

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 19th February, 1963.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Esquire, Q.C., (Speaker); Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E.; Hon. C.E. TALMA, (Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (Minister of Education); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Mr. S.E. SEALEY; 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. L. A. LYNCH, J.P.; 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 meeting of the 12th February, have been printed and circulated and if there is no objection, the Minutes will be confirmed. (A Pause).

Hearing no objection, these Minutes are now confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following paper on behalf of the Hon. Premier:

Statement showing net Customs and Excise receipts for ten months ended 31st January, 1963.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 30th September, 1962;

Also,

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

Also,

Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts

repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 30th November, 1962.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of \$11,012 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1962-63, Part I - Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1962-63, No. 40 which forms the schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with the Money Resolution of which notice was given today.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SEALEY: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that there are Price Control Inspectors who have been employed by Government and paid from the Treasury for over twenty (20) years who have no pension rights?

2. Will Government take steps, whether by legislation or otherwise, to bring these officers within the ambit of a Government Pension Scheme?

Mr. BATSON: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will Government in their negotiations explore the possibility of having at least two Industries located in the parish of St. Thomas, in view of the fact that it is the Government's intention to have as many new industries as possible established in the Island?

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: Are there any replies to be laid today to Questions which are on the Order Paper?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Yes, Sir, I have a reply to Question No. 87/1962 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas on the 13th November, 1962.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 96/1962, asked by the hon. junior member for St. Philip on 11th December, 1962, is ready.

DISSATISFACTION re METHOD OF SELECTION OF WORKERS

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 87 is in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.
2.45 p.m.

Mr. BATSON: To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Labour:-

Is Government aware that grave dissatisfaction exists amongst workers in respect of the method of their selection for work on U.S. Farms?

2. Will the Minister state if it is true that workers with letters of commendation as to their conduct and work given them by their employers in the U.S.A. apparently have not been sympathetically considered, without an explanation being afforded them?

3. Will the Minister investigate the above, with a view to remedying the situation and at the same time affording such workers an opportunity to improve their conditions?

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

1. Yes.

2. No such reports have been made to us. It is the practice of the Labour Department to call up for consideration by the Recruiting Agents of the U.S. Employers, workers who have been renewing their cards regularly and who, according to the information recorded on their registration cards, are able to perform agricultural work. Care is also taken to ensure that workers are selected from each parish in the Island. These persons are then seen by the U.S. Employers' representative whose prerogative it is to accept or reject any of them. It is to be pointed out that all this Government does is to place workers before the representative of the U.S. Employers for consideration. It is therefore the latter's responsibility to select those who, in his opinion, will be able to carry out the terms of the contract.

3. Almost every worker who has worked with distinction in the U.S.A. is pre-designed by his employer. Other workers who have received testimonials from their previous employers, are given the opportunity to be interviewed by the U.S. Employers' representative with a view to selection. Once again, it is the Employers' representative's prerogative to accept or reject any worker.

4. I have the general question of recruitment of workers for U.S. Farms under active consideration and attention is being given to a re-organization of the system with a view to its operation on a basis which will leave little or no cause for complaint.

Mr. SPEAKER: I gather that there is no supplementary Question in respect of that reply.

PAYMENT OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS AT THEIR HOMES

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Question ready to be dealt with is Question No. 96 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip.

Mr. WEEKES: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will the Minister of Social Services state if steps are being taken to expedite the recommendations of the Committee appointed to deal with the payments of pensions to Old Age Pensioners at their homes?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state when the new system will be introduced?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to the hon. member's Question is as follows:-

The recommendations of the Committee appointed to deal with the payments of pensions to Old Age Pensioners at their homes are still receiving consideration with a view to determining a workable scheme of payment to Old Age Pensioners whereby the minimum of inconvenience would result to the pensioners.

It is not possible at present to say if and when a new system of payment to Old Age Pensioners will be introduced.

Mr. SPEAKER: Apparently there are no supplementary Questions in respect of that Reply and there are no other answers to questions ready.

INSANITARY CONDITION OF TRENCH RUNNING ALONGSIDE BRIDGE GAP

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the Acting Clerk at the Table for reminding me that last week the answer to Question No. 79 was laid, but the hon. senior member for the metropolitan parish was not instantly in his place. In the circumstances, I allowed the Question to stand over. The hon. member is now in his seat and if he cares to put the Question now, he has my permission to do so.

Mr. SEALEY: I thank you, Sir. The Question is as follows:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Is Government aware that there is a trench running alongside Bridge Gap, Black Rock and alongside the track leading therefrom to Goodland Main Road, St. Michael, which because of its insanitary condition breeds mosquitoes, and is a general menace to the health of the neighbourhood?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government take all steps necessary to remedy the situation?

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

1. Yes.

2. Funds will be provided in the 1963-64 Capital Estimates to effect proper drainage.

Mr. SPEAKER: Again, there does not seem to be any supplementary Question in respect of that Reply. There is no other matter for Question Time and accordingly we may proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

RESOLUTION re FARM LABOUR PROGRAMME IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business is to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution in connection with the Farm Labour Programme in the United States of America. It will be recalled that last week on the motion of the Hon. Leader of the House, seconded by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, further consideration of the debate was postponed.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I have consulted the hon. senior member for St. Peter who has moved the passing of this Resolution as well as the Hon. Leader of the House, and subject to Your Honour's ruling,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1 is actually before us now.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I understand from the hon. senior member for St. James that the hon. senior member for St. Peter has been kind enough as to permit him to deal with Order No. 12, standing in his name under Private Members' Business, as the first Order of the Day under this Head.

Mr. SPEAKER: No hon. member, however kindly disposed he is, can be so kind as to give assent on behalf of the entire membership of this Chamber.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I appreciate that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would suggest to the honourable and learned senior member for St. James that he ask leave that Order No. 12, standing in his name, be taken as the next Order of the day under Private Members' Business. 2.55 p.m.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave that Order No. 12 standing in my name be the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. and learned member for St. James is seeking leave of this House to proceed, as the first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business, with Order No. 12 standing in his name, which is the third reading of a Bill to amend the Registration (Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials) Act, 1891. This Bill was referred to Select Committee and a Report was laid on 11th December last year, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

Hearing no objection, leave is granted.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 12 be the first Order of the Day.

Mr. YEARWOOD: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time and that the Report of the Select Committee be incorporated.

Mr. YEARWOOD: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass.

Mr. YEARWOOD: I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John: to move the passing of a Resolution re the reduction in the initial payment by the factories to peasants for cane harvested during the present crop.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Speaker, I am not yet ready to proceed with this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: It may well be that the House gave permission for Order No. 12 to be the first Order of the Day but intending to revert to the Orders as they stand. Assuming that that may be so, I will revert to Order No. 1 which is to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution re Farm Labour Programme in the U.S.A.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. senior member for St. Peter has no objection, there is some information which I am trying to get for him, and I would be grateful if he would allow somebody else to go on in the meantime with something short and resume that Order later in the day.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to defer Order No. 1 for the reasons he has given, and if there is no objection to that matter not being proceeded with now, we may proceed with the next Order of the Day, with leave being granted to proceed with Order No. 1 at a later stage.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I point out that on the Order Paper the enumeration is incorrect? What is No. 3 should be No. 2, and in respect of that matter, standing in the name of the hon. and learned member for St. James, it has been re-

ferred to a Select Committee, which has, I know, not yet reported. Reference was made to it only on Tuesday of last week.

The next Order of the Day is to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution re the reshaping of roads and tracks throughout the Island in preparation for the coming crop season. When this matter was discussed on the 12th of this month, the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing was addressing the House when Private Members' Time had expired. Does that hon. member desire to resume his Address?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution was brought by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, and he is not now in his seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: In other words, do I understand that the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing does not seek to proceed with his Address in the absence of the Mover of this Resolution, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it that for similar reasons no other member desires to speak on this Address at this stage. That being the feeling of this House, I go down the Order Paper to No. 5 which would be adjourned in any event while we await the Report of the Commission which was appointed some time ago.

Order No. 6 which is really Order No. 5 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. George; to move the third reading of a Bill to authorise the sale of certain lands at St. George's Rectory, St. George.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, it is rather unfortunate that I am unable to deal with this Bill today for the reason that the Select Committee has not yet reported.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thank the hon. member for St. George for explaining why he cannot proceed. Order No. 7 which is rightly No. 6 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Peter: to move the third reading of a Bill to amend the Trade Union Act, 1939.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to explain that a Select Committee was appointed to report on this Bill, and in the interim period the Government has informed me that it proposes to amend the Trade Union Act in such a comprehensive way as to include this amendment in the proposed Act. In those circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to proceed with the Bill until such time when the Government introduces the Bill, and I am prepared to withdraw my amendment.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think that I can continue now with Order No. 1. 3.05 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House has now intimated that he is ready with the records and statistical file in order to continue his address when he rose on the 12th of this month in connection with the Resolution re Farm Labour Programme in the U.S.A., and if there is no objection, leave will be granted to revert to Item No. 1 of Private Members' Business. (A Pause.)

I hear no objection, therefore, such leave is granted.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this is a very important matter; therefore, I was at pains for some time to try to collate all the important information which would lead the House to the most accurate decision in this matter.

I think hon. members will agree that the importance of the American Farm Labour Programme cannot be easily over-estimated; therefore, the subject matter of the Resolution cannot be treated lightly and must be treated with a certain amount of responsibility. The approach to it must

not be on any basis of sentiment, neither should there be any decision of hon. members to look at one side and not the other or to pander to unreasonable tastes.

The Resolution tabled by the hon. senior member for St. Peter reads as follows:-

WHEREAS the Barbados Government sent a Mission to the United States of America to investigate the causes for the breaches of contract of Farm Workers employed under the Migrant Scheme;

AND WHEREAS the Mission submitted a report to the Government, which was approved by the House of Assembly;

AND WHEREAS, notwithstanding the action of the Government and the report of the Mission the recent return of large numbers of workers from the United States of America justifies an investigation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the House of Assembly request the Government to call upon the West Indian Regional Labour Board to carry out an investigation into the causes of the recent termination of contracts of Farm Workers in the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Assembly request the Government in collaboration with the other member Governments of the West Indian Regional Labour Board to include a Trade Union Representative from the Caribbean Congress of Labour on the West Indian Regional Labour Board.

Now, Sir, the hon. member sought by this measure to draw the attention of the House to the large incidence of returnees from the United States Farm Labour Programme who had not completed their contract, and was requesting two things: (1) investigation by the West Indian Regional Labour Board in the case of the termination of their contract; and (2) the inclusion of a Trade Union representative from the Caribbean Congress of Labour on the West Indian Regional Labour Board.

I am dealing with the second request first because we can dispose of it in quicker time. So far as the Government and I are concerned, we have no desire to resist the proposition in the paragraph with reference to the inclusion of a representative from the Caribbean Congress of Labour. I merely want to point out to the hon. senior member for St. Peter that in so far as our voice is on the Regional Labour Board, we are in the minority. The Board is comprised of five representatives: three from Jamaica, one from Barbados and one from St. Lucia, and my information which is reasonably well authenticated is that Jamaica will not have a representative from the Caribbean Congress of Labour on the Regional Labour Board, so that even if the House agrees to it — and I have no reason to suppose that it should — the matter does not rest in our hands, but in the majority decision of the Regional Labour Board.

I think I am right in saying that a representative of one of the largest Trade Unions in Jamaica, that of Mr. Bustamante, is on the Board. Therefore, you can say that there is a representative on that Board who will be seeing into the interest of labour. The other representatives on that Board who are not from Jamaica are the Permanent Secretary of my Ministry, Mr. C. B. Williams and the St. Lucia representative, Mr. Jacob Charles.

Furthermore, I want to say this. The Regional Labour Board itself normally follows the practice of sending two of its representatives every year on an investigational tour of the farms where West Indian labour is employed, and they can see for themselves; and it is therefore to be expected that since in their own rank and on behalf of the Island they represent they make inspection, they also make inspection on behalf of us.

The hon. member has referred to the opening paragraph of the Resolution to the fact that this Government it-

self last year sent its own inspection team to investigate the conditions of employment on these farms of which he himself was a distinguished member, and he also would recall the fact that subsequently to the presentation of the Report this House adopted unanimously the findings of this Commission.

One may therefore ask, since the hon. member himself was on the investigational committee only last year, and since this House, comprised as it is of the elected representatives of the people unanimously accepted that Committee's Report, what useful purpose would be served by the sending of another investigation team. The hon. member himself to some extent supplied the answer by stating in Paragraph Three of the Resolution: "Notwithstanding the action of the Government and the Report of the Mission the recent return of large numbers of workers from the United States of America justifies an investigation."

I have taken the trouble to get a case report of every single member of the Barbados quota who within the last four months returned before the termination of his contract, and I propose a little later today to refer in more detail to some of these cases.
3.15 p.m.

