the same time to say that the motion in its present form would be unacceptable.

In the first place, the motion requests this Government in its development programme to make early provision for pavilions at Trents and Thorpes Playing Fields. I do not think the House would be wise to make that sort of request because the House knows that the Development Programme for 1960-65 has been already decided and the number of priorities has already been listed. If, therefore, this request goes to Government to include in its current development programme the erection of these two pavilions, it would mean rearranging priorities which I do not think at this stage the Government can be asked to do. There is a better way of getting the desired thing and that is to forego saying whether the provision should come first, but just asking the Government to make early provision.

The second thing is that it is clear from the tenor of the debate that while a case is made for the provision of a playing field for Trents, there are other playing fields in the Island which merit the examination of their own needs; therefore, it seems to me that it would not be in the best interest either of this House or of the country as a whole for us to confine this desire and request only to two playing fields in St. James.

If the hon. member would consider accepting an amendment, the terms of which I shall read, I think we would be more than pleased to expedite this matter. First of all, I would like the word "tastes" which comes after the word "cultural" to be deleted and the word "development" substituted in its place. You will also delete the words "the development of" which appear before.

The second paragraph is quite in order.

The third paragraph, should be amended to read as follows:-

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to make early provision for a small pavilion at such playing fields as may appear suitable and convenient, including Trents and Thorpes."

It seems to me that if we recast the Resolution in those terms, not only does the House give the Government a mandate to act on this matter expeditiously, but it also allows the Government not to be tied down to a specific programme.
3.40 p.m.

It may well be possible to do this outside of the Development Programme; to ask that the Development Programme in effect be changed might obstruct not only this, but other things to which a certain priority has already been assigned. If, therefore, the hon. member who moved the passing of the Resolution will accept the amendment which I have proposed, we shall be very pleased to support it. I am sure that the proposed amendment will commend itself to the entire House. I therefore beg to move that amendment.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member who desires to contribute to this debate before the honourable proposer exercises, if he sees fit, his right of final reply?

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words with your permission, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is within the Standing Orders of this House that any hon. member may speak, in parliamentary terms of course, on any matter which is before the House.

Mr. MILLER: I thank you very much. We have been speaking on this Resolution to provide pavilions for playing fields at Thorpes and Trents. It is true that I entered the House long after the debate was going on, but I will say that I have had a considerable amount to do with this matter which ceases to be a problem for the Government. As a matter of fact, we have piped sewage half mile out to sea, which is consistent with modern thought, trend and development. It is a question of locating some place within the area of a mile of a pumping station and using the land. This is nothing to do with the fact that at Elenheim you come within the radius of a mile of a pumping station. That will be done in the development scheme in the project at Cave Hill. I want to agree with the hon. member as to how we can best improve this area, and I may say that I knew when the first patch of grass was planted on the land in this area. You do not want to discriminate in the case of Trents and Thorpes; I can quite see the Hon. Minister's point of view. He is committed to a \$50 million operation in a Five Year Plan, but we know that they will never spend the money.

I want to support the amendment which has been moved by the Hon. Minister; this is something which is always close to me and it is my idea and principle. A back of all this is the principle of bringing culture within the reach of the people who are unable to pay for these things themselves. When it comes to the question of being within the radius of the Belle pumping station, that has long passed the stage of being a problem. It is unfortunate that you cannot spend one half of this money in five years, and, of course, it is not likely that this Government will be in power for five years. I cannot ask you, Mr. Speaker, to disclose anything with any sense of dignity. However, I have given a simple hint to the Hon. Minister. Within the radius of a mile of a main water source you need not be afraid of any contamination. That, I say, is no longer to be a problem. That was decided upon with regard to the sewage disposal at the Hospital. You pipe this sewage across Martindale's Road and right out to the sea. Mr. Speaker, the hon. mover of the passing of this Resolution has accepted the proposed amendment and I want to compliment him on it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there any other hon. member who desires to speak on this Resolution before the hon. intro-

ducer exercises his right of final reply, if he see fit to do so? (A PAUSE). Apparently, no other hon. member wishes to contribute to this debate and the hon. introducer may reply.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I am accepting the amendment which has been suggested by the Hon. Minister of Education. I am indeed grateful to hon. members for the enthusiasm, the interest and the unbiased feeling which each hon. member has shown in supporting this Resolution. I am grateful to the Hon. Minister of Education who saw fit to offer this amendment, and to the Hon. Minister of Social Services who, before this Resolution was debated today, had given us his full assurance that he and his colleagues in the Government had this matter before their attention. I make no apology when I say that there was discrimination with respect to the parish of St. James and I hope that my example will always be followed by any hon. member who represents his constituency.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Resolution as amended do now pass. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No", I think the "Ayes" have it. This Resolution has now been duly passed.
3.50 p.m.

RESOLUTION re INCREASE OF INCOME TAX
ALLOWANCES TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS
STUDYING AT CENTRES OF HIGHER
EDUCATION

Mr. SPEAKER: We now proceed to the next Order of the Day, and that stands in the name of the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown: to move the passing of a Resolution relating to an amendment to the Income Tax Act to increase the allowances to the parents of students studying at centres of higher education.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS Barbados needs citizens who have had the benefit of higher education in subjects other than those catered for by the Local College of Arts & Sciences,

AND WHEREAS the income tax allowances for the parents of students studying at centres of higher education are thoroughly inadequate,

AND WHEREAS such inadequate allowances are acting as a deterrent to persons desirous of giving their children a higher education;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request Government to introduce legislation to amend the Income Tax Act to increase the allowances for the parents of students studying at centres of higher education to bring such allowances nearer to the actual cost of such education.

A Resolution of this sort, Mr. Speaker, I feel confident, will meet with the general approval of all those who realise and acknowledge the benefits of education. There will be no great loss of income tax to the Government, because from the latest figures available, the number of students studying abroad are 650 in the United Kingdom, 101 in Canada, 130 at the University of the West Indies, a mere ten divided between India, Germany and Paris, and the number studying in the United States of America is unknown. However it has been estimated at approximately 200, which would give us, Mr. Speaker, a total of just over 1,000 studying in centres of higher education abroad. If there were to be an adjustment to the income tax allowances, it is obvious that there will be no great loss to Government of income tax. The present allowances are far too low, Mr. Speaker. They are something like \$360 annually which is \$30 per month, a sum which would not support even a horse, not even one of those indifferent nags owned by successive Ministers of Social Services which, I understand, have to be shooed off the track, lest they get mixed up with the race coming behind.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ministers of Social Services in which territories?

Mr. LYNCH: I am speaking of the territory in which we are, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure that both the Minister and his predecessor will agree with me. However, seriously, there are people who despite the fact that there is a College of Arts and Sciences established locally will wish to send their children abroad to centres of higher learning. There are many people who realise that for certain avenues of study, it is necessary for them to go abroad. People will continue to go to Edinburgh if they want to study medicine, the Inns of Court for law, to Vienna for surgery, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for engineering, to the same place for electronics which is becoming very important in our modern world and so on. Everyone will not be content, Mr. Speaker, with going to the College of Arts and Sciences to do a classical degree or a scientific one.

There are certain Universities in the United States of America the fees of which range from \$2,500 U.S. to \$3,000 U.S. per year, and what relief is offered a parent for such a student is a mere \$30 B.W.I. monthly. The ridiculousness of such a situation must be at once apparent. What I would like to suggest, Mr. Speaker, is that at this time it is not too late for this matter to engage the attention of the Minister of Finance, who, I believe, would have eventually to pass judgment upon it, so that in the next Estimates it will be possible. I understand the allowance is rather more like \$50 B.W.I. monthly as against \$3,000 U.S. annually, which it will cost to study at Ohio State University which is famous for its College of Psychology and Philosophy. There can be no better investment for any Government, Mr. Speaker, than in the future.....

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, while sympathising with the various points which have been raised by the hon. member who has had past experience as a teacher and Principal of a secondary school of great renown, I happen to have studied income tax law. I thoroughly appreciate the points which he is raising, but without attempting to assist Your Honour, this Resolution is on the face of it out of order in that it will impose a charge on the Treasury of this Island even though it might be a dollar or \$1,000; and I am bringing it to your attention that it is out of order as it will impose a charge on the Treasury.

Mr. LYNCH: The hon. member is impugning your judgment, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is attempting to offer assistance in exploring a certain avenue which I have already considered.

Mr. LYNCH: I have every confidence in Your Honour's judgment; and when I saw that you had allowed the Resolution to be presented, I knew it was all right. This is a Resolution and not a Bill. To continue, Mr. Speaker, there will be many students who will want to study agricultural science with a view to the future; there will be students who will want to study political economy; therefore, parents will have to send them abroad if they are to be taught these particular sciences by the best teachers available. As I remarked just now, there can be no better investment for a Government than in the future of the young people in the particular country. If Government wants to invest in the future of the young people of Barbados, I feel sure that this Resolution will meet with favourable consideration. I compliment the Government for the establishment of the College of Arts and Sciences, but the width and range of the studies possible there are not at the moment particularly satisfying.
4.00 p.m.

As I have said, there will be people who would want to go to Massachusetts Institute of Technology for training in electronics. There will be people who want to go next door to Trinidad for training in agricultural science; there will be people who want to go to the Inns of Court for training in law; therefore, it would be a very popular move by Government if they relieve the parents of these children by making an adjustment whereby there would be some relationship between the amount of tax which they are allowed

off and the fees which they will have to pay to these high institutions of higher learning.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Resolution so ably moved by the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown. Today, many people are educating their children in Universities in Canada, England and America. There are many Barbadian parents having children educated overseas, and I think it is fortunate that this Resolution should come at this time because it will remind the Government now that they are planning for the Estimates next year, a relief by way of increased exemption for this purpose would be very welcome indeed by the taxpayers at the next financial announcement which comes in April.

