
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 1st October, 1963.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12 o'clock Noon today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (*Speaker*); Mr. F. L. WALCOTT, O.B.E.; Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Mr. E. ST. A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (*Minister of Education*); Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour E. L. CAR-MICHAEL, J.P., (*Deputy Speaker*) and Mr. N. W. BOXILL.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of last Tuesday have been circulated, and unless there is any objection, I shall deem them to be confirmed.

Hearing no objection, I declare those Minutes to have been confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Customs Act (Prohibited Imports) (Toy Pistols) Order, 1963.

The Drawback of Duties (Locally Manufactured Cigarettes) Regulations, 1963.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay a Statement showing the sums advanced by the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid, and the amounts due, to the 30th of June, 1963.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 54 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is now ready.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 83 asked by the hon. senior member for Bridgetown is now ready. Notice of this Reply was given on 17th September, 1963.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 89 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew is now ready. Notice of this Reply was given on 17th September, 1963.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 132 asked by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown is now ready. Notice of this Reply was given on 24th September, 1963.

Also, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 133 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is now ready. Notice of this Reply was given on 24th September, 1963.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 115 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph is now ready. Notice of this Reply was given on 17th September, 1963.

On behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 118 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is now ready.

Also on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 125 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is now ready.

QUESTIONS

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

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that the guardwall in Chapman's Village in St. Thomas needs extending in order to check the water from flowing under the houses that are located at the said point?

2. Will the Minister issue a directive to have the same remedied in order to protect those people living therein who experience much difficulty in getting in and out of their homes after a rainfall?
12.35 p.m.

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

Is the Minister aware that the twenty-feet right of way to the beach at Sandy Lane, St. James, which was agreed to be set aside for the use of the public, has not yet been clearly marked off?

2. Will the Minister issue instructions for the clear delineation of the said right of way, and for the construction

of a proper road at least fourteen feet wide leading from the highway to the beach for the convenience of the general public?

Mr. SPEAKER: There are certain notices which I shall now permit to be referred to the Hon. Minister of Education.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I should not now like to proceed with that item. I propose to ask leave of the House to give notice of it later today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does that apply to both matters?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes, Sir.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity at this stage to propose this congratulatory message. I feel that all hon. members of this House will agree that the successful conclusion.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member giving notice of the Resolution?

Mr. WALCOTT: What I proposed to do was that under Standing Order 8, (m), as this is a congratulatory matter which I am dealing with, I should finish dealing with the matter and at the end of my speech read out the Resolution which would be the sum total of my speech on the matter.

It is a similar way to our dealing with an obituary. We do not give notice of Resolutions of Sympathy; we begin by making our speech and at the end, we read the Resolution which is a formal matter. I propose that this matter be dealt with in the same manner because it is only a congratulatory message. That is the way in which I intend to proceed with the matter. It will come under Standing Order 8, (m).

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand the hon. senior member for St. Peter is seeking to proceed at this stage by virtue of Standing Order 8, (m) with a congratulatory message. He is seeking to proceed with a Resolution which stands in his name in connection with the proposed visit of the victorious West Indies cricket team.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, before the hon. member proceeds to deal with that, I rise to ask for leave to suspend Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16 and 18, for today's sitting. I have already had the acquiescence of hon. members on the other side of the House who were present when the House began, and I now am asking for leave to make the motion for the suspension of the aforementioned Standing Orders.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I did not hear all of what the Hon. Minister said on his reasons for the suspension of Standing Orders.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. junior member for St. Joseph objecting?

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister was already seated and the hon. junior member for St. Joseph should have enquired from the hon. member who is next to him as to what took place before he arrived.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, I still feel that I should object on the ground that the Hon. Minister should stick to the Order Paper and the Rules, and that if there is time for Private Members' Business, we should make use of that time for doing our business.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir, may I proceed. As I have pointed out, I do not have to give notice other than to Your Honour that I propose to congratulate anybody. It has nothing to do with the Orders of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is according to Standing Order 8:

"Unless the House otherwise directs, the business of each sitting day shall be transacted in the following order:-

Mr. WALCOTT: There is no direction, Mr. Speaker; therefore, I presume that I can proceed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WEST INDIES CRICKET TEAM

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I feel sure all hon. members will agree that the Barbados House of Assembly in extending its congratulations to the victorious West Indies Cricket Team today is not doing anything which is unusual in circumstances such as this. All over the world countries recognise their national heroes in one form or another, and in Barbados and the West Indies in general, we are not blessed with the national heroes to the extent to which larger countries are so endowed. We are however pleased to know that in the West Indies Cricket Team we have men who have reached world standard — and by world standard, I mean the cricketing world — and the acclamation by the world in our cricket is something which we are pleased to record.