To generalise now, Sir. Between October last year and the present date, 263 workers came back from the United States of America before the termination of their contracts. Of this number, 241 came back on the ground that they refused to cut canes. I want to say that every single member of the group of workers which left here prior to final selection was told by the Labour Department by the American recruiting agents and in many cases by myself, that among the things for which they were being recruited, they were to cut canes. I made it my business to go to the Drill Hall on many occasions when these men were being selected finally to talk to these men and tell them what they had to expect as far as I know; therefore, it is completely invalid for any returning worker to claim with justification that he did not know that he had to cut canes. Three workers came back on compassionate grounds, three came back, because the wages were said to be too low, seven came back for unsatisfactory conduct, one said that it was too cold, three came back for domestic reasons, one refused to pick fruit, one came back having paid his own passage and two were incapacitated. These workers claimed that the cutting of canes was too hard and they wanted a transfer. As I told you before, Sir, prior to their leaving here, on each and every occasion they were told in the most unmistakable terms that among other things they would be expected to cut canes.

Mr. Speaker, to give a further breakdown, I have with me almost every single report on these two hundred and sixty-three workers who came back here before the termination of their contracts and I am prepared to submit some of these reports to the view of the hon. senior member for St. Peter who moved the passing of this Resolution, or, for that matter, to any other hon. member of this House who would like to see for himself the report submitted by the Regional Labour Board on these returning workers. The Regional Labour Board, apart from any investigation, itself makes a tour of all the areas in order to make a record of every single worker, including those who returned. When I say that 241 workers out of 263 returned to this country because they would not cut canes, I have presented in a nutshell what the whole thing is. Since we are reported to be passing through or to have reached the stage where the number of cane cutters are insufficient to reap our own crop, there is a dearth of *bona fide* cane cutters, and Barbadians of the age and generation who are recruited to work on American farms do not intend either in Barbados or in the United States of America to cut canes to the same extent as was the position which obtained before. I think we should keep clearly this aspect of the question in our minds, and we will realise then that it is not an easy matter to lay the blame anywhere else than on the part of the workers themselves. They were told before they left here that they would have to cut canes, and when they said that they would not cut canes after they reached the United States of America, then the blame must be laid

at their door. I think that this House should tread slowly on the ground of sending another investigating team to the United States of America. The Regional Labour Board, constituted as it is, undertakes an investigation every year. Everyone of us in this Chamber will realise the importance of the continuance of the Farm Labour Programme; everyone of us would like to see this country get a bigger quota and so maintain an outlet for workers at certain periods of the year — workers who cannot find work in Barbados; but I want to tell this House in all seriousness that if we send another investigating team to the United States of America in the face of the evidence before us, that will only terminate the sending of workers to America immediately. The United States employers are fed up and, they have protested in the strongest possible language several times against the reports appearing in the Press by returning workers, and even the State Department has expressed dissatisfaction with the image which is being presented by our workers as to the conditions existing on the American farms.

The Government is more than prepared to lean over backwards in order to find out for itself at first hand what are the conditions as they really exist. It is most satisfying to see that the hon. senior member for St. Peter has had to refer to the fact that long before he asked for an investigation, the Government itself, within weeks of its coming into office, sent its own investigating team up there to see the picture before it got out of hand. I want to read to hon. members some extracts from a letter which was sent by the Chief Liaison Officer of the British West Indies Central Labour Organisation to my Ministry just a few days ago with respect to this matter.
3.25 p.m.

As a matter of fact, Sir, the circumstances under which the hon. senior member for St. Peter has tabled this Address are not unknown to the American Employees Association, to the Central Labour Organisation or to the American Employers' Organisation, and the letter under reference states that the Employers' Organisation had been forwarded a copy of the article which appeared in the Barbadian Press last month in which mention was made of the proposal by the hon. senior member for St. Peter for the Government further to investigate the causes for the breaches of contract by workers recruited for the United States of America. Now the Executive Officers of the Employers' Organisation have discussed the problem and it has created a great deal of concern among them, and the Employers' Organisation has sent a letter to the British West Indies Central Labour Organisation, some extracts of which I want to read for the benefit of the members of this House. This is what the letter says in part:

"While it is neither our purpose nor desire to advise the Government of Barbados how it should conduct its affairs, we do not wish to go on record that we do not feel the circumstances warrant a further investigation on the conditions on farms in the United States. On the other hand, we do feel that any investigation with respect to the return of large numbers of workers from the United States should begin and end amongst those workers in Barbados who arbitrarily refused to work upon arrival in the United States."

It goes further and says that "the members of the Florida Sugar Producers' Association feel they have been extremely patient and tolerant in their effort to continue to use farm workers from Barbados. Our patience has been strained to a great extent and it is our belief that another investigation from Barbados would result in a still further reduction of numbers willing to recruit in Barbados." As a matter of fact, Sir, one of the largest employers had been considering recruiting some pre-designated workers at the beginning of May this year, and after he read this article with the proposition of a further investigation into the conditions on migrant farms, he has reconsidered his plans and has asked the Board to get the workers from elsewhere. Now there are other comments which have appeared on this matter which I do not feel pre-disposed to read today, but I think I have said enough to justify the statement I made earlier that another investigation at this stage will considerably reduce the number of recruits in Barbados and

might terminate the scheme entirely. Our representatives on the spot are compelled by the terms of their employment to conduct their own enquiries into any and every worker if and when he breaks his contract prematurely, and it is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs for us to be given in a Report from our own representatives that this large number of returning workers to Barbados came back on these flimsy grounds, since the greater part of them said that the wages were too low, that the general conditions were unsatisfactory, and the food was not good enough, and these are things which each and every one of us in this House either on these benches or on the other benches hardly can sustain, even although we have the Report hardly a year from the pen of the hon. senior member for St. Philip himself which does not state any adverse reflections, generally speaking, on the food, treatment and other conditions of work.

Faced as we are with these two facts — the Report by the mover of this Resolution into the general terms and conditions of work and the Report by our representatives of their patience on the refusal of 90 odd percent of the men to cut canes — it does not seem to me that this House would be justified in placing itself on record as requesting another investigation. Within two hours after our deliberations on this Resolution appear in the Press tomorrow morning, they are going to be on their way to the United States of America. The representatives in Barbados of the United States naturally have to keep their principals informed as to what is taking place in the Island in so far as it affects the interest of the United States. This is a matter, Sir, on which the American Consulate in Barbados itself had made continuous reports to my Ministry along the same tenor as the extracts of the letter which I read earlier. I am therefore going to suggest to the hon. senior member for St. Peter that we agree to amend his Resolution by deleting Paragraph 4 and leaving in the final paragraph which calls for a representative of the Caribbean Congress of Labour on the West Indian Regional Labour Board. The Government sees no reason why the Caribbean Congress of Labour should not be represented, if it so desired, on the West Indian Regional Labour Board; but, as I said, the decision is not entirely in our hands because we are a minority on the Board, and as I told him earlier, my information is that Jamaica which has majority representation on the Board will in no uncertain terms resist any request of this sort.
3.35 p.m.

If we feel it should be done, there is no reason why we should not go on record as saying that it should be done.

Sir, I do not think that I should delay the House with any further reference either to the terms of the Walcott-Williams' Report on the work and living conditions in the United States of Barbadian workers because every member had the Report to read. I do not think I need refer in any detail to the information of the case histories of these workers because, as I have said, in the summary I had there are only 22 of the 263 who did not return on the grounds of refusal to cut canes. I do not feel it necessary to detain the House with any information as regards the economic value to Barbados of a continuance of the scheme because the figures are all available as regards the remittances and savings of the workers; and I am sure hon. members of this Chamber, who in all cases keep themselves pretty aware of the running of the country and who know all the indications and all the facts of what this programme means to us, would do nothing further to impair the conditions prevailing, but will agree that perhaps at this stage it might be better to seek other devices for improving the situation rather than contributing further to the deterioration of the position by insisting on methods and measures which instead of improving the situation would cause it seriously and drastically to deteriorate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the Hon. Leader of the House sits, would he signify whether he would agree to the Resolution without the penultimate paragraph or whether he is suggesting to the hon. senior member for St. Peter that he agree to the deletion of the fourth paragraph.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I do not think in view of all the information at our disposal, the Government with a full sense of its responsibility would agree to the retention of Paragraph Four. We were told of asking for another investigation and, as you know, the Government has exerted itself in every possible direction to extend the scheme. Last year the Hon. Premier, himself, went to Washington and had talks with the employers of labour, and as a result he was able to get a larger quota from Barbados and Government agreed to the expansion of the number recruited from Barbados. Mr. Skyes, the biggest employer and the most influential voice on the Employers' Organisation.....

Mr. HUSBANDS rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the hon. member rose, I addressed the Hon. Leader of the House as regards Paragraph Four of the Resolution and he is now amplifying and clarifying the points which he was making.

Mr. HUSBANDS: The hon. member is actually making another speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is clarifying and anticipating what may need more explanation.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The Government is very appreciative of all the hon. senior member for St. Peter has in mind; but as it is fully aware of all the circumstances, it cannot support the retention of Paragraph Four of the Resolution for the reasons which I have given. Sir, I went on by saying that last year the Hon. Premier spoke with Mr. Sykes who is the most influential voice on the Employers' Organisation and the remarks which I am quoting today are from Mr. Sykes himself; therefore, I can give the House no further reason for the Government's inability to support the Resolution as it stands.

Mr. SPEAKER: Therefore, I take it that the Hon. Minister is not moving the deletion of Paragraph Four.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I am not at this stage.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister who has just sat down told hon. members of the House during the time he was making what I would call his first speech that hon. members should cast from their minds any sentiment; but I would like to remind the hon. members of this. Something happened. It is a fact that something had happened that caused so many Barbadian workers recently to return from the United States Farm Labour Programme, and from that fact must arouse sentiment; it must follow for any hon. member now seeing sentiment. They are experiencing that because the fact took place first.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter himself went to America in association with a Government officer to investigate the conditions of the Barbados workers. When he himself had investigated and returned and sent in his Report which was published and after that, there was this influx of workers which alarmed him, I think we should be more behind the passing of this Resolution. It is not another member of the House who has just heard of the return of Barbadian workers on the Farm Labour Programme who introduced this Resolution; it is not the case of another hon. member just witnessing this influx of returned workers; but it is the case of an hon. member himself as an investigator; and I say because of that fact the House should go into the merits of this Resolution even more seriously.

Now, the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour as a Minister of the Government has a great deal of responsibility. The Hon. Minister has given out to this House today a matter which we are all very glad to hear, and it must be a long time now that the United States Government has been making representations to the Barbados Government and the Barbados public who are so aggrieved of the complaints of the workers.

This Resolution is not a Resolution to promote blame on anybody: it is for an enquiry. The fact that it is the policy of the Regional Labour Board to send an investigation team to the United States of America every year, the fact that

at this particular time the majority of its representatives are members of Jamaica, the fact that it is presumed that this body does not take lightly that other body which seeks to have a representative on the Regional Labour Board is not a matter of great concern.

3.45 p.m.

We cannot begin by allowing the Americans to have the faintest idea that we are blaming them or that we are attaching blame where blame is not due. That is not the position at all. Who knows but that there may be some facets of the matter which have not been taken into consideration. The hon. senior member for St. Peter is seeking to bring the point more forcibly to the attention of the House that the matter is not entirely settled. Every Barbadian recognises the economic benefit of this scheme. I have had a conversation with a seasoned agricultural Barbadian worker who has been to the United States of America on more than one occasion on this Farm Labour Programme. He is a seasoned cane cutter and a hard worker; that man told me that the conditions over there were intolerable. That particular man is no idler; he is a hard worker. He has had experience in cutting canes in the United States of America on more than one occasion previously and he is one who returned in the last batch. I know this man personally; he is a very hard worker and what he said to me I have paid some respect to. If the Americans are getting tough, and they may be getting tough - well, the Hon. Minister has more information than the average member of this House of Assembly - but because the Americans are now getting tough, there is no justification for us to whitewash this Resolution at this particular stage and say: "Do not let this go any further."