Sir, the cost of educating children in America, and Canada, is in the vicinity of \$3,000 (U.S.) or (Canadian) per annum. Now the taxpayer has to pay income tax on it. The tax exemption is very small; but it is a considerable sum that parents are asked to produce for the purpose of educating their children. We are moving into an age where without proper University education, our children may find it difficult to compete with children in other countries. We prefer our children to come back here, but we have to look further afield and think of them having to compete with children in the outside world for jobs. It is a fact that in America and Canada unless you have a college education you stand a poor chance in getting a job which is worthwhile.

The alternative to this is for parents to set aside a sum by way of insurance whereby the income tax for that sum would not be so great and earmark that for that purpose. This money is so well spent and recognised by Government that even today with the tight controls of hard currency, the Government still permits the Control Department to allow you to get a sum not exceeding \$2,500 (U.S.) for this purpose. If Government accepts the principle that parents get the United States dollars, at the same time, it should be accepted by Government that it would be a relief to parents if they provide tax exemption on a higher basis for this purpose. I heartily support this Resolution.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, in lending my support to this Resolution, I am thinking that this is something which not only applies to the wealthy, the rich or even the middle-class people. The Government has presented its educational policy which is so broad as to afford the sons and daughters of people in all walks of life the opportunity to matriculate for University education.

My own personal view of this matter is that if we do not amend the Income Tax which only allows you \$600 for the education of your son or daughter overseas, it may prove that discrimination by the Legislature is a fact because we have passed a law in here giving five Barbados Scholarships and allowing a maximum of £600 but never giving less than £450 whether the father or mother of the child is a carpenter, mason, cabinet maker or candlestick maker; but if the child did not win the scholarship, you are only allowed out of your income \$600 for the support of that child at a University. If that is the case, by what yardstick can you say it is logical or fair?

I am going to anticipate the Hon. Minister of Education. He has proven that for himself and he is an example. So often you find that those who win a Barbados Scholarship do not make the best citizens. Within recent years, we have got Barbados Scholars who because they have been able to enter Universities, because they have won a Scholarship, they were just able to scrape through with a pass. We know also of cases where parents have had to go and mortgage their property or borrow money so as to send their children to a University, and those children have graduated from the particular University with Honours and flying colours. In some cases, they have got First Class Honours degrees, and in some other cases Second Class honours, and those children have come back here and are a great credit to Barbados.

It is true that this Government was not in power when the Barbados Scholarship Act was passed. No one would

attribute to any member of this Government that he is a wealthy man. I believe, deep down in the shoes of Government members, that when you are going to allow a minimum of £450 to the boy who wins a Barbados Scholarship and to the boys who came next to him or got Scholarships, who were capable to matriculate for the University, you only just allow his father \$600 allowance for educating him, that you are discriminating.

4.10 p.m.

This does not apply only to rich people. Both the Hon. Minister of Social Services and the Hon. Minister of Education have seen this, and they have recognized it very carefully. It is only last week, as my colleague will tell you, that I saw a boy who came to me and he had seven subjects in the G.C.E. at Ordinary Level; he was taking four subjects at Advanced Level. I asked him if he could do all of this and he said: "Yes". We commend the Government on providing the opportunity which is offered at the Arts and Science College in Barbados. We appreciate the fact that we have in common in this country and other parts of the West Indies, a tremendous connection with Canada and the United States of America, for the simple reason that after entering a College in the Winter Season you have the Summer season during which you are given the opportunity to work and help yourself.

People will welcome the opportunity for the privilege of being granted an allowance of more than six hundred dollars. I know of a case today in which a youngster will graduate next June from the University and he was one who left our Civil Service. He graduates in medicine, but his father has told me that he finds it very, very difficult to assist this boy; all he is allowed is \$600. It is the ambition of the people of Barbados to have their children educated. In my experience in practical politics for nearly thirty years, I can hardly remember coming across any one single person whose ambition was not to see his offspring read and write and to go as far as he possibly can.

The Hon. Minister of Agriculture has suggested that this Resolution is, in effect, a Money Bill, but Your Honour has seen fit to rule differently. It may be considered that we are asking the Government to amend the Income Tax Act which is a matter of policy. Mr. Speaker, it is true that in Party politics it is said that you may speak for or against something which is before the Legislature, but you must not vote against your Party; it is also said that there is such a thing as a conscience vote and there are times when you cannot abstain from voting for or against. The Hon. Minister of Education will correct me if I am wrong. I am sure. This is a matter in which I feel that my colleague can sing no solo. Remove every hon. member today from his allegiance to his Party open his conscience and look in his breast and you will find inscribed there the words: "I agree with the hon. junior member for the City in this matter." How can this amount of \$600 be sufficient in this matter? The son of a merchant, because he wins a Barbados Scholarship, is allowed \$2,160 whereas the son of the other man is allowed only \$600. I am far from any selfish motive at all; believe me, Sir, I come into contact daily with a number of persons who would very well like to go and take advantage of the opportunities which are offered for further education at the College of Arts and Science in Barbados, but because there is no provision to help them, they cannot do it. The reason why classes are taken in the afternoon is because the Government, in their wisdom, have seen it fit to allow those who are qualified to go out and work; otherwise they would never be able to take advantage of this opportunity which is offered, because they just could not afford it. Least of all could their family afford it.

Mr. Speaker, I know of a case of a porter who is employed in Bridgetown whose son went out to study. When I spoke to him a few days ago, he told me that his son had a degree in Canada and he was given the opportunity to work. Consider this, Mr. Speaker, the father of one boy is allowed \$600, but the father of somebody else is allowed \$2,160 because his son has won a Barbados Scholarship! I am saying that all we are doing is discriminating against those who have had the opportunity to win Barbados Scholarship as

against those who have not had such an opportunity. It is the experience of members of the Government that some of the best people whom we have had to go out and enter the Medical field or the field of Economics were not Barbados Scholars. Let us take the present Premier of this island; he did not win the Barbados Scholarship; he had to risk his life.

It is a fact that in the case of many of those who have won Barbados Scholarships, we find that the money which was spent on them has been wasted. They have contributed very little to the country after having taken so much out of the people of this country. In these circumstances, therefore, I want strongly to support this Resolution which has been moved by the hon. junior member for the City. This Resolution asks the Government to introduce legislation to amend the Income Tax Act so that you will increase the allowances for the parents of students studying at centres of higher education to bring such allowances nearer to the actual cost of such education.

4.20 p.m.

Part of the Resolution says "AND WHEREAS the income tax allowances for the parents of students studying at centres of higher education are thoroughly inadequate". In respect of higher education, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you something which is surprising. If you send your son overseas from Barbados to British Guiana or even to Grenada, even if he is merely going to a Grammar School, you are given the same allowance as if you had send him to one of the Canadian Colleges or to one of the English schools. Let us take Jamaica where you would say that we as nationalists should be supporting, although this is an independent State today. Let us begin to think of \$50 a month even partially beginning to support a child on a higher classical course at the West Indies University. We do not ask the Government to give what it costs, because if any man chooses to give his son £1,200 or £1,500 a year, that is his business. One of the things brought forcibly to my notice — and it was brought by none other than the brother of my friend and colleague, the hon. junior member for Christ Church — was that I should bear in mind that when the opportunity came to send my children away to seats of higher learning, if I ever gave the boy too much money to spend when he is studying, he would always go on studying because he would not want to come out and work since he would be getting more from me as an allowance than he would get when he began to work. I have carried that in the back of my head, and it is true.

Mr. Speaker, we are therefore asking Government to amend the Act to give a reasonable allowance, because the tendency today is to encourage those students in the field of agriculture and other sciences to come back. The tendency today is for us to get West Indians who have been abroad to fill these posts, and I am going to say now with the greatest respect to the seats of higher learning in the West Indies that when you have to get people to fill some posts in Barbados and the West Indies, they must have gained experience in bigger fields in metropolitan countries, because education does not finish in the class-room but goes further than that, and no one knows this better than the present Leader of the House; it entails meeting people from other territories, and learning human nature, so that when they come back they can bring something to impart.

Mr. Speaker, we do hope that even if the Government on a question of policy or a question of Parliamentary procedure cannot see with us in accepting the Resolution, that they will use their consciences behind closed doors when the Cabinet meets to see that after all what the Opposition has said is true. We have not accused you of being hardened people; the accusation has been made against Parliament itself and not against the Government, and therefore we feel that an increase should be made in the allowances for children who have got to study at seats of higher learning. Bear in mind that, as I said, the way your Act is drafted, if your son went to British Guiana or Trinidad — because it says "studying abroad" — you will be allowed the same thing, the same \$600, as if he went to the West Indies University, to Canada, to America or to England.

I have great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in supporting this Resolution.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great interest and a lot of sympathy to the points put forward on the other side, and I really must deliberately refrain from making any comment on the merits of what has been said, but only to point out to the House that there is a certain amount of procedure involved in this matter. If the House asks the Government to amend the Income Tax Act for whatever purposes, the Government will have to take note of what the House asks; but if the House asks the Government to do this before the formation of the next Budget, what the House requests must have budgetary implications. I would be very loth, if I were Minister of Finance, to find that my budgetary policy was being made up for me, Mr. Speaker, long before I had come to consider it.

In those circumstances, therefore, I wonder whether the hon. member who moved the Resolution would object very much to my moving that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed. If he has no objection, I should be very pleased to do that. If, of course, he does object, well then other steps regrettably would have to be taken.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to agree with the suggestion made by the Hon. Minister.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I thank the hon. member. I now formally move that further consideration of this matter be postponed.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: May I make this observation in respect of "Financial Procedure" in Standing Order No. 59 dealing with "Public Money," and the relevant section is section 1. This Resolution does not in my view contravene anything laid down in that Standing Order, because this is (a) not a Bill and (b) it is simply a Resolution whereby this House requests Government to introduce legislation; and if the Government complies with the request to introduce legislation, then the initiative will have come from the Government and not from the House, and any charge on revenue will be as a result of the action of Government.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SALARIES OF OFFICERS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 4.30 p.m. o'clock when the time for Private Members Business automatically expires.