Mr. Frank Worrell and his team has revitalised cricket in the two big countries of Australia and the United Kingdom, and they have been accorded the sort of acclamation of those countries and countries throughout the world that it would be most inappropriate, now they are expected to visit Barbados, if the Barbados House of Assembly did not add its congratulations like the other parts of the world to our heroes.
12.35 p.m.

It is true that on a former occasion the success of the West Indian Cricket Team in England was of such a character that I believe I am right in stating that either a public holiday was proclaimed or there was some festivity arranged especially with regard to the Test at Lords. It is not therefore inappropriate that we should pass a Resolution congratulating these heroes. We are not in any way insular in our view, but as Barbadians we feel that on the West Indian Cricket Team Barbadians have made outstanding contributions. I feel that even in Jamaica where Mr. Frank Worrell is a Senator in the Legislature — and by now he is a citizen of Jamaica — it would not be amiss for me to state that the majority of us would know that when he left Barbados and went to Jamaica he had been an accomplished player, a player of the first rank. When he went to the United Kingdom in the year 1950 he went there as a member of the West Indian team from Barbados. It is not amiss for us to say that the captain of the team is a Barbadian, and our Barbadian members have made very outstanding contributions to the success of the tour, not to mention the names of our Wesley Hall, Charles Griffith and the inimitable Garfield Sobers.

Mr. Speaker, the West Indian Team was a team which is worthy of our congratulations, and we feel that in congratulating the Team in this Chamber as a representative Chamber of this country, we are voicing the sentiments of the people of Barbados in giving them our sincere congratulations and the congratulations of the country as a whole. (*Hear! Hear!*) I feel that the stand which the Government has taken to make their welcome here a warm and official one, and giving it the recognition which it deserves by placing a book for the public to sign, is an indication and a mark of our solidarity. I am suggesting that in that book there should be a page where all the members of this House of Assembly could have placed their names in a way signifying what the Members of the House feel about this matter. I feel, Sir, that I am expressing the feelings of all Barbadians when I say that it is in order for us to offer the team our congratulations and that we should do this on the eve of their arrival; it would be rather belated for us to do it after their arrival.

Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in moving the passing of the following Resolution which I feel will meet with the acclamation of all hon. members of this Chamber. The Resolution reads as follows:-

"WHEREAS this House has learnt with pleasure of the approaching visit of the victorious West Indian Cricket Team,

AND WHEREAS this House desires to mark the occasion with the expression of appropriate sentiments,

BE IT RESOLVED that this House places on record its warm congratulations to the Captain and Team on their outstanding contribution both to sportsmanship and commonwealth friendship,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded by Mr. Speaker to the Captain and each member of the touring team."

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this is a matter which should meet with the warm-hearted support of all members of this Chamber; I feel it is an honour to be able to congratulate such an outstanding, victorious team. I hope that all hon. members will give the Resolution the support which it deserves.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, in supporting the Resolution which has been so ably moved by the last speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Did the hon. member say "supporting" or "seconding"?

Mr. GODDARD: I mean, seconding the Resolution. We are small by international standards; our trade is but a drop in the bucket and we are not known to the outside world as other places are known; but if there is one thing which places us on the map and brings us consciously to the life of the common man in England and people in other places, it is the sport which we play in the fields in England. Cricket is our national game more so than it is in other islands. In other islands they rely on football, hockey and other things, but in Barbados, we concentrate on cricket. In Barbados cricket is our second love. There has been much brilliance, and we do not want to praise any particular members; we would praise all members comprising the West Indian Team. We do not wish to be insular in any way in saying that it was the Barbadian boys who did so much. I have only mentioned that in order to show the part which we in Barbados play in the West Indian team on cricket fields whether it be in England or in Australia.

Mr. Frank Worrell and his team have done extremely well in England not only in winning the rubber but also in the manner in which they conducted themselves on and off the field. That was admired by the Englishman as a great part of the cricket. That is how cricket should be played and they have re-introduced the spectacular manner of cricket which pleases the crowds who visit the fields. We, in Barbados, are proud of the results of the rubber and we congratulate the members of the team in every respect in coming back to the shores of the West Indies victoriously.

Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion when the West Indian team returned here victoriously, it was a very colourful return. They came back by ship, and they came in the *Lord Combermere* up the Careenage. There was something like a Royal Welcome. It is unfortunate that times have changed so much that the teams now return by air and land at Seawell. That takes away a lot from the colour of the reception which they would have in the City. However, we can still re-introduce colour to the reception by showing how much we admired their playing and appreciated the manner in which it was done. Mr. Speaker, I join wholeheartedly in seconding the motion for the passing of the Resolution which was so ably moved by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, and I hope we will have good luck when they visit us. I do hope that every aspect of the reception will come off in fine and welcome style.
12.45 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to make my contribution on behalf of the Government and the people of Barbados to the sentiments expressed by the hon. senior member for St. Peter and the hon. junior member for

Christ Church in congratulating the West Indies Cricket Team on their sparkling success in the last tour. So highly appreciative of their success has been the Government that it has provided a book in which will be recorded the names of all those admirers of the West Indians in the cricket field, and this book will be presented to the Captain of the Cricket Team on the eve of its departure from Barbados by the Premier, not only on behalf of the Premier but on behalf of all the people of Barbados.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter referred to the fact that there should be a page in this book set out for the members of the House of Assembly. That is so. There is a page on which the members of the House of Assembly can record their names in appreciation of the success of the Team, and this is on the first page. Ever since 1960-61 when the West Indies toured Australia, we saw the footprints of a glorious Team. We saw the upbuilding of a glorious Team led by what we may term the greatest of them all, and I refer to the leader of the Team, Mr. Frank Worrell. It was then that we became even more proud of the West Indian Cricket Team as it was, and although at that time we did not bring back the glory which we have brought back to the West Indies in 1963, we gained world-wide fame for our sportsmanship on the field. This is one of the international glories of which the West Indies can pride themselves. As a matter of fact, we may say it is the only international glory which this small nation, if we can call it a nation, has acquired. You will notice that the West Indian Cricket Team is doing what politicians failed to do. It is the only means of bringing our representative territories together in one body. Even when some of the individual territories withdrew from the Federation, yet continued that glorious body, the West Indies Cricket Team, and therefore we on this side of the House are proud of the Team.

We should like to join hon. members in expressing our congratulations to them and wish them continued success in their future endeavours. We should also like to go on record as congratulating the West Indies Captain on his retirement and wishing him many years of happiness in his retirement.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: 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 certain Resolutions to grant sums of money for the service of this Island.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1963-64 No. 17

Head 3 - Legislature - was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the item under Head 3 relates to the expenses of the Boundaries Commission for travelling, stationery, advertising and other contingencies to a total of \$1,144.

I beg to move that Head 3 stand part.

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

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

Head 5 - Judiciary - was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, under Head 5, recently the Law Library was re-organised, and the Reece Library to the value of some \$15,000 worth of books was acquired, and extensive renovations carried out to the rooms which now house the Law Library, and I should say that we now have something which can be called a Law Library for the first time. One of the rooms is actually air-conditioned which is a facility which even I do not enjoy anywhere in the Government Headquarters.

It was one of the conditions under which the books were actually acquired that there should be some kind of plaque placed in an appropriate position in the Reece Library to demonstrate the source from which these books were actually acquired.
12.55 p.m.

The amount which we have here under this Head, \$50, is to be the cost of that plaque. I, therefore, beg to move that Head 5 — Judiciary — stand part.

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

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

HEAD 6 — LEGAL

Head 6 — Legal — was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Under Head 6, is a supplementary of \$300 to make up the amount for the purchase of law books.

I beg to move that Head 6 — Legal — stand part.

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

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

HEAD 39 — MEDICAL (1) DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES

Head 39 — Medical (1) Director of Medical Services — was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, under Head 39 — Medical — the amount of \$10,378 is needed to complete the campaign against polio. It is for the purchase of oral vaccine. I think we have debated this question of the polio campaign quite extensively in this Chamber and it will not be necessary for me to enlarge on the observations which have already been made by hon. members. I think we can say with some degree of confidence that the campaign has been successful although it got off to an inauspicious start.

I, therefore, beg to move that Head 39 — Medical (1) Director of Medical Services — stand part.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to open a debate on infectious diseases, but I am going to stretch this a little further in order to make this point. Last Tuesday, I understand that we were spared from the ravages of a serious disaster which unfortunately has struck some of our houses, though not many, and there was some damage to some people in this island which might cause infectious diseases to start. I do not know what is the cause of poliomyelitis. However, I feel that some effort can be made to give some sort of immediate relief to such persons whose homes have been damaged.