The Hon. Minister of Labour has mentioned the Jamaicans, and I understand that they, too, have had cause for complaint. I heard someone in authority say that only a few Jamaicans had returned. This same worker told me that one hundred and four Jamaicans had returned. I could not go in to print with information from an individual as against information which had come to me from someone in a very responsible position. If I had done that, I would not have been acting responsibly; but inasmuch as I feel that it is of some interest to Jamaicans, I believe that there is a possibility now that the Regional Labour Board may be thinking differently. Jamaicans have returned in more than ordinary numbers as well as Barbadians.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, I do not want to interrupt the hon. member, but I am in the unfortunate position in that I shall not be able to reply to him because I have spoken before him. While it is true that appreciable numbers of Jamaicans have returned, the important fact is what is the proportion of returning Jamaicans to the total number of Jamaicans who were recruited for work in the United States of America as compared with the ratio of returning Barbadians to the total number of Barbadians recruited. Furthermore, I should like to point out for the information of the hon. member, that a little over two months ago when Florida was struck by a most unusual blizzard, over two thousand Jamaicans were recruited to do some immediate harvesting in Florida and not one Barbadian was requested.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, as every Barbadian knows, there is more than one reason which puts Jamaican workers in an advantageous position as compared with Barbadian workers. The first is the expense of getting these workers to the United States of America.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, I hate to interrupt the hon. member but I am at a disadvantage. I thought that all hon. members except the hon. mover of the passing of the Resolution had spoken when I rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Actually only three hon. members have spoken on the Resolution.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I do not mean today. On the occasion when I rose to speak, no other hon. member seemed disposed to speak. The hon. junior member for St. Peter is treading on ground on which he should know better. He said that the comparative expense of getting Barbadian workers to the United States of America in comparison to

getting the Jamaican workers there, would lead to the position of recruiting Jamaican workers in preference to Barbadian workers. That is not the case at all. The American employer is not faced with one cent additional expense in recruiting the Jamaican worker or the Barbadian worker; the differential is divided between the Government of Barbados and the Barbadian worker himself. It is nothing to do with the American employer.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point of order has been duly made.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, I have the patience of Job and I will manifest it every day in this Chamber. I particularly said that there is more than one reason which puts the Jamaican workers in an advantageous position as compared with the Barbadian workers. I mentioned one reason, and if I had mentioned two reasons the hon. member would make ten speeches. This is not the Government Headquarters; let the Hon. Minister remember where he is. He is in Parliament; I know where I am; I am in Parliament. The Minister needs to be told that, and if I am the only person to tell him that, I will tell it to him. Every responsible Barbadian would, as the Hon. Minister has said, bend over backwards in order to see how much employment we can get for our workers outside of this Island; but Jamaicans have returned in appreciable numbers, as the Hon. Minister has said, and I would say in unusual numbers. I am positively sure that that will be of some concern to Jamaica. Since the Regional Labour Board, in the Minister's own words, is over-weighted by Jamaicans, this is now the time when I think the Regional Labour Board will pay some respect to a Resolution of this sort. I think I am rational; I think I am reasonable.
3.55 p.m.

I will support.....

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, it will not be necessary, for the purposes of the record firstly, and secondly for impressing upon the House all the factors involved in this case to be interrupting the hon. member or any other hon. member that misrepresents the facts. The hon. member has said.....

Mr. HUSBANDS: On a point of order, what facts am I misrepresenting? I am not stating the facts at all except the fact that workers have returned from the United States. That is not a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is about to make a point of order.....

Mr. HUSBANDS: He is about to waste the time of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will not assume that of the hon. member or of any other hon. member. The hon. member is about to make a point of order, and of course he is entitled so to do under Standing Order no. 28.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The hon. member for St. Peter is not the only member possessed with the patience of Job.

Mr. SPEAKER: St. Peter has two hon. members. Presumably that applies to both of them.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the hon. junior member for St. Peter said that in view of the numbers of Jamaicans returning to Jamaica, the Regional Labour Board with a preponderance of Jamaicans will no doubt be unduly concerned about the matter at this stage.

Mr. HUSBANDS: On a point of order, that is not a point of order. Those words I pinpricked, and that is countering the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is I who will declare what is a point of order, and under Standing Order No. 28, the Hon. Leader of the House who interrupted was, as I understood him, simply directing to the point which he desired to bring to notice, and submitting it to the Speaker or Chairman. I rule it is a point of order, and so it is.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The hon. member is still labouring under delusions as to where he is sitting today.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr. HUSBANDS: It is as good a one as the other one.

Mr. SPEAKER: Again I disagree with the hon. junior member for St. Peter.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am merely getting the record straight. I understood the hon. member to say that in view of the return of an appreciable number of Jamaicans, the Regional Labour Board which has predominantly Jamaican members will be concerned at this stage, and I am saying that the hon. member does not take into account what I said half an hour ago. The Regional Labour Board itself in a letter to my Ministry has warned against any further investigation. That is what I said half an hour ago and I want to repeat it. The Regional Labour Board considers it will not be necessary for a delegation from Barbados to go over the same grounds as a delegation from the Board will be doing. This is directly from the Central West Indian Regional Labour Board with three of the five members as Jamaicans, and furthermore, Sir, I told the House that the Regional Labour Board itself conducts an annual investigation.

Mr. SPEAKER: The attention has been clearly directed on which the Hon. Leader of the House rose. Let the hon. junior member for St. Peter proceed.

Mr. HUSBANDS: He will, Sir, in spite of that. Maybe I am going to invite another point of order which in my opinion will again be a counter debate. I cannot misrepresent any facts. I am trying to back this Resolution on its merits and I was pinpricking what appeared to be objections made by the Hon. Minister who told us how the Regional Labour Board was overrun by Jamaica. I am saying now and I am going to repeat it, probably inviting another point of order, that as things have developed now, since an appreciable number has returned from Jamaica, this is now the occasion when we may be able to get the sympathy of the Regional Labour Board. People seem to be getting lopsided as far as the views on this Resolution are concerned. We as a House of Assembly can only request the Government to do something; we cannot make the Government do anything. I hope no hon. member will get the idea that if this Resolution is passed, the Americans tomorrow will say there will be no more Farm Labour Programme, because it seems to me as if the Minister was getting perilously near to telling the House that, We as a House cannot talk to the Government of the United States of America; it is for the Government of Barbados to talk to the Government of the United States. The most we can do, and I daresay we will do it if the votes go in the right direction, is to pass this Resolution which embodies nothing more than a request. It says "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Assembly request", not compel, "the Government of Barbados." If the Government fails to comply with our request, nothing happens; but it seems to me as if the House was being told that members should be very careful in their action today as they might be the wrong-doers, the culprits, or they might prevent the Americans from ever sponsoring another quota of Barbadian workers to work on United States farms.

Mr. Speaker, we have responsible Government in Barbados today and not just representative Government. That is why I know my place in Parliament; that is why I stand for my place in Parliament, and that is why I will not cede my place in Parliament to anyone. I do not know, Sir, if the mover of this Resolution wants to finalise today, but I want to remind the Minister that this is a Private Member's Resolution, and it is his right to reply and not the Minister. The Minister does not seem to know that from what he spoke not very long ago, but I always begin by knowing what is my place. I will counsel hon. members of this House to vote in favour of this Resolution, and I should like them to know that by voting for this Resolution they are not responsible for the Americans refusing to give another quota of Barbadian workers an opportunity to work on United States Farms. I am going to end as I began; either you say

that the hon. senior member for St. Peter is playing to the Gallery, or you are saying that in spite of his having served as a member of that Enquiry which went to the United States to discover conditions, and having returned to Barbados in time to see the unusual number of Barbadian workers returning here, he still comes forward with this Resolution. I know my place and I am backing this Resolution. 4.05 p.m.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Andrew has already addressed the House on this Resolution. I will have a check made to make assurance doubly sure. (A Pause)

On the 5th February, the House had the advantage of listening to an address by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew on this Resolution.

Mr. CORBIN: I am asking Your Honour to allow me to ask one question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I have no such authority.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, before I reply, I think as a matter of public courtesy that you should investigate the working of these microphones in this House, and if they are not made to work that you dispense with them entirely and save the taxpayers of the money which they spend on them. To me it is a flagrant waste of public money to have an operator appearing as if he is doing something, and yet we hear nothing coming through the microphones and all that we have is the physical appearance of the person in here. It becomes very exasperating because when the things would not work it may make members use them for some other purpose.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will have another check made of them by the firm from which they were bought. They were bought, not in this Session, from Messers K. R. Hunte & Company.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for his remarks and my colleague, the hon. junior member for St. Peter, for his support of the Resolution. I would like to say at the beginning that the Hon. Minister made use of remarks about sentiment, and I would like to say that I have been through too much in public life to be a sentimentalist; and if there is one man who stands up to workers I think that I am one. As a matter of fact, I have been through a period this year with workers, and I believe that if any of the Ministers were in my position, they would have capitulated when some of those people who were the most vociferous of the group wended their way to Government Headquarters.

I do not want to see anybody favouring me in a matter like this. I do what my conscience bids me to do. This Resolution was introduced on the 11th December, 1962, fully two months ago. May be, they are suffering from the effects of the past eight weeks, but they should remember and read the Resolution carefully. I excuse the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Labour because his Ministry is a very big one. It is a difficult thing to expect one human being to handle so many things, more so when you have two conflicting elements to deal with in your Ministry because on the one hand you have to deal with Development and Trade and on the other hand you have to deal with Labour too. Had the Minister been a Minister of Labour only, and not a Minister of Trade along with that, he would have seen that this Resolution asked for an investigation.

I was a bit taken back when the Hon. Minister started to read in a Resolution like this what the normal Barbadian unacquainted with such a matter would read into it, and that is that you are asking someone to send somebody somewhere on another trip. Let me read this Resolution over as though it were something being put to children in Third or Fourth Standard and you want them to understand. The Resolution reads as follows:-

"WHEREAS the Barbados Government sent a Mission to the United States of America to investigate the causes for the breaches of contract of Farm Workers employed under the Migrant Scheme;

"AND WHEREAS the Mission submitted a Report to the Government, which was approved by the House of Assembly;

"AND WHEREAS, notwithstanding the action of the Government and the Report of the Mission the recent return of large numbers of workers from the United States of America justifies an investigation;".....

Who says that an investigation means that you have to send somebody to the United States to investigate the reason for the large number of workers returning here? No one is asking for a free trip; you are asking for an investigation. You do not mean to say that you can only investigate a matter like this by sending somebody to the United States.

The Resolution goes further:

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the House of Assembly request the Government to call upon the West Indian Regional Labour Board to carry out an investigation into the causes of the recent termination of contracts of Farm Workers in the United States of America."

No one is asking the Government to send anybody to the U.S.A.. The Resolution is requesting the Government to call upon the West Indian Regional Labour Board to carry out an investigation into the causes of the recent termination of contracts of Farm Workers in the United States of America. Notice particularly, it is not for Barbadian workers alone.

I want to support what the hon. member said. Why was this Resolution brought here? You had on one trip going to the United States 108 workers and you had returning about 259 workers; 108 the same week and 109 the following week. Are you suggesting, because I went on a Mission in February last year and investigated matters in February last year, that in October of the same year when such large numbers went and returned, the cause was due to the same cause that I found? Are you suggesting because I went there in February that I have given the answers and we have all the answers as to why somebody came back in October of the same year? It could not be reasonable. Not only Barbadians returned, but in truth and in fact the Jamaicans too returned. This cannot be treated on a percentage basis of your saying such-and-such a percentage returned. It is not a percentage of 100 people out of 1,000 people; it is not a percentage of 100 out of 2,000.

Sir, what I really object to is the Hon. Minister beginning to give information. I thought the Hon. Minister would have said that he had investigated the matter and this is what his investigation reveals. I want to say with all due respect to my hon. colleague that I was aiming at sending a Commission to the U.S.A., and while I agreed that it was my intention that the Hon. Minister give me or the House or the nation the information concerning this matter, I would not expect today, two months after, the Hon. Minister to be reacting to the job as if he is replying. On the last occasion he said that he would have his files to give the information. 4.15 p.m.

We could not debate this Resolution until the House resumed. The first debate took place on the 5th February, and the hon. member must bear in mind that that was one of the first things debated after the first meeting on the resumption of the House. If I had debated this Resolution on the 11th December, the hon. member might not have been in a position to give the information which he has given us today. Subsequent to this Resolution being tabled here, there was no question of the West Indian Regional Labour Board in Jamaica. This Resolution was tabled before then. What I would object to is the hon. member speaking about an article, and in speaking about it he spoke as if the article was written by me. I presented a Resolution to the House of Assembly on this matter, and if the President of

the United States of America say that he is vexed because I presented a Resolution in this House based on a matter which I feel should be debated here, he can get vexed so that when I go to the United States of America he can prevent me from landing there! I do not have to please the President of the United States of America or the American Consul or the American employers. I am no politician who is looking to see who is pleased or who is vexed. What do I care about the American Consul being worried about my moving the passing of a Resolution in here? I am asking to have this matter investigated. How long since the United States have reached the stage where they can tell a person that he cannot have an investigation carried out into something which affect people who are going from this country into their country? Could anybody tell President Kennedy tomorrow that he cannot carry out an investigation into a matter where Americans were involved? We are asking the West Indian Regional Labour Board which you have set up to carry out an investigation so as to know why so many Barbadians or so many Jamaicans have returned to their respective territories. You have the structure of the West Indian Regional Labour Board and we are asking this Government to enquire of something to which this Government has contributed. I want the Hon. Minister to understand that the West Indian Regional Labour Board is something to which the workers in the United States of America contribute; it is not a Board for which the United States pay; the workers pay for this Board out of their own earnings. Mr. Edwards is maintained by the earnings of the workers. When I went to the United States of America last year, I went there out of money paid by Barbados, not the money belonging to the West Indian Regional Labour Board. You are asking this Board to carry out an investigation into the situation there.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to say anything more in connection with this matter because I would not like to give the impression, Barbados being a small place and it takes so long to erase a wrong impression; but I would not like the Hon. Minister to give the House the impression that this Resolution is asking this House to carry out another investigation as to workers being employed in the United States of America. The hon. member gave that impression. How can the hon. member reconcile that 241 labourers came back out of 263 because they did not want to cut canes? We are not suggesting that you can have an investigation with your Liaison Officer alone. When you send 109 people abroad and 108 return here, do you believe that this is something about which a representative should not ask to have an investigation gone into? This is something which requires an investigation. I do not know why it is that blame was being attributed to someone; no blame is being attributed to the employers or to the Government; and as to the point about the Jamaican attitude towards the Regional Labour Board, it is a fact that the Jamaica Labour Party is the Government today. If the Jamaica Government has three members on the Regional Labour Board, the Jamaica Labour Party is the Government of Jamaica today. We are not going to resist them coming into the I.C.F.T.U. with Bustamante being the life President of the Trade Union. When it comes to a Trade Unionist being put on the West Indian Regional Labour Board and the Jamaica Government says you cannot put somebody on that Board, I laugh at the idea. I can understand the attitude of Jamaica because you have a Trade Union in Jamaica.....