Before the House resumes into Committee of Supply in which it was before the Sitting was suspended for the lunch recess, I should like to mention that it is my decision to appoint a Committee, and I hereby do appoint such a Committee to make recommendations with respect to the revision of salaries of the Officers of the House, and I am requesting that the following hon. members associate themselves with me to serve on this Committee: the Hon. Acting Leader of the House; the Hon. Leader of the House; the Hon. Leader of the Opposition; the hon. junior member for St. Joseph; the hon. senior member for St. Peter, and I have asked the Hon. and Learned Deputy Speaker to associate himself with ourselves on that Committee. That I declare to be the Committee, and I am grateful in anticipation for the promise of hon. members to render their assistance.

4.30 p.m.

HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: This House now resumes Committee of Supply.

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Prior to the suspension of the House, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was addressing the Chair on Head 11.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Put the question.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there is only one point which I want to raise now; but before I raise it, I have to compliment the Government on the action which they have taken on the Resolution because, taking it from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, they are trying to help the people, because by the law, by the Standing Orders, these people would not have been entitled, but rather than leaving these people in the sky, the Government has put out their hands in sympathy. I sincerely hope that they will be always putting out their hands in sympathy.

I am now going to draw this to the attention of the same hands that lent out its hands of sympathy. I hope they will lend out the same hands of sympathy to William Hazlewood who died without receiving anything. The wife of this man was told that he was not entitled to anything although his papers and documents were sent in before he died, and he was only waiting to receive the gratuity. I am hoping when a letter reaches the Cabinet that the same hands of sympathy will be held out to Mrs. Hazlewood. I am waiting because what is good for A is good for B.

Mr. COWARD: Sir, I do wish to compliment the Government in helping the Bishop family. I also must associate myself with the remarks made by my colleague as touching the matter which was brought up relative to the people from St. Joseph — the remarks which he made about that person who worked formerly in the Waterworks. I know of the case and I know that person was labouring there for 38 years. He had put his case to me first and he said that he wanted to get in touch with a Justice of the Peace and I put him on to my colleague. When that chap left me — he was sitting in a chair — he was scarcely able to get up and walk.

It is hard at a time like this that he had to be running around begging alms and asking people who are not working there to assist him because the people who work there are saying that they cannot find records. If the hon. junior member for St. Joseph did not go to an ex-Clerk of the Waterworks, that chap would have got no where.

Mr. Chairman, I have much pleasure in supporting this Resolution.

Mr. CORBIN: Sir, there is one thing which I want to say. I have sat and heard a lot said on this Resolution. I understand that Mr. Bishop was not entitled to a gratuity because he did not serve the time which he should. The point which I want to make is that when learned and hon. members speak, they should realise what they have to say first. The Head of any Department, such as a Government Department, has to carry out orders. If a person is not entitled to gratuity, that Head of a Department cannot make any provision for paying that person a gratuity at all. An appeal must be made: and when that appeal is made, it has to go to the Executive Committee; and when the Executive Committee took it into consideration, they then will have to refer it back to the Department Head in order to find out what time that person spent in that Department.

I am not satisfied with anyone who speaks evil against a Department Head or a Civil Servant because I know that they cannot do better. They cannot make out a voucher for any man unless the Government decides; therefore, the Civil Servant is not to be blamed. I would not like anyone to speak evil against a Civil Servant when that Civil Servant is not deserving of it.

The question that Head 11 — Pensions — standpart, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 13 - CUSTOMS

Head 13 — Customs — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Here again, Mr. Chairman, the amount of \$342 is referred to us for a purpose already referred to, that is to say, there has been an increase in the establishment in a Government Department, more posts of Assistant Supervisor and two extra posts of Long Grade Clerk; consequent the request for more furniture and office equipment.

I beg to move that Head 13 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 17 - PREMIER - HOME AFFAIRS

Head 17 — Premier — Home Affairs — was called.

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

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

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

HEAD 18 - POLICE

Head 18 — Police — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that Head 18 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 23 - REGIMENT

Head 23 — Regiment — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that Head 23 stand part.

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

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

HEAD 27 - PUBLIC WORKS

Head 27 — Public Works — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that Head 27 stand part.

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

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

1 - ANNEXED ESTIMATES - POST OFFICE

1 — Annexed Estimates — Post Office — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, this Head deals with bicycle allowance for Postmen and an amount of \$1,200 is required to supplement Item 35, 4.40 p.m.

This request is made in consequence of the decision which has been taken by the Government to pay certain allowances to Postmen towards the upkeep of bicycles and autocycles with effect from 1st September, 1963. We have increased the bicycle allowance by fifty cents, that is to say, from the sum of \$2.50 per month to \$3.00 per month; and the autocycle allowance will be \$7.50 a month. In order to meet the requirements of this decision for the remainder of the financial year, supplementary provision of the sum of \$1,200

is required, I beg to move that Head 1 Annexed Estimates - Post Office - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, on this matter of the bicycle allowance, I am reminding the Government that there are places in St. Joseph and St. Andrew and certain parts of St. George as well which are hilly, and in these parts of the island a bicycle is of no use to a postman. I feel that the Government should help these postmen to purchase motorcycles. An autocyte is of no use to a postman in a district like Mellowes Hill or Spa Hill and such districts; to give him an autocyte for use in those districts, you may as well leave him with a bicycle. You will be surprised to know, Mr. Chairman, that at 7 o'clock in the afternoon you will still see some postmen delivering mails. It is time that this Government consider making loans to these postmen so as to assist them with the purchase of high-powered motor cycles so that they will be able to get around their rounds more easily. I cannot ask that the Government help them in the purchase of motor cars because I know what is likely to be said. All I am asking for is that these postmen be assisted in the purchase of motor cycles and I do not think that that is asking too much of the Government to help these people who have to get along on time, especially when the rain is falling.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member may not have known that these people can borrow up to \$450. The hon. member may not have known that; otherwise he would not have raised the point which he has just raised.

The question that Head 1 - Annexed Estimates - Post Office - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that a Resolution for the sum of \$15,677 do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1963-64 No. 25

COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is a Resolution to place the sum of \$9,900 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. 25 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution. I believe that hon. members are well aware of the fact that it has been decided by the Government to carry out an investigation into all aspects of the working of the three Local Government Councils of this island. In the course of this enquiry, consideration will be given *inter alia* to the following:-

- (a) (i) ways and means of achieving greater efficiency in the services now rendered by the said councils at the lowest possible cost to the ratepayers and taxpayers of this Island;
- (ii) the advisability of the centralisation of the administration of the services now rendered by the said councils.
- (b) to make recommendations there on.

Hon. members are also aware of the fact that the Commissioner has been appointed in the person of Dr. R. N. Jackson who is, I think, a Reader in Public Law at the University of Cambridge; also appointed is a Secretary in the person of Mr. McGuire of a firm of local Chartered Accountants and the Local Government Commissioner is to act as Liaison Officer.

The purpose of this Resolution is to provide the necessary funds to meet the expenditure involved in this whole exercise. The Addendum to the Resolution gives the breakdown of this amount of money as follows:-

Commissioner's fee	\$2,640
Hotel Accommodation	1,500
Subsistence allowance	500
Travelling	300
Passage expenses	2,047
Secretary's fee	900
Contingencies	2,000

That makes a total of \$9,887, in round figures, \$9,900. I am not in a position to add anything to what I have said. I take it that it is well understood that this is a Commission which has been set up under the Commissions of Enquiry, 1908, and therefore there are certain formal requirements which have been complied with. An Instrument will be issued to the sole Commissioner setting out his terms of reference and the scope within which he has to work. I may, however, disclose to the House that the Commissioner has asked that the time within which he has to hand in his Report be extended to sometime in the month of May. Originally, he had been asked to submit his Report at the end of March, but he considers that time to be a little too short; he has therefore asked the Government to extend the time and the Government has so done.

There is one other thing which I think hon. members of this House should know in connection with this Commission of Enquiry. The Government has also amended the terms of reference, rather not so much the terms of reference but some flexibility as to the place where the Commission of Enquiry is to be held. At first one place was designated, and the Commissioner has said that he would like to be a little more flexible in the arrangement so that if he had to travel around collecting evidence or to inspect various aspects of local government administration, he should be perfectly allowed to do so. We have amended the Instrument so that the Commissioner can hold the Commission of Enquiry at the Drill Hall or at such other place where he may deem convenient for his work. 4.50 p.m.

That is about all I can tell the House on this matter. If further information is required which is entirely outside the scope of my knowledge, I shall have to decline to answer it on the ground that I cannot.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I think a matter of this character and nature would require, before the Resolution is sent on, some sort of guidance so that when the Commissioner comes here, at least he would know what is the opinion of the Chamber. It would be amiss to lose this opportunity because a Commission of this character is something of great importance to the Island as a whole, and the Commissioner should have guidance from the representative Assembly. If the Resolution is passed like this, I would say that in a general way all it would mean is that the Commissioner would come without any knowledge of what is taking place. The terms of reference of this Commission are as follows:

- (i) ways and means of achieving greater efficiency in the services now rendered by the said councils at the lowest possible cost to the ratepayers and taxpayers of this Island;
- (ii) the advisability of the centralisation of the administration of the services now rendered by the said councils.