I made a visit to people in my constituency and I found a house which was completely destroyed, and the person who lived in it had to evacuate it and is now finding refuge with someone else. It is true the numbers were not great, but it is right to ask to what extent do you look at it, whether it was a gale or a hurricane, and you take re-

sponsibility for rehabilitating the people. I want to know if this person would be rehabilitated before any infectious disease sets in. I do not know if this can cause poliomyelitis, but I have stretched this in order to make this statement. What is the Government's intention in relation to this matter?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The answer is that the polio campaign and hurricane disaster are not necessarily connected. I do not know of any connection at all, and I really did not find myself prepared to deal with that although I may know of something to be done, and I do not think it is quite fair to put a question like that under a Supplementary Resolution for the completion of the polio campaign. I know that some infectious and contagious diseases can arise out of a hurricane because the breakdown of water supplies may give rise to epidemics of one kind or the other. However, I have never heard that poliomyelitis may be consequential to the visitation of a hurricane.

If the hon. member would like to put a question at another time on that matter of which he spoke, I would be pleased to answer it. But to come in here and ask what is done about a particular house in St. Peter, I am quite unprepared about that because the Government has not passed any Act on what should be done arising out of a hurricane. As far as meteorologists put it, a hurricane is any movement of the earth's atmosphere, commonly known as wind development, from one place to another and the liquid atmosphere which is comprised of several gases which reaches a force of 60 statute miles an hour and upwards. There is also something known as "Bouffers Scale" by which the angle and strength of the wind up to gale and hurricane force is measured.

As far as this Government is concerned, its policy has nothing to do with the strength of the wind when it comes to rehabilitating the people. It depends on your ability or inability to rehabilitate yourself and whether you have suffered any damage as a result of any act of God or the Queen's enemies. A lot of people in Barbados do not seem to realise what a hurricane is. Winds over 60 miles per hour are likely to cause great damage to life and property, but where the winds are under 60 miles per hour, they can be endured.

The question that Head 39 — Medical (1) Director of Medical Services — was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 41 — SOCIAL WELFARE

Head 41 — Social Welfare — was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, Head 39 includes Item 41, Social Welfare and Item 47 under which is West Indian Student Centre and Imperial War Graves Commission. I do not know if hon. members were sufficiently aware of that. Under this Head, there are probably four distinct items, and I take it that all these items were passed; but in view of the way in which the Head was presented, I would not oppose a re-committal of Head 39 in order to give hon. members the opportunity of speaking on this motion.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Hon. Premier should be the person to do that.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I cannot make two motions. This Head is actually passed already, and it would be in place for any hon. member to get up and make a motion for re-committal.
1.05 p.m.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I think the error has been made at the Table by the Clerk, because he calls these Heads Item by Item and we were dealing with Item 39. No other item was called. Even when we deal with the Head we deal with the Item, and the Head does not always deal with all the items.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. It is not the duty of the Clerk to call the Items. When the Clerk calls

Head 39, any hon. member can speak on any Item under that Head. The hon. member dealt with Item 39 first, nobody else rose to speak on any other item at all and you, Mr. Chairman, put the question. I admit that the way in which this particular Resolution has been printed with the Items having equal prominence with the Heads, may be misleading.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. senior member for St. Peter willing to make a motion for the re-committal of this Head?

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the Head "Medical" should not be set out under the same Head as the Head "Subsidies and Grants," and you could not have "Subsidies and Grants" under the Head "Medical". I do not have to ask for a re-committal of this Head. In the Estimates you will see that the Head "Subsidies and Grants" is a Head by itself. When you are subsidising rice, "Subsidies and Grants" is not a Head. I think that you will have to change this Head and you will find that Item 41 and Item 47 are not items at all; they are Heads.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I have drawn the attention of hon. members to the way in which these things have been printed. Strictly speaking, we have Head 39 and the two Items which are obviously wrong. We should have here Head 41 and Head 47, but you will have to ask for the re-committal of Head 39. I cannot ask for it. The presumption is that things are right until it has been drawn to the attention of the Chair that the Items are wrong. It is obvious that they are wrong. We have passed Head 39 which includes these Items, but you cannot say that you are speaking on Item 41 as Head 41 because it has been passed under Head 39. You have to re-commit Head 39 and ask that these things be recommitted.