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, I said that Jamaica already has a Trade Unionist, a member of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union on the Labour Board.

Mr. WALCOTT: I did not say that you have not said so. They said that they did not want anybody from the Caribbean Congress of Labour. There is nobody on the Regional Labour Board from the organization. They do not request anybody outside of the Government to be nominated. We are asking in this Resolution that the Government, in collaboration with the other member Governments of the West Indian Regional Labour Board, include a Trade Union representative from the Caribbean Congress of Labour on the West Indian Regional Labour Board. This Resolution which I have presented is a Resolution which is to be presented in the Trinidad Legislature because they are part of it also.

4.25 p.m.

Although Jamaica is independent, this was asked to be put up there. Mr. Rojas is a member of their Upper House as well as Mr. Manley, and it was agreed at a meeting that the three of us should present a Resolution stemming from the large number of people who returned, and stemming from the complaints we have been receiving from the territorial members that something should be investigated. I gave members a Report last February, and I have tabled this Resolution subsequent to that Report; and I would say, and the hon. member would admit, that the number of workers returning here represents the highest number of workers coming back out of any bunch which we have sent. Of the 109 workers who went, 108 came back on the next trip which shows that this was something unusual, and this included some Jamaicans though not to the number of 108, and therefore the Jamaican representative felt that something should be done by the Regional Labour Board and not by the independent Governments taking it up by themselves. That is the reason why the Resolution has been worded as it is, notwithstanding what this Government has done, and we are asking you to ask the Regional Labour Board if they could investigate the reason for this.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to say anything more on this, because just as the Minister has more information, he must realise that if I have been to the United States, there are things which I have seen and know which it is not always appropriate to publicly air, because you do not want to do damage to the scheme.

HOUSE COMMENCES GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 4.30 o'clock. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but he may continue at the next meeting of the House under Private Members' Business. We now proceed to Government Business wherein the first Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Colony.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1962-63 No. 38

Head 32 - Highways and Transport - was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 32 - Highways and Transport - stand part.

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

Head 36 - Ministry of Education (5) Schools - was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, in moving the passing of this Head, I should point out that the sum of \$45,916 is required for the primary Schools as a result of the extraordinary increase in the number of children making use of the scheme and also because of unpaid claims at 31st March, 1962 which last year amounted to \$14,257.

It is remarkable that since the introduction of free secondary education in this Island, despite the claim by some of the detractors of the Government Party that we were discriminating against the poor parents in favour of the ones who were wealthier, there has been a remarkable increase in the number of children entering secondary schools from the primary schools, and the percentage now is, I believe, something like 85% of the places in the secondary schools being filled by entrants from the primary Schools. I understand from the Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Chairman, that prior to the introduction of the Government scheme of free secondary education, the percentage of children from elementary schools - or the primary - schools as we call them - was in the region of 50%, which means that 35% more elementary school children are now

entering secondary schools, and those are of parents who for reasons of snobbery or other reasons refrained from sending their children to primary schools before. When I look around, there is not a single member sitting in the House around this Table who did not go to elementary school, including myself; but under the last Government, it was considered not a good thing to send your children to be mixing with the lesser breeds. We have now reversed the tables, because even more of the affluent members of our society now realise that the Government is proceeding systematically with a programme of education from the primary stage right up to University level.

I may now be stealing the thunder from the Minister of Education, but in the past few weeks we have been examining the proposals for a University, and whereas the cost of sending an undergraduate to the University College in Jamaica is around \$2,100 per year and the cost of educating a student in the United Kingdom is to the order of, perhaps, \$3,200 a year, this Government has considered all the factors, and one of the reasons why we insist on the establishment of University facilities in Barbados is that we hope to reduce the cost to nothing. In other words, when our College of Arts and Science opens in September or October this year — and you will see that in our Development Programme — there will be no question of any sixth former or fifth former leaving any secondary school, whether private or Government-aided, in this Island who is qualified to enter a University being deprived of the benefit of University Education. In other words, in the short time that we have been in office, we have not only decided to introduce free secondary education, but have actually done so, and in October this year education at University level will also be free in the Arts and Sciences. *(Cheers.)*

Mr. Chairman, when people say that the Government of Barbados has been in office for fifteen months and we have not done anything, it is remarkable that all the impossible things that the last Government Party held out to the electorate could not be done are the impossible things which we have done, and the things which we intend to do by the end of this year had not even been dreamt of in the philosophy of the other political Parties.

4.35 p.m.

It is a serious matter. Every single student leaving any secondary school in this Island, whether private or Government-aided, irrespective of the antics of some of the members of the last Government Party in trying to prevent the establishment of a college in Barbados, will be provided with a University education — and that was independent of any grant. You will see that we have put it in our Development Programme. Naturally, we said that we are going into a Federation and we have no objection to that. We do not intend to subsidise the students with everything. In other words, we feel that the parents should make some contribution by continuing to look after their children who would not be living in the college. However, as far as the University education itself is concerned, we do not intend making any charge. It is remarkable that the people who did not have the advantage of a University education are the same people who do not want anybody to have it. Those are the things which I have been withholding from the people of Barbados. If we come and ask you for \$45,000 to provide nutrition for the children in the primary schools, it is part of the overall plan because children cannot proceed to further education unless they have the stamina to study in primary schools. This is all part and parcel of the Government's plan to increase the calibre, mental fitness and educational standards of all the young people of this territory.

I beg to move that Head 36 stand part.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I suppose when I am finished speaking you will have something to throw at me about this. What has been said by the Hon. Premier of the type of children who have been able to enter secondary schools is a stage of the introduction of the new free scheme. I doubt whether the Hon. Premier himself can speak with the same authority on this subject as I can

because he has not seen what I have seen. In the last few days the Hon. Minister of Education and his Ministry agreed with us — the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown and myself — because of the number of applicants whom we had to assist with books, clothing and lunch, after examining the various cases, that he would at least recommend that the amount which we would have paid for scholarships at these schools be waived to help those number of children who would not have otherwise entered these schools. The entrance tuition fees have been waived; but I am absolutely certain that the great majority of those children who now gain entrance are drawn from the homes of the poor working class people.

I recall that when the Hon. Premier was out of the Island we had to solicit the assistance of the Hon. Minister of Social Services to speak to a number of mothers — because very rarely do you see the fathers — at a meeting which we held, and it was very gratifying for us to find that of the people who were renting houses in the Grazette area at \$3.00 a week, one of them was the mother of nine children and they were going to a number of schools, one at Harrison College, one at Queen's College and other schools. But what was most horrifying to some of us was the fact that although some had scholarships and had gained entrance to some of the Government-aided secondary schools, these parents were asking us to carry food from the parish to those children. This must come home to the hearts of the people who are interested in this country. We asked that we be allowed, instead of paying the school fees, to use that sum of money to liquidate the expenses to provide the necessary clothing and lunch for which the allotment at Combermere School alone was something like \$700 a month for those to whom we gave scholarships. When it came to the children in respect of whom the Headmaster himself sent a report, he said that after examining a number of cases, he found that a number of children would go out of school during the luncheon hour and come back to school without eating any lunch. Therefore, if today I am accused of backing the Government with some things, I hope those people who believe that I would be opposed to something which is good would not take umbrage, and I hope that the Government would not take umbrage when I make this criticism.

Now, Sir, the Hon. Premier explained about this item for nutrition, the number of children making use of the scheme in primary schools and I presume he also meant in the modern secondary schools as such, because this nutrition scheme is not carried out in secondary grammar schools.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I never said that this was for nutrition in secondary schools. If the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown had been listening carefully, he would have heard that I said that this expenditure is due to the increase of the number of children who are making use of the scheme. There has been a great increase in the number of children who are entered in the modern secondary schools, and it is because a lot of people who used to send their children to private secondary schools are now sending them to the modern secondary schools.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Hon. Premier very much for making that clear.

Now, Sir, I want him to answer a few questions from me. It does seem to me extraordinary — and my colleague and myself are interested in this matter — and discriminatory as regards how is it that you get biscuits and fresh milk in schools in the rural districts, and in the other schools, that is to say the schools in the City and St. Michael, you are supplying concentrated milk. Can the Hon. Minister say how this has happened?

I have been looking up my papers and I have found therein an advertisement by the Ministry of Education for fresh cows' milk. I do not know what has happened, but I have had representation made to me that the majority of schools in the City of Bridgetown and also in St. Michael are supplied with concentrated milk. How can you discriminate to such an extent? Is it that you have got evidence

from scientific sources and medical practitioners that your concentrated milk is better than fresh milk?
4.45 p.m.

I do not think you should offer the children of St. Lucy fresh cows' milk and come down here and say that you are giving these children re-constituted milk, milk powder or whatever you may call it. We are giving away this milk plus margarine, essence and so on. I do not like that discrimination because we all have to make our contributions to the taxes of this island and I am saying that the Hon. Minister should answer the question which I have asked. Mr. Chairman, I pay tribute where tribute is due and, on the other hand, I offer criticism where criticism is due. How can we advertise for one thing without allowing people to know that they can apply for the same thing and when you change to something else? Other than that, I am supporting the Resolution and I am saying that the utterances which have been made by the Hon. Introducer of the Resolution are absolutely correct.

We saw everything for ourselves, and we thought it a wise thing to call upon the Minister of Social Services and the Minister of Education to see for themselves, lest it should be said that we were making political capital out of it. I said that I did not think it possible, having regard to the revenue of this colony, that this thing could be done and therefore we did not oppose it. Seeing that it is being done, we will give our fullest support to anything which is for the benefit of the people of this country, but the Hon. Minister must answer the question which I have asked.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I see that this country is getting famous in that, for talking's sake, you will talk rubbish. I have been listening to a lot of rubbish, both written and spoken, by people in respect of education, even on the basis of some of the things which the Hon. Premier has said. However, it is for the Government to defend themselves. I can defend myself, but I do not like to hear a lot of rubbish being talked, and now you have a heap of rubbish being talked about satisfying people who are going to secondary schools. The only thing about that is that the people whom you subsidise can be snobbish after you have subsidised them. Nearly every man in Barbados who looks like me has got his education out of a subsidy; very few boys who look like me attended Harrison College on the basis that their parents paid right through for them. Some of these boys just could not do it because their parents were not working for the money with which to do it, and they had subsidies from the State, either from the Vestry, as it then was, or from the Government. What is the use of talking about subsidies? Certain people knew how to get their children educated at the public expense, whereas others did not know how to do that, and that was the position. You can have your own point of view in anything which you do. If I were in the Government, there are certain things which I would not do, and I suppose those who are in the Government will say that there are certain things which I would do but which they would not do. Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, you have to spend more money on education as time goes on. You will have to tell people quite frankly that if they have more children than they are able to support, then the nation will have to support them at a lower cost. Your population can rise in a night, but your national income will not rise overnight. Any fool in any community can breed children, but it is much easier to produce children than to find means of supporting the population. Whether this Government wants to have family planning or not, you have to start an economic policy if you want to survive.

Mr. Chairman, this \$240,000 is nothing to sneeze at; divide this amount by the number of schools which you have and you will see how much you are spending on nutrition alone. You have to buttress your income so as to get this scheme going. What I would like to know from the Government is this; are they going to continue with the new scheme or the old scheme or have an integrated scheme? You cannot have both schemes. I have had some private conversations with the Hon. Minister and I pointed out to him that there is no original idea here. Nutrition schemes which are given to children free of cost should be organized on the cheapest and widest possible basis. You should not get the

community into the habit of thinking that you have jobs to offer in the community by a nutrition scheme whereby you are giving away the food. I am submitting that you should get the community to provide some of these services through some of the wives who are free to carry out this service, because you are not going to make any profit. You should examine the administrative costs of these things. There are quite a number of people in this community whom you can ask for their services; I do not mean those who will give their services free of cost and then carry home one half of the food. The next thing will be that their homes will be fed very conveniently out of the Government. That is something which we do not want; we want people who are honest and who are willing to give their services free of cost.
4.55 p.m.

With the growth of the population, having started this scheme, I am going to warn the Minister that this is going to be like any social scheme. You could as well start a social scheme modestly, because when you start a social scheme you cannot minimise it. If you start at a point which you cannot maintain, you will be beheaded subsequently for all the good you think you have done. I believe that the Government in its enthusiasm to put forward its scheme has given some of its opponents grist for the mill in that it would have been giving a free scheme, and now that it has to make a charge for the scheme, it is giving grist to the mill of those who would say that the Government said the scheme would have been free but now it is charging for it. I have never said anything about whether it should be free or you should charge.