Mr. Chairman, I have my views on Councils, County Councils, Corporations and Municipalities, and I am glad that the opportunity has come for someone to make an analysis of the situation in Barbados. I believe that historically Barbados had eleven Vestries because many years ago

owing to the mobility of human beings we had to rely on horse power, ordinarily in its physical sense and not in its mechanical sense, and this Island was divided into eleven parishes. With the advent of the automobile and other quicker means of communications, however, it became no longer necessary for the Island to be serviced by eleven Vestries, and the money spent was divided among the three Councils — the Northern District Council, the Southern District Council and the City Council. After five years, which is not a very long time, a review has been taken of these matters because it seems to me that the Councils have not functioned as well as one would have expected. I am of the opinion, Mr. Chairman, that owing to the character and functions of these Councils, the time has come when they should be reviewed.

Now if I take a look at the two Councils other than the City Council, what I find is that in the majority of cases — and this is true with the City also, — they have to a large extent given up roads, one of the functions they used to perform years ago, and recently the Northern District Council decided to hand over roads to the Central Government. What is really very interesting to me and should be of interest to others is what are the functions you want these Councils to perform. It is true they have the same name as Councils in other parts of the world, but they do not have the same functions, and to some extent they never had these functions. They were mere administrative bodies carrying out administration, having no policy, though the legislation was dictated from this Chamber. I feel — and I do not want it to be any reflection on Councillors in this Island — that when you pass an Act for these Councils in a document of 200 clauses, the people that administer these things do not know under what Act they function, and I have had some experience that there was a little bit of confusion in their minds about their duty.

I feel, Mr. Chairman, that these Councils in themselves can perform a task, but I am wondering if they are geared to do it. This Resolution talks about "ways and means of achieving greater efficiency in the services now rendered by the said Councils at the lowest possible cost", but sometimes efficiency, purely based on cost, may appear on paper to cost more, but efficiency has its invisible returns in what you are going to do. I have no strong views on this matter other than to say that I feel that Barbados really is too small for effective administration of the functions that these Councils have to perform. By that I mean this, Mr. Chairman: in the main these Councils are running the poor houses, the almshouses and are dealing with poor relief. Broadly speaking, I do not consider that to be a political function; I believe the administration of poor relief and the almshouses are administrative functions. For example, you have the General Hospital that is administered by the doctors and administered under the Ministry, and the poor houses are similar units. Outside of the City of Bridgetown these poor houses perform a service for the indigent and the poor of the parish, which is still a necessity in an agricultural society; and now that the concept has come about that they should remove children from the places where you have the elderly people, it seems to me all the more necessary to really have an effective centralised organisation.

Now I am not a believer in centralisation for the sake of centralisation, but I believe that when you do not have enough money to have decentralisation, you should have a proper administration and have offices set up. I do not believe that to centralise all the services and not make provision for servicing these things in the area will be suitable owing to the topography of the Island. People living in St. Andrew would find it very difficult to wend their way to a central place in Bridgetown to receive a pittance. Nor do I believe in not giving responsibility to sectors of the community to make them become interested and do something. I believe in the concept of utilising as many people as you possibly can in a community and making them useful. I do not see that has to be done only by the political machinery; I do not see that you have to have an election to have these services performed. I feel that these services can be performed effectively by setting up *ad hoc* Committees, people who can do this work, just as how some other

Committees function. There are Governing Bodies of schools and they perform a job. I do not find that the amount of money involved even in the City of Bridgetown is too much in my way of looking at it.
5.00 p.m.

Even in the City of Bridgetown, in my way of looking at it, the Bridgetown City Council has to deal with \$2 million.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is more than that.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am going to say \$3 million.

Mr. MOTTLEY: It is not as much as that. It is about \$2 1/2 million.

Mr. WALCOTT: I do not consider you need 24 people to administer a \$3 million outfit.

Mr. MOTTLEY: They are 18 people.

Mr. WALCOTT: Three million dollars is small money when you think in terms of city administration. The Ford motor plant controls more money than that, and their administration is wider, more complex and varied. I feel that the time has come when these things should be streamlined. Another thing is that the City Council does not repair roads, nor is education under their control, nor water. They control the parks, sanitation, the Cemetery and public assistance; but there again, these things are more or less functions of a character which are in the political context in administration quite unlike New York which is a big city with millions of dollars and things to deal with; but Barbados is microscopic in terms of that City.

I feel that with effective, skilled administration, you can do this job very well; but I know there is a lot of objection to its being done by a central organisation based on personnel. If you do not have people in central administration, then you do not get these things done efficiently.

Sir, I have not been into the figures, but there were people who felt that the administration by the three Councils would have been cheaper than the administration by the eleven Vestries, and I believed the change around was done with that in view. Some people believe that three would be less expensive than eleven, and on the face of it you would have to say so. Then, there was the question of not hurting people who formerly worked in the Vestries; so it was a question of waiting until those people go. It was a question of waiting until somebody retired. That can be controlled quite easily by any proper Commissioner who has the ability to do the job.

Then, I see that there are sub-committees at the lower rung with the dispensing of poor relief, and so on, and you have a general pattern for public assistance. Personally, I feel that we should adopt the American principle: and if there is going to be a Means Test, it should be applicable to all sections.

Sir, I could not let this pass without expressing my views, though I am somewhat diffident about the efficiency of these Councils as they now stand. The Councils themselves are predominantly political organisations and not necessarily administrative organisations. You do not get the efficiency which you ought to get or as you will get from expert administration. It is a pity, Sir, that we have to go all over this again after having so much done before, but I hope when the Commissioner comes here, that the people who should submit memoranda would do so easily because I am somewhat worried about the cost — not this cost, but future cost.

I am a believer that centralisation of things makes things cheaper. The Commissioner is coming here, but there seems to be a lot of overlapping. He is coming here when a statement has to be made with respect to the Social Security scheme. On what basis is that to be implemented? Would this be a relief to these Councils? I do not see the

disbandment of some of the offices which are now existing. You will have to deal with these things somewhere, under some control. If we centralise all of these services in Barbados, you will have a problem as to determine what is going to be the position of certain things which are now the function of these Councils, for example, lighting. It is not going to be cheaper. Lighting is not the function of a Central Government; you leave that to local people to deal with.

Of course, the City of Bridgetown is very well provided for. It is true that only in recent years the City of Bridgetown had lights which really bespoke a city, because it was an extremely dark city before. I would say that the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown has concentrated a lot of his time on parochial administration, and in the City of Bridgetown they have provided some of these things which a city should have; but it is still appalling, because when you go outside of the City you find things lacking. I am told by a friend that if you drive from the Lazaretto Hill down St. James, there is only one light. May be, the Mayor of Bridgetown did not decide to take that light down although it is more or less serving the parish of St. James than it is St. Michael. That is the only apparent light which you have in St. James. If you drive in any built up area from the Lazaretto until you get to Road View, St. Peter, there is not a single street lamp which you will find. I wonder why this should be so in this part, and if you go to the Southern side of the Island you do not find this sort of thing.

5.10 p.m.

I have been wondering what is the mentality of the Northern District Council in that there is no street lamp in St. James. That seems to me to be remarkable, that you do not have a light along that coast area which is a very built-up area. I do not know what is meant when you speak about centralisation. Are you going to have one over-all Local Government Council for the whole area and subdivide it, or are you putting the administration of the services under a Commissioner? I feel it is very important that the Government, which has set up this Commission, should give us a lead today and say that this has stemmed from something. I would say that the Government would not have set up a Commission to go into this matter unless it was satisfied that it was in favour of the centralisation of the Local Government services and therefore, before doing so, they want a Committee to investigate the matter.

Mr. Chairman, as I read the Addendum to this Resolution, the terms of reference of this sole Commissioner point to the advisability of the centralisation of the administration of the services which are rendered by these Councils. You are asking the Commissioner to tell you about the centralisation of the services. I have no axe to grind in this matter, but I think it would be good for us to know these things. I know that there have been complaints made about the services which are rendered by these Councils. The matter will come back to this Chamber and we will be talking about all the standposts and lights in the various areas. It will mean that the load on the members of this House will be a greater one.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I really did not want to speak on this Resolution at all for many reasons. It is not my intention to do the work of the Commissioner here, as I suppose the entire island would be looking forward to how well or how badly the City Council will conduct itself before this Commission of Enquiry. The Hon. Minister has said that the Government has decided that the flexibility or the elasticity of the Commission would be such that the Commissioner will be able to visit places and see things for himself. There is one point which I wanted to make and it is this; the hon. member who has just sat down has said something in this House and he was right; he said that the Local Government Bill which has 200 clauses plus the various amendments which the Government in power at the time never had the decency to ask people who administer local government about — instead of passing what was known as the Local Government Act it was said that they should have passed the "Ernest Mottley" Act; but I have lived long enough to hear the utterances of that dishonest person who proposed that we should have this Local Government Act say that Barbados is too small for it, that you need not have it at all. I wonder if that same person would

not say that Barbados is too small for Mottley to live in. I feel quite confident to handle these matters before any Commissioner, no matter who he is.

Mr. Chairman, as to the wording of the Resolution, I have no objection at all. I had the distinction of dealing with Mr. Lightbourne; what he said about me I shall not mention here; but he said distinctly that this form of Government which we wanted to carry out would be more efficient, but he knew that it would cost more. Therefore, Sir, I will await the findings of this Commissioner. The then Government, although they knew that this form of government would cost more but it did not guarantee greater efficiency, still pressed for it because they thought that within the Municipality I would have been relegated to the limbo of forgotten things. Have your Commissioner, have what you like; Kings are made by people and they are also destroyed by people; that is all I have to say.

The hon. member who has just sat down is right in some respects but he has not administered local government. He has had the opportunity in here of hearing people who had to deal with local government. As far as I am concerned, as to the work which the hon. member speaks of; one would say this: you have the Old Age Pension Board and every other Board, and within the last ten years in this country somebody wanted to draw \$10 or \$15 for sitting on such Board. In my 25 years' service I have been able to sit with people on Boards and I say that if you can do this type of work for the love of it, then you should do it. The hon. member who has just sat down is right. This centralisation of the administration of the services now rendered by the said Councils does not necessarily mean that it will be less costly. I want to say this: you may believe it or not; but it is the most difficult thing to get some people to serve on Boards. If you want to change these things, you should think of the money which you will have to pay to people who sit on Boards. The hon. member on my right travels in order to sit on Boards because that is something which he likes to do.