Mr. WALCOTT: Head 39 calls for an amount of \$10,378 to be voted and that deals with the control of infectious diseases. What I am pointing out is that Item 41 "Social Welfare" as set out here, is something to supplement the Estimates for 1963-64, but there is no Item 41 in the Estimates for 1963-64 as Social Welfare. There is Head 41 "Social Welfare" and there is no Item 47 "Subsidies and Grants." These are Heads of the Estimates, not Items.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. You cannot say that we cannot accept them if we pass them. You have to re-commit the Head and split it up in separate Heads. The mistake has got to be drawn to the attention of the Chair; you cannot just assume that a mistake was made.

Mr. LYNCH: I beg to move that Head 39 be re-committed.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I beg to second the motion for the re-committal of this Head. The Head should be re-committed; otherwise the Other Place will send it back to us, if we pass it in this way. The hon. senior member for St. Peter is quite correct. Although the Head has been passed, I am seconding the motion that it be recommitted and let it be put in order.

The question that Head 39 be recommitted was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, in Head 39 there is a clerical error. Item 41 "Social Welfare," Item 47 "Subsidies and Grants," should be changed to read Head 41 and Head 47 respectively. There is to be one item under Head 39 "Medical," whereas there are three items appearing under Head 39. I am therefore asking leave to make the amendment changing Item 41 and Item 47 in order for them to read Head 41 and Head 47 respectively.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Premier is asking leave to make this amendment and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted the Hon. Premier. *(After a pause)* There being no objection, leave is granted.
1.15 p.m.

Head 39 - Medical (1) Director of Medical Services - was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, under Item 39 - Control of Infectious Diseases, the amount originally voted in the Estimates was \$10,000 and supplementary provision was made for \$25,000, and a further amount of \$10,378 is now required.

I therefore beg to move that Head 39 stand part.

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

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

Head 41 - Social Welfare - was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 41 stand part.

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

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, on this Head I should like to enquire whether the services of expert coaches will in time be used for the teaching of tennis at the Garrison Courts. Some of us are very much exercised in mind when we consider that there are some 45,000 school children who are supposed to play on the four courts, and that as far as we understand they will be at the tender mercies of a mattress maker and an ex-fast bowler. We wonder whether this will redound to the good of these children if these people are going to pass on their inadequate skills to these defenceless children.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would say that this is a very laudible scheme, the courts at the Savannah. The Head in itself is a Head for the development of sport. I was away when the Estimates were passed, and I have not discussed this memorandum on the development of sport. It is a very laudible thing; but I think if you are going to develop sport, there should be a policy that you can aim at, and you should try to co-ordinate your work and not do it on an *ad hoc* basis. I have been told that it is the intention of Government to take up the grass courts at the Garrison and put down cement courts. Now, I would say this, Mr. Chairman; if you do not have a grass court, it is better to build a cement court; but if you have a grass court, it is madness of the highest magnitude to destroy the grass court for a cement court. You can build a cement court anywhere, but you cannot build a grass court anywhere.

At Wesley Hall, the school to which I went, you can put down a cement court, but not a grass court; and then you have to bear in mind that if you are really going to develop tennis, there are grass courts at Wimbledon, and if anybody in Barbados has any ambition to be a tennis player, he will look to Wimbledon just as a cricketer looks to going to Lords. I would say that if you are going to have cement courts, you should have grass courts in addition. If you have land at the Garrison, on which you can put down hard courts, you can do so. To the tennis expert the ball comes off slower on a hard court than on a grass court, and when they go and play on a grass court, the bounce of the ball and the speed beats them and they have to take a little time to acclimatise themselves. If I do not agree with the hon. junior member for Bridgetown in the description of the people who have to do the coaching, yet I agree with him that if you are going to develop sport, the Government should be prepared to pay the cost. Coaching is an essential ingredient if you want to develop sport, and you cannot be cheese-paring about the value of a good coach. I think Barbados and other territories have paid a good price for having coaches. We have our own coach in cricket in Everton Weekes, and in British Guiana where Bookers had Clyde Walcott, you have an example of what these two people have done. The quality of the coaches of these two territories has produced the result found in this West Indian Team, because without any mistake the British Guiana Contingent and the Barbados contingent formed the nucleus of the winning personnel of these two teams, and they happen to be the two strongest teams in the territories today. I feel that sport and tennis at the Garrison is a very good thing; but on the development

of sport I would say to the Government that it can put hard courts at all of the schools in the Island. You can go to Harrison College and put down a hard court or at Combermere and the Girls' Schools and Boys' Schools and even at elementary schools; but let us be quite frank; do not be too ambitious. There is no point in having people make a pilgrimage to the Garrison to be taught to play lawn tennis up there on that basis. I agree that it forms a good central court, and you should preserve it for your national tournaments. Do not allow it to get shabby and let there be this reflection of people saying "when we had it" and "we" forms a different context, and now that they have it, it looks like an old tumbled-down thing like some of the playing fields. Let us show to them, whoever they are, that we can keep it in as good a condition and make it lovely for everybody to use.