Mr. Chairman, I am warning the Government today that they are spending \$240,000 which is quarter of a million dollars and they should examine the expenditure of this money. I have heard a lot of fancy schemes going in education. I read in the newspaper where you must give people books now. It is a laudable scheme to give people books, but next thing you will hear is that you should give them beds because all the children do not have beds. You will hear of all the schemes, but you have to measure them with the practical. If you are providing children with food, you are therefore doing one of the first essentials. They have not invented a man yet who can live without food; therefore you are providing the essentials. What I am saying to the Minister, however, is that there can be no justification in spending \$1/4 million and still allow children to go out of school when they feel like going out. The only thing we have to implement now is compulsory education, and there can be no more delaying or pussy-footing with this matter by saying you cannot introduce compulsory education; otherwise you are going to have a lot of ignorant delinquents whom you will have to pay more magistrates or other people to keep down. There is no justification for postponing a year longer the implementation of compulsory education. If people want to live in a democracy without being compelled to send their children to school, they want throwing out of a democracy and sending somewhere else to live. You are not going to raise the standard of anything in this country until you get people to realise that they should keep their children in school. You must save people from themselves, because you are landed with people who are unskilled or cannot read or write, and are at an age at which nobody can make use of them. When they go looking for a job and you ask them what they can do, they usually reply "Anything, skipper!" This means from sweeping the yard to pulling down something which any boy at seventeen can do; and a man at forty-five has no different outlook at that age than he had at the age of nineteen, because you have the plantation system under which the majority of people come out of school half-baked, and you therefore have a community like this only depending on the small minority to be educated.

Here in Barbados, Mr. Chairman, the number has increased, but when you come to the total population at school age, many of them are still leaving school without the necessary requirements. You have no knowledge of the number of boys and girls leaving school during the elementary stage when it is free. If you say you have free elementary education, it presupposes that every child has a right to be in school and you cannot turn him back. I hear some of the

educationalists say that you do not have school places, which means that education is not free. If you say you do not have sufficient school places for children to remain in school or that you do not have enough teachers, then free education is only a phrase, but it is in truth and fact not intended for people to absorb free education; and if every child born in this community and not an imbecile is not permitted to absorb all the education that an elementary school has to offer, what use is he going to be afterwards? Things are different today from what they used to be in my day. It is more difficult for a boy to get a job today than when I left school, because there are more people leaving school and looking for the same kind of job; but job opportunities have not increased.

Mr. Chairman, in my day you did not spend \$240,000 on nutrition. I went to school and the headmaster himself had to pay for that maybe out of some small vote or Church business, and besides, it was not provided for every boy, but only boys who were in poor circumstances were allowed to use it. Now I understand that there is no discrimination or restriction in the nutrition scheme at the schools. I had a classic joke of a little boy whose mother gave him some nice sandwiches to carry to school in a lunch tin. At school he saw one of his schoolmates with some other things which were a little bigger than the sandwiches, and on returning home his mother saw the sandwiches in the lunch tin and asked him why he had not eaten them. He told his mother that he had some bakes from George. The boy had found that the sandwiches were not like George's bakes which had a lot of grease. You will get children coming from homes where they can enjoy good things, but they will still use the biscuits and milk because they see other children using them.

Apart from that, Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied that the Minister of Education who is a believer himself in compulsory education would have no objection in forcing on the community the responsibility that it must bear, and stop this laziness among parents and guardians in believing that they have no responsibility to their children and leave them to the State in subsequent years. We may have gone on, but our successors will have to face this very serious problem of having a population which was not kept in school. There can be little justification and little room for comfort in spending this amount of money and at the same time allowing education still to be left in the hands of people. Compulsory education is as democratic as compulsory taxes; and if you are going to tax the community in order to provide these things, you must make the people who live in the community realise that compulsory education is something they must be willing to accept; otherwise they are not ready for democracy.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I do hope that I can contribute something to this debate. I have heard much said about education and about hot meals, but I am saying in support of this Resolution that I would like to see free secondary education throughout Barbados. Government should know that there are thousands of poor mothers and fathers who have to look for bus fares, lunch and school fees at the beginning of the term in order to educate their children, and Government should try its best to relieve the congestion in the secondary schools. I should like to see the time come — it could be tomorrow — when private secondary schools can be abandoned absolutely and the Government take over the responsibility of educating all the children in the Island. I do not feel that the Government should bring down \$1¼ million or \$2 million to feed school children.
5.05 p.m.

It is my policy that the Government should build more schools. Let the provision which we are making for feeding children stay off a little longer, but let us educate the children. When we educate the children, it is the best thing which we can do. I would advise the Government to take over the full responsibility of educating all the children because a Government of any country is responsible for the education of the children of the country. For the longest time, we have seen the thousands of children who have been forced to enter private schools to be educated.

Mr. Chairman, you are a schoolmaster and you will agree with me that when the time comes for the poor parents to pay fees for children in private secondary schools, they cannot always find the money. A man or child may be able at any time to go to work for his food or his clothing, but when a child has education, no one can fool it. I say that you should think of educating them first and getting it for every child of the Island. You meet private schools, one with 1,700 children, another with 1,500 and another with 1,800. Is this Government looking into the affairs of this matter to see that the private secondary schools have more children in them than they are in Government secondary schools? I am imploring the Government to build more schools to relieve the congested situation and to leave out all the provision for hot or cold meals. Put that aside for some time and let the parents themselves feed their children; but let us educate them.

We are taking too great a responsibility in our hands. We have a great burden carrying today. I am very sorry that the hot meal scheme is coming into operation so soon because I feel it would embarrass us some of the time. We should educate the children and let the parents see after the hot or cold meal.

I hope the time will come when this Government would take over and find it possible to relieve poor parents who sometimes have to find as much as \$80 a quarter from out of one home for the education of their children. Let the Government take over the responsibility of building schools and educating the children of the Island free. When it would have happened, it would be the greatest thing which any Government in Barbados has done. The people themselves have said that they will feed their children, but they would like the Government to educate them free.

If the Government is going to try out the hot meal scheme this time, I hope the time will come when they will forget it and instead further the education of children in this Island. Go through every parish and take over every private school. Take the best school teachers out of them and draft them into your schools. Take those who have the qualifications. Nowadays, you go into certain private schools and find some of the teachers without qualifications. They only go there to teach so as to get a monthly salary. What can the children learn from those teachers? Nothing. I am sure the Government can get teachers with the necessary qualifications. The Government has a right to go through every one of these private schools and have a survey made. Have a reshuffle and take out the best teachers and put them in your own schools, and then we would be doing something for the children of this Island. I think it would be the greatest thing this Government has done.

Sir, as this Resolution is before me, I can do nothing more but to support it because I see the necessity for which it is; but I must stress this point again that I hope this Government in the near future would see its way to take over the whole responsibility of educating all the children in the whole Island free.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. senior member for St. Andrew has the versatility of speaking with authority on nearly every subject. What the hon. member is stating, however, is the same doctrine which has been promulgated by members of the Official Opposition and by newspapers in this territory.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that you will see from this that the Government of Barbados is guaranteeing from primary education upwards for every child under the age of 14 years in this Island. It is almost unnecessary for us to introduce compulsory education at the primary level because fortunately in Barbados nearly every child of school age is able to get a primary education and has not been excluded from primary schools; but there are juvenile delinquents in every nation and delinquent parents as well. The excuse of the inability to provide primary education has been partially removed, and the introduction this year of our scheme for hot meals for those who are obtaining primary education is a further advancement along the road

of ironing out all the iniquities which can exist in a community like this where children cannot concentrate fully on their school work because of malnutrition.

The hon. senior member for St. Andrew speaks as if educating children is some alternative to a hot meal which Government is experimenting on. These two things are not exclusive at all; they are dependent one on the other because we say: "How can we provide equal education for all the children until they have equal propensity of ability to absorb all that comes to them?" Children cannot absorb all that comes to them unless they are adequately fed. 5.15 p.m.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter has mentioned compulsory education. I am not quite certain what the numbers of children are — those under the age of fourteen years who are not attending schools as frequently as they should. We know that every single child, except those who are physically unable to do so, attends the schools; but compulsory education means that children will not be able to play truant. However, until we can spread the school meals service to every school in the island, it would be unfair to insist that parents send their children to school on every school day of the week. We cannot insist that parents send their children to school every day of the week until we provide the facilities whereby they can get the full benefit of education; we cannot do that until we have instituted a system that calls for free education in this island. When the hon. senior member for St. Andrew speaks about free secondary education for all, I should like to point out that we are providing secondary education for 10,000 children in this island absolutely free already. One child in every five children attending school can have free secondary education at Government expense. There is a fundamental error that every single child who is going to a secondary school must be educated at the public expense; that is something which no Government in its right senses could agree to.

As to the proportion of children who are attending secondary schools completely free of tuition costs — well, we do not provide shoes and books for all of these children, but the percentage of these children is higher in Barbados than it is in any other country including the Dominion of Canada; it is higher than in Brazil, Paraguay, Trinidad, Jamaica, Cuba, British Honduras, Guatemala or the United States of America. This country is a country with a national income of \$100 million a year. What the hon. senior member for St. Andrew is enjoining us to do is to take over the private secondary schools. The system which the Government has instituted in the past makes sure that we cream off the people who are best able to benefit from a secondary education, whether it be a secondary education in the academic or in the technical stream. This guarantees that the top 25% of these children are guaranteed some kind of secondary education in this island. I want to say that it is a fallacy that every single child which is born in this world must be an academician; if that were so, in the United States of America and places like Holland and Denmark there would be no hewers of wood or drawers of water. For one reason or another, all children do not take to the same kind of education; therefore, you have to prepare children to do the kind of vocation which their mental ability and development really afford them. What we are finding today is the kind of concept which prevails that you can only get a decent job if you go to one of the ten Government-aided secondary schools. That is the kind of philosophy which has been promoted and developed by the last Government. There is the idea that you should send your child to any kind of secondary school, and even if he comes out with a certificate in Scripture, that qualifies the student for a job in the Government Service.

Mr. Chairman, I know that you have a secondary school, and one of the Ministers had such a school, and the hon. junior member for the City also has one of these schools. If you examine these schools in the light of the fact that the Government is screening off these schools, you will find that most of these private secondary schools are taking money from parents under false pretences. I regret to say that, but they are only playing up to the snobbish approach

that Barbados has developed to the stage where children have to go to secondary schools even if they only come out with Certificates in Scripture. In every country a man should be proud of being a factory worker or an agricultural worker, and you should not develop that kind of mental balance whereby a child would feel inferior to other children because he did not go to a Secondary school. We have a screening or a "screaming" test and it is really a "screaming" test because the ones who fail the test have to do the screaming. (Laughter) If you fail the test, that makes you feel that there is something wrong with you; but if you pass the test, if you go to a secondary school, you feel that if you do not get through then you will not get a job. The fallacy is that children are being sent to the private secondary schools, and still they are not getting any jobs, with all due deference to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the hon. junior member for the City. Every time that you got the odd bright child who did not get into a secondary school you had to decide that one child out of 1,800 has passed with five Certificates at Ordinary Level or at advanced level.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I went right through every possible stage, from the kindergarten to the University, and I can say that in my age we had a lot of children at Harrison College who should not have been there at all, because there was no entrance examination. I would not say which element of the community they came from, but 40% of them were not academic at all. Some of them might have been born in less fortunate circumstances, and they may have turned out through sheer necessity for education; but about 40% of the school should have been occupied by children who were brighter. That is not the case today because, in order to get into the secondary schools, you must pass an entrance examination. 5.25 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, to get into any Government-aided school you must pass an entrance examination; so far from discriminating in our system, we are actually encouraging people who are best able to benefit from these schools. There were a lot of children in my day, Sir, who should have been at Harrison College and Combermere who were not there. As I look around this House, nearly every member that I can see could have benefited from a first-grade education if he had been given the opportunity. Government is providing that opportunity today which was not provided before. At least we know that although 4% of the people who went to Government-aided schools really should have made room for children who only went to elementary schools, 99% of the ones who had made the grade up to the fourth form and fifth form passed the School Certificate in every possible subject, and then went on to do their Higher School Certificate, and even today they try to get a University Scholarship or Island Scholarship, as the case may be. Today you find in schools people who cannot afford it and who should not be wasting their money in this way sending their children, and then telephoning the Government Buildings and saying that their child went to such-and-such a secondary school and could he get a job in the Government Service, regardless of whether they have the qualifications. In my opinion, there are several schools which are overcrowded with children who are not in the academic stream at all.