5.20 p.m.

I should not like to say much on this matter because I know too much about it. I believe this is because of my opponents who thought they could get at me, some of whom talk and laugh with me, people not very far removed from the present Party in Government who were doing what I have been accustomed to for a long time, and that is, stabbing me in the back. I do not care anything about that because I have made my position abundantly clear to all of them. As I said to a certain member of the last Government, why are you sitting down and not prosecuting me when you have me in for something? If you know these things, then you are just as dishonest as the person whom you are accusing of dishonesty. Even threats have never daunted me in this country. When my hair was not the colour it is today, and that is 30 years ago, I was not afraid to stand up and express my view when others were afraid. My friend, the hon. senior member for St. Peter, would tell you that I took the opportunity to express a Conservative view in a hostile crowd. People realised it was my honest view and I am still here, and a lot of people who were trying to express views in here and practised something else outside with people are not here now.

Mr. Chairman, I really appreciate this Resolution, because when you boil this down, you will find that had I not demanded the Press to attend a meeting and expose the Auditor General's comments, there would not have been a Commission in this country to go into this matter. There is no doubt that every possible thing was done to cause greater expenditure on the City Council under the Act; and although two very eminent and great men came here and told you they did not guarantee it was going to be any more efficient but they guaranteed it was going to be more costly, the Government still pressed on with it. Anyway, we shall all go through this with the Commissioner. I am now getting myself acquainted with one of the books of this Commissioner and his views on Local Government, and I do hope that everybody will take the opportunity to give evidence before this Commission, and God being my helper, I shall relish the opportunity to cross examine some of those who make statements and know not of what they speak, and to remind them that they are on oath before

a Commission; and the wild and reckless statements which they may make otherwise might before a Commission change their name into numbers.

As far as I am concerned, Sir, I am preparing my brief to meet this Commission. It is true that, as the hon. senior member for St. Peter has said, Local Government is presently a political organisation; so is it in England. I remember distinctly, when my Council had the honour to offer the ex-Prime Minister of Great Britain, Mr. Macmillan, a civic reception, the words of advice and counsel he gave about Local Government. He said that no democracy can be well run without the local authorities coming nearer to the people, meeting people and knowing their wants; and that has stuck in my brain.

I therefore have much pleasure in supporting the Resolution, and I do hope that when this is finished the Government in power will in its wisdom adopt a different attitude from the last Government in allowing personalities to override commonsense and justice. I have a criticism even for this Government. You brought two men from England here, and they both told you that to run Local Government, every time you took away property from the Local Authority on which they would have collected taxes, you should reimburse them as is done in other countries. Since 1959 we have asked for that. At least we have got a letter from this Government saying that in the entire scheme of things it is being considered, but the last Government thought that not even to answer and tell us anything was their method of courtesy, although the people they brought out told them that all these properties which they have should be making a similar contribution to those persons who owned property and were paying taxes on them; they did not see fit to do this, but they saw fit to say at every meeting that we were killing people with taxes and doing this and that.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, this is one of the subjects on which I believe I do not have to take second place to anybody. Although they have made some regulations, sometimes people ask why has Local Government suddenly gone so expensive. I should like to suggest to hon. members to take up the laws and read them and see what they have done, and to take up the last Estimates for the Vestry year and see what they have done. Some idiot the other day — I do not think the person was altogether an idiot, and I should say someone who disliked me — wrote a letter to the Press asking why we in the Municipality did not put the name of every pensioner and the amount he was drawing in our Estimates.
5.30 p.m.

I thought so very little of it that I would not even say, "Go and take a list of Government Pensioners and see how much money either of them draw." There are several things which I can show you, hundreds of thousands of dollars, which have caused this today. After bringing Sir John Maude and Mr. Lightbourne who have been associated with Local Government for many years, they told you "I have gone through your form of Local Government. It is true it is an Elizabethan form of Government and, therefore, it is very antiquated; but the change which I will recommend to you would be modern and more expensive."

The Legislature at that time decided to implement that change. May I ask whose fault it is? The Councils got going in a way. As a matter of fact, it was only when I discovered for the benefit of the North and the South that they were doing things in a way which they should not that I pointed it out to them. You had some people getting away with certain things. I have no qualms about this because at the time Mr. Julian Mahon backed me. There were a lot of people who normally should be paying taxes who were not, and I had a man like Mr. Julian Mahon who backed me in saying it. I saw these things and I know them, but the very man whom the Government brought down said that it would be more expensive.

What the hon. senior member for St. Peter said just now is quite right. You had, so to speak, eleven areas which were presided over by eleven Vestries and they were eleven Parochial Treasurers. Everybody said then that it

was expensive to have eleven Parochial Treasurers. You have, in a way, semi-centralised these things, but it has made it more expensive. If you have semi-centralised it — you did not exactly make it into one — and you make it more expensive, what are you going to do?

Sir, I heartily support this Resolution and I am putting this case from the time when there was the Vestry system up to the beginning of Local Government and what Local Government is now — and not only that, but what money the Government has been extracting from the Local Governments. The Government has been taking the money collected by the Councils to run certain offices of Central Government. Those are things which I shall put before the Commissioner.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I will not be too long on this Resolution. You will notice that on the Order Paper, if it is still there, because I have noticed that Resolutions are struck off the Order Paper very often, that I have a Resolution asking the Government to investigate into the administration of the Northern District Council. I could not say anything of the Southern District Council or the Bridgetown City Council because I do not know anything of them.

As I have said, I do not have much to say now because I would not have to try to convince the Government to agree with that Resolution today because they are already convinced, and they have put the necessary machinery into action and have gone further and has appointed a Commissioner to go into it. I would not have much to say now because the Government has already started.

Every one of us thought that this system of Local Government would be much cheaper than when we had the eleven Vestries. We expected that it would cost a little more, but still we thought it would not have been as costly as it is now. In the time of the Vestries, the Vestries never had to go into the expenses from the administrative side as the present set up is today. In the parish of St. Joseph, as far as the members of that Vestry were concerned, you had the Poor Law Board and the Sanitary Board. Members of the Poor Law Board used to receive ten shillings per meeting, and at that time there were only two meetings a month. Members of the Sanitary Board received \$1.20 a meeting and there was only one meeting a month. That is all that Vestry used to pay out for the administration of the entire parish. All of the other work used to be done voluntarily by the Vestry.

Well, the Government thought that a change was necessary, and all of us believed it too because you have moved away from the horse and cart days on to the motor car, and you have moved away from the steam boat and gone forward to the aeroplane, and there are changes of that sort in a changing world; but it is not always when you make a change that you make it to benefit from it, and in this case, the change from the Vestry system to the Local Government system is a very costly one. And not only costly, but what has happened?

All that I saw was being done by the Northern District Council was that the taxpayers had to pay more taxes. Nothing more has been done. No big improvements have been made, comparatively speaking. If you are going to compare it with the money spent, you very well may say that you have done nothing. That is why I had to bring a Resolution here to ask Government to make such an investigation. It is a fact that the majority of members although they have their Standing Orders and the Local Government Act, they do not consult them, but they go ahead and do as they think fit and without reading the Standing Orders and the Local Government Act, and complying with them. Some members have got to believe that, because they are Councillors, they can do as they jolly well like. That is one of the reasons why the working of Local Government Councils should be investigated. As far as the Local Government Act is concerned, you have to take time off to read it because it is a very long Act. But you have to read it; and when you read it, you can see where this big expenditure will arise and also if you read the Standing Orders. As I have said already, under the Vestry system, the adminis-

tration of the parish of St. Joseph cost very little to run it: but now, under the Standing Orders of Local Government, you have very many Committees. In that little parish you have a Guardians Committee, you have another sub-committee, and you have all those Committees when one Committee could have done the job. And it is remarkable that the same members of the Guardians Committee are the members of the sub-committee.

5.40 p.m.

They can go to the Guardians Committee, and if they fail to do so they can go to the sub-Committee. There are only three members, but there is such a thing as the travelling allowance which has to be paid but which was never paid during the time of the Vestries. Even as much as you have these Committees in St. Joseph you still have the Standing Committee at the Headquarters in St. James. These sub-Committees can only do the little routine work; it is nothing of great importance. They can only do the boys' job, to put it mildly; they cannot do anything of great importance without making a recommendation to the main Committee at the headquarters in St. James. All three of these members have to travel to St. James in order to attend another meeting for the same purpose. It is this set of Committees that cause the matter to be so expensive. We used to have a Parochial Treasurer who had to do the most of the clerical work and everything went well and good; but today you do not have the Parochial Treasurer, but you still have a sub-Treasurer in the parish whose duty is to collect the taxes and you have the Treasurer at the Headquarters. The sub-Treasurer collects the taxes, and at the end of the week he has to go to Bridgetown in order to bank the money and that means travelling allowance for him as well. The set-up is very costly.

Mr. Chairman, something will have to be done because we are doing the same job for more money. I do not want to speak too long on this matter because, as I have said, I do not have to convince the Government or any hon. member to support the Resolution which I have given notice of. I would not have to talk much to convince them because the majority of them are convinced. I will not have to talk unless I have to do so at the Commission of Enquiry. There are things which are existing which should not exist. You have some Councillors interfering with the professional administration at some of the Councils. You have some Councillors who, when the doctor gives an order, will tell the Nurses what to do. You have some Councillors who try to reprimand the Matron telling her what she should do and what she should not do; they are getting before the inmates and acting in such a way — they are shouting at the Matron; and how on earth are the patients and the Nurses to regard the Matron when a Councillor can take it upon himself to go into the Institution and behave in such a manner? All of these things go to make the working of this system to be much more costly than it should be otherwise. I happen to know that a particular nurse had to leave an institution for the sake of peace because a Councillor would not behave himself when he goes into the institution. As I have said, they ignore the Standing Orders under the Act and they try to do as they feel like doing.