In every country in the world, you will find children who are bright with books, but you will find some who are not interested in these things at all; and really you should carry out a psychological test to find out how best you can equip them to fight the battle of life. Unfortunately the private secondary schools are only catering to a weakness in the community which we came along and found. Parents in Barbados do not understand what education is for; education is to equip a child to use his talents, and not somebody's else talents, in the best way possible when he has to fight the battle of life on his own. Private secondary schools are not fulfilling that need, and therefore this Government cannot consider this scheme to take over all or any of the private secondary schools lock, stock and barrel without any reservation, thus creating a further imposition on the taxpayers of this Island. We are satisfied, when we compare our performance with other countries wealthier than we are,

that this Government has gone further than any other country in the Western Hemisphere outside the Dominion of Canada in trying to remove these inequalities from the society in which we live. I am sorry I have to make this broad statement, but it does not mean that this Government will not extend the facilities to ensure that all those children who can benefit from a secondary education do in fact benefit; but that is a different thing altogether from taking over schools of children who are there because of the inverse snobbery of the parents who are suffering from a psychological time lag. We are living in the mid-Twentieth Century and not the early Nineteenth Century or early Twentieth Century, and they are still thinking in terms of what used to go on when they were children, and spending an enormous amount of money when they could better spend that money making sure that their children are properly fed, and making sure that they go to a secondary modern school or primary school and getting the fullest advantage of that education before they venture into the troublesome waters of private secondary education.

Mr. Chairman, somebody has to say these things, and the community will not change until somebody says them. I would not expect anybody who has a private school to get up and say these things. This is not any reflection on the people who are trying to fill some kind of need or want that members of the community feel exist. They are fulfilling a need; but when you make an analysis of how these needs arose, you will find that it is not based on any sound economic or educational theory. I must therefore inform the hon. senior member for St. Andrew that we do not regard, as he should know, the hot meals service as any alternative to secondary education in this Island. We are prepared to go further, and I would say that this Government is preparing as official policy that every single pupil, as long as he or she has the entrance qualification, would be able to get a Liberal Arts education, that is, education in the Arts and Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Economics, Mathematics and so on from this year. That is only an extension of our theory that every single child who can qualify for a secondary education of a first or second grade standard should be given an opportunity; but it would be an entirely different thing for us to say that every single person who felt that he or she should go to a University should be let into the University College in Barbados, because they will not all be able to benefit from University education; they will not be able to understand some of the books they will be confronted with, and if you take this down the line to secondary education, the same thing applies. Not every child now who goes into our secondary schools in Barbados will necessarily have University entrance qualifications; but for every single one who does have that qualification, we say that it is illogical to have people turned out of these schools and not being able to develop their personalities by having a University education.

We are therefore reducing the cost of University education, Mr. Chairman, from \$2,100 per annum in one case for Jamaica, and an average of \$3,200 to \$4,000 in the case of overseas students, down to nothing. I think that is a revolution in itself and we are not discriminating; but next time I come here I will be hearing that we are only allowing those children who have three Certificates at Advanced Level to enter the University and we should throw the University open to everybody; so members of the Labour Party would say that they are qualified to get that education. We must have a sense of proportion in these things. I am not saying that what the hon. member has said might not be laudable but when you examine its implications it is based on the fallacy that every single child going to a private secondary school is really a subject for academic secondary education. What we are doing this year is building five more secondary schools — and they are of the modern and technical level, because we do feel there is a crying need, if we are going to industrialise this community, to have further development in technical education.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I think the Hon. Premier must spare us the infliction which he wants to mete out on his Party benches to the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, and if he has been wild in his ruminations about education, the Premier should not bring that on to us. I

would suggest to him that that answer could be more appropriately given to the hon. senior member for St. Andrew in another place, because he must understand that though we have not been to a University, we have emancipated a long time ago from the level of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew in that we can pontificate on every subject. We know what we are talking about in this context. When we talk about compulsory education, we mean that and make no excuse for it. The Hon. Premier made the same mistake in answering his colleague when he replied to him in relation to the fact that every Barbadian child is eligible for a secondary education. Every Barbadian is eligible to own a Rolls Royce, but it is only a question of whether he has the money.
5.35 p.m.

What we mean of compulsory education is not sending a boy or girl to school and that boy or girl leaving school when he or she feels like leaving, thus inflicting us in subsequent years to a large number of unwanted material because their talent has not been fully developed.

I do not subscribe to the view that secondary education must be a grammar school education, but I know in this age it is wrong to blunt a boy's or a girl's education at 14 years. Nobody can tell me, whether he be a professor, that a person's education must cease at 14 years. As I have said I do not subscribe to the view that secondary education *per se* means a grammar school type of education and that the human mind stops developing when you come to the age of 14 years. What we have to do in Barbados is to evolve a system of education within consonance of the requirements of the community, and there is nothing to prevent us from doing that. Let us make a critical analysis of our situation and say: "This is what is suitable to our needs."

Every child should go to school — and do not think only of food. If you are making exclusion because of food, you are not thinking far enough. There are a number of fathers walking about who do not provide for their children. We can do something with those fathers who do not want to support their children. What divine dispensation has a man that he should breed as he likes, as if he is a fly? Why should we perpetuate this old-time relic of slavery? We are so much pandering to our human elements and to the elements which should be kicked out a long time ago. Why should we continue with a policy that a man can say how powerful he is by having a lot of children whom he cannot support, and when all he is doing is producing as if he is producing beef stock? That only means that he is producing cheap labour, and cheap labour in any community is something which always has to be feared.

I do not subscribe to the theory of blunting a person's education at the age of 14 years just because you want a man to be a carpenter or a mason or because you want a man to sweep the street. Nowadays, you get children going at secondary schools from all stages in the community. You get the postman, the blacksmith, the domestic servant and everybody's child going to Harrison College, Queen's College and other secondary schools. All that has happened is that more people have got better wages and the economy of the country has been strengthened; therefore more people can give their children a better education. It is true that some of these children may be the stupid ones because sometimes we find that those educated are the greatest stumbling blocks in a democracy because they believe they have a special thing offered them.

As regards compulsory education, it is not a question of your postponing it and saying that it is almost useless. It must be linked with economic progress. You cannot talk of any economic development or any industrialisation when you have an ignorant community because you must educate people if you want them to work in industries. When you educate them, you learn them to live with everything. You learn them to live with everybody; you learn them to live with animals, centipedes and snakes. The idea of education is to bring out these things in a man's life.

Sir, I do believe that there are certain policies of education which are political policies, and any political policy

is something which legislators must decide in their minds. Therefore, when it comes to something like compulsory education, a legislator must decide, or a Government must decide, if they are going to see to it that every citizen has the minimum education that is necessary. It should not be left to the parent of a child to say that "I am going to send my child to school during the crop season", and when the crop season is over, "No more school for you". That sort of education does not pay because you are getting the criticism from the industrialists today that while you have a good population, you do not have the population equipped to do what they want.

I am one of those who feel this way about it. I am not a man who has a big lot of education. I would say that I have no education. But I have been for a long time among people who have education, and I have learnt the hard way that you have to live in a world which if you must live in it, you must equip yourself up to the standards of those who went to the University and even of those who are vagabonds. I will say to parents, "If you do not want to send your child to school, well, you should go and live in outer space; but since your child has to live with us, that child must know to read and write." The days for illiteracy are over: we have no more room for illiterates.

I do not subscribe to the idea that the voluntary private schools are doing a bad job because they fill a need at this interim stage which we are passing through. You have not the economy that you can take over everything. Even in Great Britain, where secondary education is free, you still have your Eton and Harrow Schools which are private schools. Some people have the idea that Eton and Harrow are different from Harrison College. They are not different. They teach the child to the same level as Harrison College; but the only difference is that the child's father must be a racehorse owner, or he has that sort of man for his father, because everyone wants to know what kind of man your father is. The English people have not abolished their Eton or Harrow or Dulwich. They have not decided that because they have free secondary education, they must take over these schools. There is nothing wrong with having them. 5.45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I see nothing wrong with these schools which are doing an interim job; they are doing for the community what the State has not done for the community, that is, to keep boys and girls in school for a longer period, whether they come out with Certificates or not. I gauge the quality of the community not by the Certificates which the children get, but by these schools which take the children off the streets. These schools have given the children a resilience for allowing the discipline which they have had at school to remain with them for a longer period than the children who are out of school at the age of 11 years or 12 years. These schools are producing what the community needs: that is to say, citizens with enough education which would save them from ignorance, poverty and disease.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I should like to support what the hon. senior member for St. Peter has said about compulsory education. I myself have had the experience of children who go to school during the crop time, and only for a few weeks after; and, as far as I know, that still goes on in the country districts, never mind how much people say that they are applying themselves to these things. The acquisition of a minimum education for every child in this island should be aimed at. It is quite easy to continue to say that the Barbadian parents will send their children to school; that may be true to a certain extent, but for how long will they send their children to school? I can think of children who came to school for the first time and they landed in standard five. They sat, first of all, on the benches of standard five because they met the principle of age-grouping. I can give you chapter and verse for instances of that sort. It is very easy to say that all Barbadian children should go to school, but there are certain people who need the forces of compulsion to see that their children do not become wage-earners too early. We have the spectacle of children running about Queen's Park and fishing around the Careenage when they should be in school. Some of these children are at the ages of 8, 9 and 10 years,

and they run about Queen's Park and fish around the Careenage day in and day out, and no amount of easy optimism can close our eyes to that fact. If we were to institute compulsory education, we may find that the number of children whom we have to accommodate in our elementary schools may go from 42,000 to 45,000. If the usual 20% were to go to secondary schools, that would mean 9,000 for whom we have to provide accommodation. At the moment, you have 4,000 in Government-aided schools, and you would have to be able to accommodate 9,000. I would like to assure the Hon. Premier that even if he built 50 Government-aided schools which would be free, there would still be these private secondary schools. There are private schools in England, as the hon. senior member for St. Peter has pointed out — the best known schools in the world — private schools in the United States of America where education is free, and at all of these schools the parents will pay high fees. There are no places where you cannot have private schools except in Russia where there is a certain kind of indoctrination.

I think that the community knows the type of work which some of these schools do, and if they are not efficient, well, the Government has erred. You will find pupils who have not been to Government-aided schools produced by my school, and if there is a fault, the Government has erred in that. Mr. Chairman, I can only refer to my school, and there are students not only attending the U.W.I. but other Universities as well; they are students from my school. I want to say that if the Hon. Premier were to build a hundred schools, you will still find pupils at the Modern High School because I do whatever I can when they leave school to find suitable fields of employment for them. I have no fear at all; even when the Government introduced free secondary education, I have had more children at my school; and some other proprietors of private schools might find themselves in the same position.

Let us expose this myth of free secondary education. The Government has not got the plant to accommodate these children who will be channelled into secondary education. How can it be called free secondary education when there is not the physical plant to absorb them? All the children who are in Government-aided schools at the time will receive their education willy-nilly. There are many parents who do not know about this particular boon except those on whom it has been forced. It is true to say that the education of these children at these schools is subsidised by the parents of children who cannot gain admission to these schools. That must be obvious to anyone, and some consideration should be given to this matter. Nobody is saying that all the private schools should be subsidised; as a matter of fact, I would say that some of them should be closed. Some should not be opened tomorrow. If the Government were to grasp the nettle, they would be doing a good thing because some of these schools are not doing the job of teaching children who will take over from us; but one should not snipe behind the other who is trying to do a good job for this community. I say that many of these schools should be closed, and I am sorry that the hon. member was not in his place in order that I could tell him that there is no country in the world except Soviet Russia where you would not find these private or independent schools. As to the type of children who now attend the Government-maintained schools, there has been a great change, a change which I am happy to see, because I have been fortunate to be in a position to help some of these children with clothing. 5.55 p.m.

I myself have been fortunate enough to be in a position to help some of them with clothing and to deplore the fact that the parents of some of them have to go to Queen's Park and take home food from that point to feed these children when they go home on afternoons. It is distressing; it is regrettable; but it is true. We who have to administer Local Government are only too pleased when we can do our best to assist them in that way with clothing, and very often with books. Children from poor homes are now moving into our Government-maintained schools. We compliment the Government on that, but they must not take the opportunity of saying that they are providing free secondary education when in truth and in fact they are not. They have not got

the physical plant to accommodate the 20% of those in elementary schools who might reasonably be expected to move on to Government-maintained schools. What you did do was to make education free for those who happened to be in the schools at the time when the law was passed. You will perhaps from time to time be able to expand the present schools and take in a few more, but you will never, I repeat, never, be able to do the entire job yourself. Of that I am assured, and I have no qualms whatever as to the future of a good private school in this colony. Nobody is asking you to subsidise anything in so far as all private schools are concerned. There are some of us who suggested that you might take example from the Colony of British Guiana and assist in paying the salaries of qualified teachers in certain private secondary schools. In this way you would be assured of the standard of education which was being given to the future citizens of the nation. However, you did not entertain that suggestion, and it is left to you entirely what you do about that.

Mr. Chairman, the last Government also laughed us to scorn, and those who are political commentators notice that there are three of us in here now; but who knows what the next election might bring forth? We are not asking that anything be done for us, because the best of us, I think, can solve our own problems; but we are asking that something should be done for the community of the future by ensuring that the children who are forced into the private schools are given the best education which is possible and at the cheapest rate. It would be perfectly easy and possible for the fees in certain private schools to be lowered which you refer to now as being high, if the schools were assisted in paying qualified staff. This would not apply to any and every school, but to those schools whose records have been examined, let us say, for the past five years, and who have shown that they are doing a good job in this community. It is entirely up to those who sit on the Government benches to accept that suggestion or not. It is quite immaterial to me because I can always find a way of solving my own problem. A school boy at a private or public school can build up a reputation in a community to create an image which will always attract parents to send their children to that school if they want them to be properly educated, and if it can be seen that on leaving school a career is mapped out for them or a job is obtained for them. No proprietor of a worthwhile private school need have any fears or qualms about that.

Mr. Chairman, from the troubled waters of independent schools, as the Premier said, have been drawn teachers for the schools of this Colony, young men and women who have studied medicine, young men who are reading law at the moment and young men who are studying economics in Universities in Canada; they cannot be all dismissed with a wave of the hand. The point I would like to stress, Mr. Chairman, is that I am in complete agreement with the hon. senior member for St. Peter when he moots the idea of compulsory education for children under fourteen. There was a time when Barbadians would make a proud boast that on elementary education they went abroad to Panama and the United States of America, and some of them ended up as professional men of some distinction. Nowadays that boast can no longer remain. A gentleman whom we had the pleasure of hearing speak at St. Mary's some time ago, the Reverend Dr. Walcott, was a product of these schools. That can no longer be said of the children whom we turn out nowadays. As a matter of fact, it ought to be compulsory for every child to receive a minimum of education before it reaches the age of fourteen or sixteen. I am not sure of the correct age, because those opposite on the Government benches seem to be confused, as one said fourteen and another said sixteen. Whatever is the age, let us put it at the minimum of fourteen.

The myth of free secondary education has not taken in everybody, because some of us can count, and realise that Government has not got at the moment the number of schools to accommodate the children who normally would pass into such schools, if you take the arbitrary 20% of those attending your primary schools as moving on to your secondary schools. Whether or not hot meals ought to be provided for these children at the expense of building more schools is perhaps a moot point. Sentimental arguments

can be adduced about poor, hungry children not being able to learn, etc.; but on the other hand, you must consider that if the schools were there the parents would perhaps send their children to them without even the compulsion of which I spoke. I am reminded by my colleague that some years ago in the Southern States of America it was proposed to increase the salaries of coloured teachers in the State schools. The teachers said "No, give us no more money, but build more schools so that more of our people can be taken in and so spread education among the Negroes who live in these Southern States". Perhaps that is a point which the Hon. Minister might well consider if a decision has not yet been made.

As to the accusation about private schools catering to weaknesses, I will say no more about that because it might be said that lawyers do the same. We hold the view that all the children in the community ought to receive a minimum amount of education, and we are not impressed by figures which may be given, because we all know there are three kinds of liars: liars, adjectival liars, and statisticians. 6.05 p.m.

It is very easy for a woman who has two children to say that she is educating 50% of her children, which means only one. All figures bear some relativity to other figures, and I do not think we should take too seriously or pat ourselves on the back too forcibly on some of the figures which have been engaging the attention of the Hon. Premier.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think by and large the remarks of the Hon. Premier both anticipated as well as answered points which were supplementary to our general educational policy.

I just want to say that we have not eliminated fresh cows' milk. The policy of the Ministry is that wherever fresh cows' milk can be had, we will get it: and there is nothing of a question of having a choice between fresh cows' milk and choosing another kind in preference to fresh cows' milk.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that Head 36 stand part.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, the Hon. Minister of Education has not answered the question which I asked. That type of answer would not do for me. I asked a plain straight question and I am demanding a straight answer. I am not mincing the matter.

Mr. Chairman, you cannot put the question when I am on my feet. I do not care who tells you to put it.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the point is this. When you started to put the question, the hon. member was not on his feet; so I do not think the hon. member should accuse anybody. I want to go on record as saying that after you began to put the question, the hon. senior member for Bridgetown got on his feet.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The minute Your Honour started to put the question, I rose.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am permitting the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown to speak now.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I asked a question, I said that I noticed tenders for fresh milk was advertised, and I am asking this question now because of that advertisement which appeared in the Press. Since that advertisement appeared, the schools in the City and in St. Michael are supplied with re-constituted milk. Is it because you could not get fresh cows' milk? I was told that tenders went in for fresh cows' milk and they were not answered. I asked a straight question. Did you or did you not advertise for fresh cows' milk for the schools in the Island? Your answer is either "yes" or "no" to that question. Did you have tenders? Why was the change made? The public must become suspicious after seeing the differential which was made between the schools in the country districts and those in St. Michael. As a matter of fact, a tenderer told me that he had so many cows and he made application and heard nothing more about it. This is a matter in which I was being cursed — and my son.

The Government is being run there, and the whole contract was made there at that house in the Pine. I am not going to let this pass in here until I get a proper answer. You will have to send for the Speaker.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. If the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown has some information to the effect that tenders were put out and then that something else was supplied, I think it is only fair that the hon. member get all the facts together and then ask a formal question or questions with respect to the matter. The hon. member can only get an unsatisfactory answer now because he cannot expect any Minister to carry all these things in his head. Let the hon. member put his question in a formal manner. I do not think it is fair for him to ask a question in this way.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I appreciate what the Hon. Premier has said, but I do not appreciate his telling me how I should do things. I do not intend to waste the time of the House. If the Hon. Minister cannot carry these questions in his head and he does not have the answer, all he has to say to me is that he does not have all the facts at his disposal now and he is going to get the information for me. However, I know the Hon. Minister of Education is a clever speaker. It is not good enough for him to say that it is the policy of the Government. I believe it is the policy of the Government. I am only asking if it is a fact. And I know it is a fact that this advertisement appeared in the Press. If it appeared, then why is it that they changed? Why can one set of schools have fresh cows' milk and the others can only get re-constituted milk? Bear in mind that my colleague and myself get our support from the people of St. Michael and not from the people of St. Thomas or St. Andrew. Something else is being done here and you hear all this boasting going on.
6.15 p.m.

Nobody will force that any question should be put. What I am saying is this, that as far as I am concerned with this nutrition scheme — this is the only time when I can ask this question. I quite agree with the principle of the Government in relation to this nutrition scheme. As to the other argument about taking over the secondary schools, I am not going into that, because my policy is well known on the question of compulsory education. I am not repeating any of the arguments which have been made by the hon. senior member for St. Peter; my colleague is quite competent to deal with the question of private secondary schools and he has dealt with it to the satisfaction of this Committee. However, I have asked a simple question; did the Government advertise for fresh milk and how long did they advertise for it? This is like the Bridgetown City Council or any other Council advertising for fresh bread, and then they change it without saying anything and call for biscuits. I have read where they have called for fresh milk and now I am told that they are supplying re-constituted milk. Nobody expects the Hon. Premier to keep things in his head, but I do think he should say that the question asked by the hon. senior member for the City will be answered later on. I do not think that the Hon. Premier should suggest that I should bring in questions here and then the Speaker refuse them. I have seen many things in here; I have seen that questions were not allowed to be asked in here — I do not say that that will happen now. I am not mincing any matters in this connection because I know what happened on Sunday night.

Mr. BOXILL: Tell me.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am going to tell you at the right time and in the right place.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am astonished at the attitude adopted by the hon. member. I thought that he would have given me prior notice of his question so that I could give him the information during the course of debate or, if he thought it appropriate — he would notify the House by way of a question for which an answer would have to be prepared. He need not think that he is embarrassing me; you cannot embarrass a Minister when he is prepared to give answers when he is asked questions. I cannot an-

swer the hon. member's question now, but I will not give him the impression that I am hiding anything from him.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I do not think that the hon. member should say that I am trying to embarrass him; there is no Minister over there whom I want to embarrass. When I want to embarrass anybody, I do it so hard and deeply that you cannot find yourself. What I am asking the hon. member he may possibly not have seen. As to the answer which the hon. member gave me at first, that could only pass a convulsed idiot but it could not pass me.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Possibly, I misunderstood the hon. member's question.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Possibly I cannot put a question for the hon. member to understand. Let the hon. member get out of his mind that I have any intention of embarrassing him. This is a question which is engaging the attention of the entire Island. I have never had a hard word with the Hon. Minister of Education and therefore why should I want to embarrass him? I was over there in the Opposition with him and he knows that when I am out to embarrass anybody, I will embarrass that person. It does not mean that the Hon. Minister will know everything, and I repeat that the Hon. Minister should be the last person to think that I would do anything to embarrass him. He knows that in the Municipality I said that if you want to have this scheme, then you must pay something for it. I should like to remind the hon. member that I still have a lot of influence in the City of Bridgetown. It is not a question of embarrassing the Minister, and if he were to say now that he will be prepared to get the answer to the question which I have asked, I am prepared to sit down. I know that questions have been given to the Clerk of this House — I am not a fool — and before these questions get to His Honour the Speaker they may get around and be kept out and I will have to sit back like a fool. But I will keep things in my breath until the appropriate time comes for expressing them. I am suggesting, for the benefit of the Government.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, will it help the hon. member in any way if I were to inform him that I will investigate the complaint which he has made and I will give him an answer?

Mr. MOTTLEY: Question!

The question that Head 36 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 37 — MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Head 37 — Ministry of Social Services — was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I beg to move that Head 37 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

The question that Head 37 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that a Resolution for the sum of \$56,688 do now pass.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1962-63, No. 39

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The next Resolution, Mr. Chairman, is a Resolution for the sum of \$154,000 to supplement the Estimates 1962-63 Part II — Capital as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1962-63 No. 39., which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.
6.25 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1962-63 No. 39

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, as set out in the Addendum, the sum of \$154,000 is required to meet the

cost of certain large items of equipment in respect of the Mechanical Works of the New Hospital. This equipment was expected to arrive during the financial year 1963-64, but will now arrive during the current financial year. Under the terms of the contract, payment has to be met within fourteen days of certification of safe arrival of equipment.

This equipment, Mr. Chairman, was ordered in separate amounts, but the entire quantity of each specific item is coming in full and will be arriving here before the end of the current financial year, and this Resolution seeks the amount of \$154,000 to pay for this equipment.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER No. 5

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, before we take the next Order, I am asking leave at this stage to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 5 in order to allow us to wind up Government Business on the Order Paper without having to take the Suspension.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 5 so that Government Business can be proceeded with. There being no objection audible or apparently otherwise, leave is granted.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 5 be suspended for the remainder of the day.

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

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

HOUSE RESUMES DEBATE ON RESOLUTION re REPORT ON EAST CARIBBEAN FED- ERATION CONFERENCE, 1962

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day is to resume debate on a Resolution relative to the Report of the East Caribbean Federation Conference, 1962. When the House adjourned on 12th February last week, the hon. senior member for St. Peter was speaking when the moment of interruption arrived. That hon. member would be entitled to resume, but I observe the hon. member is not in his place. Any other hon. member who did not speak after the amending motion had been made is entitled now to proceed.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I am particularly happy — and I would say fortunate — that this is the first opportunity I have had of speaking on this subject, and I am going to make use of it although I can assure you that I will be very brief. It was my privilege when this debate began to have the honour of deputising for Your Honour who was at the time ill, and on every occasion that debate on this Resolution was entered upon, I was deputising for Your Honour except, I believe, on one occasion when only one member could speak at the time and the debate closed. Since this debate began, hon. members on all sides of the House have made able contributions to it, particularly the hon. senior member for St. Peter and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, not to forget the Hon. Premier, who have

explained not only Federation itself but its theory, its practice and its incidence, and therefore all I would say or can add to this would be but a repetition if not in words, certainly in thoughts of what has been said.
6.35 p.m.

I would, however, like to make one or two observations. It is true that this debate has been protracted over an unduly lengthy period, but I would say that there has been an advantage in it. The community as a whole before the former Federation which is now dead had absolutely no idea of what is Federation; and even those people who had some idea, doubts very much were created in their minds after the failure of the Federation. I believe that because of the fact that so much time has elapsed during this debate that the people on the whole of this community have had time to study the issue, if not to learn from their representatives; and every hon. member has had the opportunity to express his Party's views over the pros and cons of the question. Therefore it cannot be said by anyone that this is an attempt to force something on the people.

I hope I am right in saying that this House as a whole has agreed on the fundamental principle of a union of these territories. There may be modifications urged by one or two hon. members, but what is important is that we are more or less all agreed that there should be a union of these territories.

Another observation which I would like to make is that when this debate first began, there were doubts from certain members of this community as to whether Barbados as it stands should talk about Federation and, if I remember correctly, the Hon. Minister of Education in his address said that the effort in forming a union would not in any way deter the efforts of the Government from building up the economy of this Island. What he has said has confirmed the fact of that because during that time it cannot be denied that no time has been lost to set our house in order. Because of that, the other territories would not only look up to us as an example, but even the people of those territories would feel much better.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that although it has been reiterated by many hon. members in this Chamber that the success of this Federation would largely depend on the spirit and drive which the leaders of this union would generate in their own territories, if I may be allowed to rehearse something which was told to me when I was in Trinidad — and it is no secret because it has come from someone who is very closely connected with the last Federation and who was in a position to state it or read it at first hand — what was told to me amounted to the deplorable effect that the spirit of every representative of the last Federation, whether that representative was a man or a woman, whenever they sat around the Table, was what they could get out of it for Barbados, what they could get out of it for St. Lucia or for the particular Island which they represented. Every representative thought only first and last and throughout of his individual territory instead of the territories as a whole. It was rather pathetic. I will only say that if the leaders think only of those people who have put them to represent their particular territory, if they think only in terms of St. Lucia, St. Vincent or any of the other territories and they do not think of the union of the territories as a whole, federation must fail again. But from all appearances up to this time, there is much hope for the future, and I think that a lesson has been taught by the failure of the past Federation.