Mr. Chairman, this particular system needs all the lubrication which it can possibly get. In the North we would like that type of lubrication, but such lubrication needs money. We cannot lubricate the machinery because of the lack of funds. The hon. senior member for St. Peter referred to the absence of lights in the Northern area, but you have them in St. George and in Christ Church. I am sure that you do not have the lights in the thickly-populated area like St. James or St. Thomas. You have a place in St. Joseph called Dark Hole and from the very name you will know how dark it is; but if you go up the Yorkshire road where there are all canes, you will see a light. The people in the Southern area are in a better position to do these things than those in the Northern Area because the Northern area has not got the money with which to do these things. I am saying, therefore, that something is wrong, and I am very glad to see that the Government has seen fit to start off; They have seen fit to see what is wrong and to make it right.

Another thing is this: Mr. Chairman, in certain parts in the North, a poor person will get sixty cents or, it may

be, five shillings a fortnight. The position is that some people may get less money whereas others may be getting more. When you come to the City of Bridgetown, I understand that down here these poor people get no less than five shillings a week. I regard it as semi-government and it is because of the fact that all the business has come down here. The business has come down to Bridgetown whereas in truth and in fact the money is coming from the country.

5.50 p.m.

All the agricultural implements, manure and everything bought here is used in the country and paid for from the country; so the returns that are made down here involve expenditure of those people in the country areas. If returns used to be made for all the money spent from a particular parish, we might be in a better position financially, but they are not. The food and anything bought in Bridgetown is consumed in the country, and that is why the City can receive so much money by way of trade tax. I do not remember the amount of trade tax in the country, but it is very small. You only collect trade tax from the small shopkeepers or from the factories which are going out smartly. We do not have so many big business places in the country to make returns that would give us a bigger slice by way of trade tax. Everything is in the City, and that is why the lights put down are so bright that the ones in St. Michael shine more in St. James than in St. Michael. We will have to go into the matter so that funds will share equally. As the hon. senior member for St. Peter has said, at least along that St. James road you should have lights regardless of the financial position of the Council, because it is a place where tourists go all the time and where hotels are being built. However, the wherewithal is not there. I understand that the Lighting Committee of the Northern District Council went into the question, and the sum is such a tidy piece that they had to come off the gas since we could not think of taxing people anymore at the moment. The introduction of the new method of taxation has caused people living in small houses and who used to pay \$1.00 to be paying \$11 or \$12. Formerly you taxed the greater and relieved the lesser, but now everything has been put together: and though the valuation may not be so high, it is the amount in the dollar that carried up the tax. Every birth carried a pain, but eventually the pain does not last forever; otherwise there would be very few of us here. This birth especially in the North is beginning to kill the taxpayers, and we will have to go into it. It may be, too, the Councillors' way of going about it. I would not state here on the floor of the House what exists with some of them down there, but all is not well; and before going any further, I will sit, because if I speak any longer I may let the cat out of the bag. I had begun to open it, but I will tie it again, because I intend to give some information and evidence before the Commission. I would say, however, that if you take it upon yourself to represent people, you must represent them and forget yourself. You must not be selfish; a politician is not to be selfish and think about himself when he is going to represent people, because as soon as he does that, somebody suffers, even if it is he himself. We cannot be selfish when we offer our services to the electorate of this country; we must stand up boldly and be prepared to accept sacrifice as if it were a Christmas gift, and try to help people out of their misery. I will not go any further, Sir.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1963-64 No. 26

Head 7 — Registration — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution for \$1,987 is another short omnibus Resolution for the provision of certain monies to supplement Estimates for travelling in one place and postage, furniture and office equipment in others.

I beg to move that Head 7 — Registration — stand part.

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

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

Head 17 - Premier - Home Affairs - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 17 - Premier Home Affairs - stand part.

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

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$1,987 do now pass.

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

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

6.00 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1963-64 No. 31

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I will now deal with this Resolution for \$88,000, of which notice was given earlier today and of which I hope hon. members have received their copies.

Sir, earlier in October, this Government responded to a request from the United Nations Representative in Port-of-Spain to assist in sending foodstuffs to those who were stricken by Hurricane "Edith" in the territory of Tobago.

The United Nations had taken action to accede to the request to the Government of Trinidad, but were acting not only on their behalf but on behalf of that Government.

In order to meet that request, the Government of Barbados which did not possess stocks of its own was forced to engage the attention and interest of the local business community, and what happened was this. Some of the commodities required were borrowed from local dealers and some were bought. Those which were bought were paid for on the ground that it would be a little bit awkward to loan them, and because the question of replacement of a particular brand would give some trouble at the time of replacement. Whether borrowed or not, they were all used in the territory of Tobago, and we were to be completely reimbursed by the United Nations Organisation. Meanwhile, the Government is obligated to pay for what was bought in order to fulfil the complete complement of foodstuffs required.

Sir, as you will see from the Addendum to the Resolution when the United Nations and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago replaced, as they have promised to do, these commodities, the Government of Barbados proposes to utilise such as they can for the School Feeding programme or the Government institutions and those which are not so utilised will be disposed of by sale.

The Resolution therefore, seeks to make provision for \$88,000 for the purchase of these commodities.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. MILLER: Sir, the Hon. Minister was at pains to elaborate on the whole matter but it still is not clear. We understand the reason for all of this. According to the Addendum of the Resolution, he told us that on the 10th October, 1963, the Government received a telegram from the Acting United Nations Representative in Port-of-Spain that they wanted to get some food stuffs for relief purposes. Further on in the Addendum, it is stated that it is proposed to utilise the commodities in the School Feeding Programme, Government Institutions or, if they cannot be so utilised, to dispose of them by sale. I interpreted what the Minister said to mean that some of the commodities were loaned by local dealers. I take it that these commodities were rushed to Tobago and this Government had to buy some of these commodities.

Now, one or two things strike me. If these commodities were sent on to Trinidad and Tobago, it would just be

a matter of reimbursing this Government. I am in trouble to understand why the Government of Barbados should be saddled with these commodities, and undecided as to whether they all would be used in the School Feeding Programme and Government Institutions. I would be glad, therefore, if the Hon. Minister would give us more detailed information. According to the statement by the Hon. Premier on the 10th October, the Government received a telegram from the Acting United Nations Representative in Port-of-Spain stating that the World Food Programme had authorised an emergency allocation of foodstuff to Trinidad for the relief of hurricane-stricken Tobago. The Government of Barbados replied and said "yes" and went about and got these essential commodities. Some of these commodities were available on loan and others were not, because of replacement by the same brands as those which were being loaned. As such replacement could not be guaranteed Government arranged to purchase these supplies, the cost of which is \$88,000. It is proposed to utilise the commodities in the School Feeding Programme, Government Institutions or, if they cannot be so utilised, to dispose of them by sale.

Where does the question of disposal of certain commodities come in? If the commodities were purchased by the Barbados Government and there were all sent on, where does the question of disposal come in? Why is the Government in the position of having to decide on how to dispose of these commodities? Before I go further, I would be very happy if the Hon. Minister would give us a little more detailed information.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: There are two points. The first one is that in any case, the United Nations Authorities must return to us what we have sent to them. The second point is that so far as our internal arrangements are concerned, we could not in each case guarantee to the suppliers that they would get back precisely the same brand of goods which the local market calls for. Let us suppose that evaporated milk which was sent by us was "Carnation" brand. The local suppliers of that milk quite understandably may not be able to dispose of a different brand if we had given it to them to sell on retail in place of what we had from them; therefore, quite rightly, it is better for us to pay them for it. The same thing applies not only to milk but to fish, meat, possibly vegetable oils, butter, cheese. If you say the return of the goods could be guaranteed in the same brand in which they were sent, quite obviously, this community would accept them; but since the United Nations Representative cannot guarantee the same brand, the Government feels itself in duty bound to pay for what was taken from the merchants and make itself responsible for the returns when they come.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, you will agree with me when I say that on the face of it, it is rather unusual. They required certain items. Why should this Government be saddled with the return of these items? These items were bought on the local market. There is another point. You are thinking of an American organisation. A few of these items were paid for from the United States of America. 6.10 p.m.

It is unusual for Government to be in that awkward position to have to dispose of \$88,000 in commodities and items of food. I must say that there must have been a lack of foresight in all of this. Some of these commodities were loaned; the Government is not an agency in itself where it can dispose of items of food and this is not consistent with policy anywhere in the world. No matter what attempt is made to conceal the underlying facts, this is a cruel matter of mismanagement. The items were loaned and you would be reimbursed by the United States Government. The idea of accepting brands in our market should not have the Government in such an awkward position. This seems to be a matter of some miscalculation, but it would be a request of the Government to release items from an organisation which is anxious to pay for them. These commodities are not coming in from the United States of America and they should be paid for. Now we are saddled with this amount of \$88,000 and this will entail a loss; it is bound to be a loss. This is something which cannot be used either for your School Meals programme or in any of your institutions and, I repeat, that there is bound to be a terrible loss.

One would have imagined that the Government would have been advised in this matter. There would be nothing wrong to be loaned this stuff and buy a section of it because an allocation was made for it. These organisations never carry stocks of food. I appreciate that the United States Organisation, in sending food overseas, always prefers to send it through the manufacturers in the United States of America. It means that there is a turnover in money, and you can give people from the outside the opportunity to use food and become accustomed to it, and indirectly the firm has a market for American products. I am wondering if the Government would state specifically how they will use this \$88,000 in food products. This is bound to be sold in open market or by auction; this will be a definite loss to this island.

Mr. Chairman, the Government is embarking on a process in business which has been unheard of. There seems to have been a series of blunders. I hope, Sir, that the language I am using is not unparliamentary in any way, and if it is unparliamentary I would like to withdraw it. One can imagine the anxiety and the haste to answer the request of a cable, and in respect of a country like Tobago, it is good to give quickly and when you give quickly you give twice. However, Sir, I can appreciate that some of the commodities were loaned by businessmen who would like to help; but if you buy \$88,000 in food they will want to know something about a turnover. Those are things which the small businessman will understand and appreciate. Now we are saddled with a series of colossal blunders and to some extent this is disgraceful. A good percentage of this food must go down the gutter by way of decay. This is regarded as a contribution from the Government to the institution, and even that decision is lacking in the acumen which is so vital. I think that the Hon. Minister should say something further on this matter. This is a shocking calamity; it borders on disgrace. It is a lack of knowledge of handling the affairs of the many of the country's taxpayers.

Now you are saddled with this \$88,000 and you do not know what to do. No matter what you do, you would have to be utilising this, and I do not know if the Minister would be too embarrassed to admit the criminal blunders and the consequent cost to the taxpayers. Of course, there are occasions on which the Minister has admitted things like this, but this is shocking. If like a vampire he takes the cover of night to select his victims, I am wondering if the Minister examines his inmost being to find that he waits until some hon. members have retired from the Chamber and there is steam for railroading this matter through. However, I must implore the Minister to tell us the fact of this matter. It appears to me that the Minister was hoping that he would have been able to escape the whole image of the empty facts of the mismanagement or some other term which may be regarded as Christian. Would it not be a nice thing for the Hon. Minister to say that he has made a mistake and that he is in agreement with the members on this side of the Table? What are you going to do with the evaporated milk?
6.20 p.m.

You are then going to throw the balance at the helpless inmates of the institutions, and it is not a question of preference or choice now; it is a matter of take it or leave it: and that is the type of servility with which you restrict the downtrodden. It is unfortunate that Kennedy did not have the time to write the fourth Charter on the universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is the way in which a Government unfortunately blunders and fails to reveal the naked truth. I hope, Mr. Minister of Education, that you will strip this bare and let us see.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education is not in the Chair.

Mr. MILLER: We think of him, Sir. I know that you are aware of education, and when I refer to the Minister of Education we never change the substantive title. He is acting Minister of Finance, but I am addressing the Chair and looking at and admiring him and with unchanging and undying respect, and with my face kindled by Heaven's

undying light, I am only asking, Mr. Chairman, that the member in charge of the Resolution tell us more of the truth. It is a shocking blunder for Government now to be peddling in a small shop business.....

There being no quorum at this stage, the Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

Mr. MILLER: If I am happy about anything, it is the knowledge that relief was sent to Tobago: but I am hoping that the Minister in charge will give further information rather than have me get back on my feet. Let us agree that he has made a mistake in having this \$88,000 in foodstuff and nowhere to sell them, but this matter is dressed up like a painted doll or like a jackdaw who even paraded the pretty feathers of the peacock. This is unfortunate because it is jeopardising a colossal sum of the taxpayers' money, and I am asking the Minister to give further details in order that we will appreciate the truth of the position.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member who has just sat down said in the course of his very rambling and quite nonsensical remarks that Kennedy should have written the fourth Charter on Human Rights. I would only just like to say that President Kennedy is fortunate, wherever he is tonight, in not having to listen to the hon. member who has just sat down. I do not think I have ever heard in all my time in this House more undiluted, unadulterated nonsense as I have just heard. As a matter of fact, at one time I wondered whether the hon. member was addressing the Committee on this Resolution at all.

Mr. Chairman, you and the rest of us, and, I hope, the hon. junior member for St. George, will recall that some weeks ago, I believe towards the middle of October, the Premier by leave of the House made the following Statement which I shall read. It reads as follows:-

On the 10th October the Government received a telegram from the Acting United Nations Representative in Port of Spain stating that the World Food Programme had authorised an emergency allocation of foodstuff to Trinidad for the relief of hurricane-stricken Tobago.

The telegram stated that despite all efforts to expedite the shipment of these commodities several weeks would elapse before the supplies which were urgently needed would arrive in Trinidad.

Accordingly, the Government was requested to explore the possibility of locating some or all of a list of fourteen essential commodities amounting to approximately 2,300 tons.

The United Nations Representative gave an undertaking to the Barbados Government that it would in due course consign replacement of any supplies to the lenders.

The Government immediately sought the co-operation of commercial interests in the Island and as a result it has been possible to ship the following commodities on 14th October to Port of Spain by the Booth Line Steamship VAMOS:-

- 1,352 cartons canned meat
- 1,500 cartons condensed milk
- 179 cartons butter
- 162 cartons cheese
- 15 boxes and 2 bales dried fish
- 1,058 cartons canned fish
- 170 bags hard wheat flour
- 108 cartons and 15 chests tea
- 10 drums vegetable oil.

A further shipment of maize, soft wheat flour and oats is expected to be made shortly.

The Government is assured that the loan of the commodities listed above will not in any event result in a shortage of essential foodstuff in the Island.

The Government wishes to acknowledge the very ready co-operation which has been given by the mercantile community towards the relief of suffering in Tobago.

That is exactly what happened. Now, Mr. Chairman, what we are engaged upon now is just this: that the United Nations will return all that has gone from the territory, but the United Nations is not itself a trading organisation. The United Nations World Food Programme, or whatever the name is, will receive contributions from various countries which are member nations of U.N.: so it may get New Zealand cheese, Dutch butter, Italian oil or South African whatever it is, some of which commodities might not be saleable in Barbados. For instance, suppose it receives a consignment from South Africa and suppose the mercantile community here feels, as it would have every reason to fear, that to take back something made in South Africa to replace something they have sent would involve them in a loss because people might not buy South African products. If they fear that, they are perfectly right to say to the Government: "Now pay us for what we are sending to Trinidad, because the brands we get back might not be the ones we are accustomed to selling." It is as simple and straightforward as that. Now if the Government pays them, what is the Government to do when the United Nations return what has been sent to Trinidad? We must dispose of it and the Government says it will dispose of it in three ways: in the School Feeding programme, in its own institutions, and what is not so disposed of in the school feeding programme and in the other Government institutions, it will set up for sale. Where is the blunder and the mistake? Would you have this Government go back on an agreement, take the things from the merchants, and then refuse to pay for them? Would you have had this Government in order to give expression to a misfortune delay and hesitate while the people of Tobago wanted something immediately? In every respect the Government has acted honourably. It acted post-haste to expedite the dispatch of commodities to Trinidad and Tobago where they were needed. In order to get them, and in order that there should be no hard feelings left with the business community here, it quite properly gave the undertaking that it would purchase those things for which the replacements might not be in the same brand as the other consignments.

6.30 p.m.

The Government is now asking the House for \$88,000 in order to meet the cost of purchasing these supplies. I cannot see any complication, and I am sure the hon. member could not have been studying the text of this Resolution because the type of speech which he made showed that he was not at all *au fait* with the question.

Mr. MILLER: It is unfortunate, Sir, to listen to the Hon. Minister. He shows a complete lack of knowledge if you are thinking in terms of statecraft. That is the sort of talk you get at prayer meetings and in Sunday school. Probably, he really does not understand the whole thing or he has not listened to me. There were three Charters written by the Anglo Saxons: (a) the declaration by Abraham Lincoln: "I set free the underman."

It is unfortunate that by some foul malice we have lost the late Mr. Kennedy who was on the verge of writing another charter.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Sir, much as I deplore the death of Mr. Kennedy, I would say that he is fortunate that he did not have to listen to the hon. junior member for St. George.

Mr. MILLER: That is the reason for the accident of the hon. member now speaking. Probably, Sir, you will allow me to speak of Robert Burns.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am appealing to the hon. junior member for St. George to stick to the Resolution and do not worry about Robert Burns.

Mr. MILLER: You can see the folly in all of the argument introduced by the Hon. Minister of Education on this Resolution to persuade us to supply this money. He is try-

ing to persuade us that this shocking blunder can be closed off by a twinkling star.

The United Nations do not run a shop; they buy the commodities. We all know that the American products, as itemised by the Minister, are not sold in Barbados. It is a question of brand. All that you need to do was to ask them to tell us what they wanted sent to Trinidad and you would buy them; and when you send them, this Government would have to be reimbursed by that organisation in cash. They would not have to send any foodstuffs. It is a blunder by the Government and it is a question that you would not know what you were doing.

Yams, potatoes and rice are not included. Here it is, you are asking us for \$88,000 and you hope to cover up that by using pretty language. All that you needed to request the American Organisation to do was to reimburse the Barbados Government. What institutions do you have? What schools do you have for you to use the essential items in three days?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I would like the hon. member to tell me when I said that when they come here we will get rid of them in three days. Let the hon. member stick to the terms of the Resolution and answer the points raised.

Mr. MILLER: The Minister does not know what is going on here; he is completely unaware. Here is an American Welfare Organisation making an allocation to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the hurricane-stricken people in Tobago. The American Organisation has no stocks of its own. They are not dealers; they must buy what they want. Something is given to this organisation and they want to see this allocation spent in food and they specify the items which they want it to be spent on. On the other hand, it is clear that several of the brands which we sent on could not be replaced and, therefore, the Government were forced to buy them. The hon. member did say that he would get rid of them in three days. That does not change the blunder and the failure of management. All you had to do was to purchase these things with the taxpayers' money and then be reimbursed by the United Nations Organisation which deals in dollars and cents and not in foodstuffs. How can you get that down in the head of the Minister?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Sir, again I must interrupt the hon. member. He does not know what he is talking about. This request came originally from the World Food Programme. They received contributions in foodstuffs from all the member countries. They do not deal in dollars and cents.