There has been the criticism, Mr. Speaker, that with this Federation there will be more taxation. These things are so simple that it is not always necessary to contradict them, but at the same time one should say something about them. As I have said not long ago, you cannot get anything good for nothing. Even here in our country, people sometimes talk and say: "Oh, there are so much taxes!" Five or ten years ago, when they probably paid one-half or one-third of what they are paying now, the country as a whole was not better off. Years ago, when the people paid little taxation, may be, only the few enjoyed the comforts of living. In this case, it is very good to draw analogies:

but up to last year — and much has been said not very long ago about primary education and University education — it took little or nothing to send a child to a secondary school; but if a child wanted a University education or some kind of technical education, it meant that the parent would have to undergo a great sacrifice. My point is that in any enterprise which is noble, it calls for some form of sacrifice and it is with that in mind that one must view this attempt to get these territories together.

There is another consideration. Many people think that they would get benefits from this union of the territories probably within a year or the next year. Those persons who have studied the development of countries would know that the pioneers seldom enjoy the fruits of their labour. It may be that when everyone can see what will be the benefits of this union, many of those leaders who fought for it would not be alive to see it. When I say that, lest there be any timid minds, I shall only say that I am in no way hoping that any hon. member of this House or any honest pioneer of this union would not be alive to see the fruits of this union. However, I have the satisfaction to believe that even if anyone of them is not alive to see it, their children will see it, and if they have no children, those who come after would live to see it.

Sir, I crave the indulgence of this House if I may have appeared to digress a little to say this. It is something which has worried me somewhat, not on what I said last Tuesday because however poor in language my expression in this House may be, I come to the House with a feeling of full responsibility and anything which I may have said, I will stand up for. But I fear a wrong interpretation has been given to something which I have said.

6.45 p.m.

I made a statement or remark in this House last Tuesday and, Mr. Speaker, there seemed to have gone outside of this House a wrong interpretation which has been offered purposely or otherwise. I want to make this statement now: I have never, up to this moment, charged any hon. member of this House and particularly the Hon. Premier with any motive of dishonesty. Far from it, I am too much an admirer of honesty and ability, but I deplore the lack of discretion and prudence at times. I say that just to remove the idea of the evil-doers or thinkers that there is any division or any lack of confidence with me and any of the members of this Government Party and particularly the Hon. Premier. Nevertheless, I do say that however much I am an admirer of ability and honesty of purpose, at any time when I see that there is any lack of prudence I must show my objection to it. I say that not to you, Mr. Speaker, but I apologize to Your Honour to have heard any untowardness because I know what it is to sit there.

Mr. Speaker, the constitutional aspect of this Union and the other economic aspects of it are not in my hands. Probably it is a good thing that that is so, because I may not be expert enough to deal with it. However, I have every confidence that these matters will be gone into very carefully by the leaders of this Union spearheaded by the Hon. Premier. I can assure this House that, after discussion with the people in my parish and with the people generally, any fear of a Federation since this debate began has been removed, and there is every hope and confidence that the price which we may have to pay for this Federation will be rewarded in the near future and for years to come.

Mr. SPEAKER: It does not appear that any other hon. member who has not yet contributed to this debate desires to speak and therefore I will put the question. In view of the fact that there is an amendment, I understand from Standing Order No. 23, that the amendment shall be put first — the amendment which has been moved by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. The amendment which has been proposed by the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown was accepted and therefore it became a part of the amendment as proposed by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. The amendment will accordingly be put first and I will ask the Acting Clerk, for the benefit of hon. members, to read the amendment as proposed by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, including the proposal of the hon. junior

member for the City of Bridgetown. I will now ask the Acting Clerk to read the amendment.

The Acting Clerk read the amendment as follows:—

“RESOLVED that this House approve in principle the Report of the East Caribbean Federation Conference 1962 held at Marlborough House, London from 9th May, 1962 to 24th May, 1962:

Provided that this House reserve the right to reconsider the position of Barbados in a Federation of the Eastern Caribbean if the Fiscal Commission reveals that the cost of such Federation will involve further financial burdens on the island of Barbados to the detriment of the present standards of living of the inhabitants of this Island.

Provided further that steps are taken to ensure that Britain's entry into the European Common Market will in no way affect the guarantees of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement thereby endangering the economic position of Barbados and undermining the financial capabilities of Barbados to contribute to such an Eastern Caribbean Federation.

Provided further that Paragraph 13 of Chapter 4 of the Report is amended to provide for dual membership of the Legislature of a Unit and of the Federation on condition that only one Ministry be held by any one representative and only one salary paid to each representative.”

Provided further that paragraph 15 (b) of Chapter 4 of the Report is amended to provide for the unit of population to be 30,000.”

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this amendment do now pass. Hon. members in favour of that will please say “Aye”, those against will please say “No”. I think the “Noes” have it. The question now is that this Resolution as proposed 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. Accordingly, I declare that this Resolution is now passed.

The Resolution as as proposed reads as follows:

“Resolved that this House approve the Report of the East Caribbean Federation Conference, 1962, held at Marlborough House, London from 9th May, 1962, to 24th May, 1962, with the proposals and recommendations contained therein.”

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier:— To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Order entitled “The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1962”.

I may say that this Order concerns certain adjustments in the Civil Establishment as recommended by the Committee which examined the anomalies and cases of special difficulty arising out of the 1961 Salaries Revision.

PROVISIONAL COLLECTION OF DUTY AND TAX ACT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave that Order No. 7 be taken as the next Order of the Day.

6.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House has asked that Item No. 7 which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Premier be the next Order of the Day, and that is the second reading of a Bill relating to the Provisional Collection of Certain Duties and of Consumption Tax. If there is no objection to that being the next Order of the Day, leave will be granted to proceed with it. Hearing no objection, such leave is granted. Let the Hon. and Learned Premier proceed.

THE PROVISIONAL COLLECTION OF DUTIES AND TAX ACT, 1963

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to empower the Governor-in-Executive Committee to make an Order to the effect that any Bill imposing new duties or tax-

es or altered rates of duty or taxes should from the day of introduction into the General Assembly have the force of law for the period limited in Clause 3 of this Bill. It also makes provision for the refund of taxes collected pursuant to any Order made under the Bill.

It is a very simple measure. The machinery now for the enforcement of the payment of new or altered rates of taxes is rather cumbersome, and subsequent to the introduction of any such proposal, we have to go through the normal procedure for the proposals to have the force of law in order to collect taxes under the taxation proposals. Hon. members will be aware of the circumstances under which taxation proposals are introduced, but no notice can properly be given to these proposals, and it is desirable as in other territories that they should have the force of law as from the date of introduction.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. RATSON in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of the Bill in Committee, and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESOLUTION re LEASE OF LAND TO DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: to move the passing of a Resolution to approve of the lease by the Executive Committee of two parcels of land at the Deep Water Harbour (and described in the First Schedule thereto) to the Barbados Development Board.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is to empower the Governor-in-Executive Committee to lease a certain acreage of land at the Deep Water Harbour to the Barbados Development Board for sub-lease with the prior approval of the Cabinet.

As the Addendum sets out, Sir, when the Deep Water Harbour was constructed, approximately 90 acres of land were reclaimed from the sea. It is felt that at least 40 acres shall be required for the use of the Port itself and that the other 50 acres should be allocated for industrial use of a certain type. In other words, the rest of land would be developed as an industrial estate to accommodate industries whose production is wholly or mainly for export or industries that by the very nature of their operation require a location to operate in the Harbour area. The entire remainder of the acreage is not yet ready for allocation, Mr. Speaker, but approximately 26 acres is now ready, and it is proposed to lease that to the Development Board on the terms and conditions set out in the Schedule to the Resolution. Now the terms and conditions are set out in detail. The land is to be leased for 99 years at a peppercorn rent, and the Board, as I said earlier, would have the power to sublet the land or any part of it, subject to the prior approval of the Cabinet, and the Board itself is directly responsible for the development and for the administration of the estate.

7.05 p.m.

You will see in Paragraph Six that provision is made for any such sub-lease to provide for a fixed rental of 10 cents per square foot per annum for a period of 20 years in the first instance and be subject to revision by mutual agreement at the end of this period. In the event of disagreement, the matter is to be referred to arbitration.

If hon. members refer to the first Schedule, they will see the exact area of the two parcels of land. One contains 401,169 square feet or thereabouts and the other contains 734,865 square feet or thereabouts. The bunkage is all set out as well as the exact location in the first Schedule.

I do not think there is any additional useful information which can be given apart from what is in the Schedule and the Addendum, and I beg to move that this Resolution be now agreed to.

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

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

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT ORDER (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 6) ORDER, 1962

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 3, standing in the name of the Hon. Premier, be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Am I to understand that the Hon. Leader of the House asked leave to take that Order?

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the Order entitled 'The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, 1962.'

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution is entitled The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order, and it provides for certain adjustments in the Civil Establishment as recommended by the Anomalies Committee which generally sat on the special difficulties arising out of the 1961 Jacobs' Salary Report.

The only important aspect of the Resolution is the effective dates to which the holders of the offices which are set out in the Order become entitled to the emoluments which are being recommended. You will see from the Civil Establishment Order in respect of Article 2, that the revised salaries in Parts I, III and IV of the Schedule become payable from the 1st April, 1961 and in respect of Part II of the Schedule, those revised salaries become payable from the 1st November, 1962.

The reason for the distinction of the two groups of Officers, as Your Honour will no doubt observe, is that the people in Part II of the Schedule are those members of the Civil Establishment who either through their Association or individually accepted the recommendation of the Salaries Commissioner. They are particularly the Chief Deputy Marshal, the Deputy Marshal and in the Provost Marshal's Office, members of the Barbados Fire Service and the Prisons staff. There is one exception.

These declarations were not consequent upon any anomalies which were created at the time of the Salaries Commission, but because Government felt that the salaries accorded to those officers should be revised as a result of the revision of police salaries. Hon. members will remember that members of the Police Association objected to the recommendations of the Salaries Commissioner but the staff of the Prisons Service and all those people accepted Mr. Jacobs' recommendations. Therefore, you will see the reason for the distinction of those who accepted and those who did not. Those who accepted will not have any case for the payment of the improved salaries from 1961 whereas the other categories in Part I were anomalies created at the time of the Salaries Commission. All the other anomalies have been back-dated to 1st April, 1961. The Prisons staff and the Marshals will get back pay as from the 1st November, 1962.

There is only one other discrepancy which I would like to point out. In the Addendum to the Resolution, it is stated that the Committee's recommendation should be imple-

mented with effect from 1st April, 1961 except the proposal that the Police Salary scale should be applied to those posts in the Fire Service, the Judiciary and the Prisons Service which were formerly graded with the Police. It is considered that this proposal is not the direct result of an anomaly or case of difficulty created by the Salaries Revision and should accordingly be implemented with effect from 1st November, 1962.
7.15 p.m.

There is one other post to which reference has not been made because it does not directly fall into the category of salaries which are somewhere equated or related to the salaries in the Barbados Police Force, and that is the post of Manager of the Employment Exchange. I have investigated this particular case very carefully and it is probably in Part II of the Schedule whereby the increase will date from the 1st November, 1962. As this was a special recommendation and not an anomaly in the same way as in Government, it is being urged — I do not like to particularise — that the Manager's salary should go back to the 1st April, 1961. If anyone were to scrutinise the recommendations of the Salaries Commissioner, you will see that the Salaries Commissioner made special recommendations for the Employment Exchange which recommendations I do not want to go into now. The right type of person who is demanded for that job should be recruited. It was not related to any other salary scale in the Civil Establishment; that was a new Establishment, as it were.

Mr. Speaker, I did not think that any individual is being unfairly treated if this salary is not related back to the 1st April, 1961. That post is not mentioned in the Addendum to this Resolution, but in the Schedule to the Resolution it is one of the posts of which the revision should take place as from 1st November, 1962, and not from the 1st April, 1961. If hon. members have any idea that somebody is being treated unfairly, I should like to say that that is not the case at all. This is a special case which had to be put in one of the Schedules and it was not mentioned in the Addendum to the Resolution. This gentleman did not fall into the generic category of those posts which are related to the salaries and conditions of service of the Barbados Police Force. We always look at the Fire Service, Prisons and the Provost Marshal's Department as being related to the salaries structure of the Barbados Police Force. The post

of Manager of the Employment Exchange is different in respect of the date from which the increased emoluments should be paid; it is a new type of post which is created and has nothing to do with any individual or previous holder of the office. I beg now that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that.

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

ORDER POSTPONED

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:— To move the passing of a Resolution to approve the grant by the Executive Committee of a tenancy to the Savannah Club of a parcel of land situate at the Garrison in the parish of Saint Michael, described in the Schedule thereto.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS CONCLUDED

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the consideration of the last Resolution brings Government Business to an end for the day.

THE ADJOURNMENT

The Order Paper having been fixed,

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 26th February, 1963, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 26th February, 1963, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

7.25 p.m.