Mr. MILLER: I have had so much to deal with this and the offshoot of this was UNICEF. This is the cable. On the 10th October, 1963, the Government received a telegram from the Acting United Nations Representative in Port-of-Spain stating that the World Food Programme had authorised an emergency allocation of foodstuffs to Trinidad for the relief of hurricane stricken Tobago. This Government was accordingly requested to make available on loan certain commodities. They have their own products which are produced in America. They do not manufacture it nor do they carry stocks and supplies.

Now, the position is this: they told you that they could not get the stuff in under three weeks and asked you if you could send them on and you said "yes".

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member said that the United Nations did not carry supplies. I would like to correct the hon. member on that and remind him that in 1958, when UNICEF offered foodstuffs to Barbados, the same hon. member, as the then Minister of Social Services, refused to accept them saying that it would take \$19,000 to warehouse this food which was an amount of \$2 million.

Where did this come from? Was it coming to Barbados in dollars and cents? This was foodstuffs which was held by the United Nations to send to Barbados; yet the hon.

junior member for St. George is saying that they are not distributors, they deal in dollars and cents.

Mr. MILLER: The Hon. Minister is so stupid that I treat his statement with the contempt it deserves. If you give me some latitude, I would say what an idiot we have.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I object very strongly to the remarks just used by the Hon. junior member for St. George, and I propose to you that those remarks be withdrawn immediately.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, you better let him state the remark.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: You said that I am an idiot.

Mr. MILLER: I said 'what an idiot I would be'.
6.40 p.m.

Look at this full-blown waxed idiot.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is that addressed to the Chair?

Mr. MILLER: I said that I would be an idiot to attempt to reply to the folly.....

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I do not care how great a full-blown waxed idiot he chooses to make himself, but let him not make those imputations to me. That is all. He can be as big a waxed idiot as he likes, and he can term himself as big an idiot as he likes, but do not let him make those imputations to me.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, it is a waste of time to reply to the hon. member.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. member to speak on this Resolution.

Mr. MILLER: The hon. member's statement is totally and utterly unrelated to the Addendum. Is that to make up for this criminal blunder, this gross mismanagement?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.....

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw anything, but at the same time I have the right to address the Chair.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Orders of this House preclude hon. members from imputing bad motives to other hon. members; the Standing Orders exhort hon. members to put the best construction on whatever is said and done. The hon. member, in speaking about a criminal blunder on the part of the Government, has contravened the Standing Orders; I draw that matter to your attention, Mr. Chairman, so that you can take whatever action you like.

Mr. MILLER: That would be unparliamentary because you have your numbers. You fail to admit this cruel blunder, and you hope to get away from it by pussy-footing and asking the Chairman to decide whether this language is parliamentary or not. (ASIDES). You are dealing with a boar cat in a bag.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. member does not stick to this Resolution, then I will execute my authority.

Mr. MILLER: You could be the Pope; you do what to whom? There is my unswerving and undying respect to the Chair; but do not threaten me because you have your fourteen full-blowns. You have the Standing Orders of the House and I can rehearse them all here.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: You do not understand the Standing Orders; otherwise we would have got through with this Resolution already.

Mr. MILLER: You examine this and see if you do not have a tumbling mass of ruins.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, twice today the hon. member has given this sort of trouble to the Chair and he has disrespected it. That cannot be pleasant to the rest of the community. You are now referred to as a tumbling mass of ruins because you have told the hon. member to stick to this Resolution.

Mr. MILLER: I simply said that you cannot threaten me and do not attempt to do it.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I did not want to get in this debate but it is becoming unwieldy. Let me make this point as a preamble. I have been in here long enough and I have served as a Minister on several occasions. As to the question of U.N.I.C.E.F. and other Organizations, I know about that. Let me tell the former Minister of Social Services this: when you go to these organizations, they deal with actual supplies and not so much with money. It is a question of supplies and of the surpluses which are given, whatever they may be, from the various countries of the world; where there have been great surpluses the Government has given grants and aids to the underprivileged; they have given assistance to the farmers. These things are grown in over-production and they are passed on to these world Organizations to be given by way of actual supplies of food to the under-developed countries. That is the first point.

The second point is this: in dealing with the Resolution as it stands, the Resolution deals with supplies; it is not a loan of money as such, but it is a loan of food supplies. As we all know, you cannot eat money, and where people have been stricken as the result of a hurricane, money means nothing to them. What really means something to them is food and supplies. What has been loaned and what is repayable is actual food; it is a matter of actual commodities and not money. Whatever is being returned is being returned in kind and not in actual money. That is the position, Mr. Chairman; but if you want to be a conundrum or a comedian you can be that. Unfortunately for the hon. junior member for St. George, the gallery is not big tonight; the hon. member can probably use his utterances to a better advantage on a platform in St. George.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, the use of the words 'conundrum' and 'comedian' is not parliamentary.
6.50 p.m.

The Organisation referred to, UNICEF, is an organisation sponsored by the United States Government, and they endeavour to bring relief in cases such as this. Realising that they were carrying large surpluses, they had to subsidise the farmers. This organisation is a charitable organisation which received funds. They buy brand A or brand B, but the organisation must finance the purchases. They do not manufacture or carry warehouses. As I have said, they know that three weeks would be too great a delay and they requested the Barbados Government to guarantee the equivalent in food items to be sent to Tobago. You are going to buy products from New Zealand, England, Canada or Denmark and those are the products shipped to Trinidad. All you would have to do in the first place if you had any knowledge of statesmanship or statecraft or just simple elementary business ability would be to ask them to reimburse you; but now you are saddled with \$88,000 in food to sell in Barbados, and because you have three hot meal centres at schools, you are going to use some of these products for that purpose. We are dealing with \$88,000 of taxpayers' money, and because you want to share the responsibility of mismanagement, you are threatening me to withdraw. You have a responsibility to this community. Do you think I was sent in here wrapped up in cellophane and tied with a pink ribbon? I was brought here by a number of votes in the parish of St. George; and if you think you can use your numbers to bring dictatorship which we despise here, I will tell you that I will box back with you and show for the first time the power of the Labour Party in St. George. All this is to destroy the truth and bring that ugly screen that means nothing. You are misusing this money in perishable items.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I object to the remarks made by the hon. junior member for St. George

that the Government is misusing this money. Perhaps the hon. junior member for St. George does not have a heart. Perhaps he was not living in Barbados when the hurricane struck Barbados; perhaps his heart is a heart of steel. This was done because Barbados was asked to send commodities to the suffering hurricane stricken people of Tobago immediately, and it was a loan of commodities. The United Nations did not ask to buy commodities from Barbados; they asked for a loan of commodities. They did not ask to buy groceries from Barbados; otherwise I suppose they would have gone down in Baxters Road or Tudor Street for them. I suppose that is what the hon. member wanted. They asked for a loan of these commodities and all we are doing is paying for the commodities which the Government of Barbados loaned to the United Nations, which commodities will be refunded. The ignorance that the hon. junior member for St. George is getting on with is absolutely unnecessary.

Mr. Chairman, I will quote from the telegram which we received; it says "despite all efforts to expedite shipment of the commodities, several weeks would elapse before the supplies which were urgently needed would arrive in Trinidad." By that time, Mr. Chairman, the poor people in Tobago would have died. I suppose that is what the hon. member and other people like him would like to see. "This Government was accordingly requested to make available on loan certain commodities."

Mr. MILLER: If you are ruling, Mr. Chairman, that could not be a point of order.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister is correct.

Mr. MILLER: It does not matter what he wants to read now, that cannot be a point of order and you should ask him to stick to the Addendum to the Resolution.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am correcting the statement made by the hon. junior member for St. George imputing bad motives to this Government by saying that the Government is misusing taxpayers' money, and I am making the point that the Government made this loan of commodities to the United Nations on behalf of the people of Tobago. The telegram stated that despite all efforts to expedite the shipment of these commodities several weeks would elapse before the supplies which were urgently needed would arrive in Trinidad. This Government was accordingly requested to make available a loan of certain commodities. I do not know if the hon. member went to school why he cannot understand plain, ordinary English.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is asking for a little duel tonight. He talks about ignorance, but I am not going to ask him to withdraw, because he does

not know what he is talking about. He is a feeble-minded, fumble-footed idiot, and like the hyena who was utterly unaware that he was losing his coat. This is where democracy fails, and we are losing our respect in this world. All I said is that this was a financial organisation, but my friend and colleague the Hon. Minister of Social Services, does not understand that. He is not even a square peg in a round hole. Even his presentation worried me as it leaves me depressed, hollow and maybe empty.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, it is only one person that my presentation would worry, and it is the hon. junior member for St. George. He knows why.

Mr. MILLER: Why should I enter a duel with the hon. member?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I do not think the hon. member is demonstrating the experience which I thought he had in this Chamber.

Mr. MILLER: You do not seem to see it with the others. I could do nothing more than to describe him as a political gallows bait. I forgive him for his simplicity, and I am sorry I cannot sing him a Christmas carol. I simply say that this organisation could make available the allocation of X dollars to be sent in foodstuffs.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. CHAIRMAN left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 7 o'clock p.m., this sitting stands suspended until 7.45 o'clock p.m. 7.00 p.m.

On re-assembling,

ADJOURNMENT — LACK OF QUORUM

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: There is no quorum, and I ask that the Bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thank you, and I ask that the Bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and the following members were present:

His Honour the Speaker, Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Hon. J. C. TUDOR, Hon. C. E. TALMA, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. LOVE and Mr. YEARWOOD. - 7.

Mr. SPEAKER: The time being more than two minutes after 7.45 p.m. and there being no quorum present, this House now stands adjourned until Tuesday of next week, at 12.00 o'clock (noon).