I would say to the Minister concerned that he can have hard courts made at some of the schools that are going to play lawn tennis; but speaking in the context of our economy, lawn tennis is not a national game. There is no point in having tennis courts at elementary schools where you have children of eleven and fourteen and where parents are struggling to get something into their heads, because they are not going to buy a racket for their children, and you cannot make a racquet as you can make other things. It is true that there are some improvised board racquets for road tennis; but if you are going to play lawn tennis, you are going to play it; and as soon as you do that, you begin to carry the joke too far if you want to be serious. I will say that we cannot be over-ambitious. We cannot put lawn tennis courts at all the elementary schools in the Island, but they will gradually build up this game, and at your aided secondary schools and grammar schools where you can put a hard court to be utilised for netball and other games, there is nothing wrong in building at these schools. I would say, without any particular longing for the ground to remain what it is, but for something of a national pride, that I feel that the grass courts at the Garrison should be preserved, and that the Government should undertake to get an excellent curator, and not regard that job of a curator or groundsman is just a matter of rolling a roller on the ground, but someone who knows something about preserving the ground in excellent condition for the playing of lawn tennis just as we have Kensington Oval. I do not like the suggestion that is being made that when the state or public ownership takes over anything, it gets this sad reflection that public ownership is inimical to progress, and that when the public owns something it is desecrated and nothing comes of it, but when private people own it, it means they can preserve these things.

1.25 p.m.

It is not good for us; and I feel the Government should be well advised to preserve the grass courts, and if they want to build additional courts or if any of them is so bad that they cannot preserve them any longer and they are forced to use hard courts, to let that be an examination by all the experts who are in the know. We know that you cannot play on a hard court as you can play on the grass courts. You have national tennis sometimes here and you cannot have everybody coming and then to find the difficulty that you do not have the excellent Mecca for lawn tennis. Then, some players are going to want to play on a court which can enhance their ability. I appeal to the Government not to turn those tennis courts into hard courts, but to preserve them in grass courts. Government can go to the existing schools and other areas which are suitable and make hard courts for tennis.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy to see that the Government has seen fit to collect this 37,820 square feet of land which was formerly loaned to the Savannah Tennis Club and place it under the control of the Ministry of Social Services so that youngsters may be able to be coached in that game. Being happy about this matter, Mr. Chairman, I have no alternative but to support the Resolution, but I am prepared to say that although matters of very wide consideration have been given to some people in some parts of the Island, in other parts very little has been given, if any at all, to other people.

You will see, Mr. Chairman, that there are some parishes in this Island which up to now do not have a playing field for the people in those parishes. I think the Hon. Minister of Social Services when he goes through the parishes will find that the only playing field which we have in St. Joseph is on the public highway which is very dangerous to the youngsters who some time or the other in trying to catch a ball will find themselves under a moving vehicle. I think we should urge the Minister or the Government to consider the possibility of giving the parish of St. Joseph a proper playing field in the very near future.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for St. Peter almost took my thunder away. He said almost everything which I intended to say. The only thing which he did not stress was that instead of interfering with these grass courts at the Garrison Savannah, we still have some scrap iron alongside those courts and we can remove them and find sufficient space to build two more courts. I do not think those guns which are only for ornamental purposes serve any useful purpose now. We can remove some of those guns or carry them a little further back so as to get space for two more tennis courts. I do not think we would have to move all of them. We can move some of them and I am sure we can place two hard courts there.

As the hon. senior member for St. Peter has said, at most of the Secondary Modern Schools we can find room enough to place one hard court for tennis, but we must preserve the six or four grass courts which we have at the Garrison Savannah.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Sir, on a point of order, there are five courts, not four or six.

Mr. BOXILL: Well, the five courts. We can use the courts at the Garrison specifically as grass courts. We know that the Brandon Trophy and those other Cup Finals in tennis are never played for on hard courts. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister not to interfere with the grass courts at the Garrison Savannah; but if you want hard courts, you can go to the back of those courts where the guns are and remove them further backwards and place two hard courts next to the courts which you now have.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, referring to the manner in which these courts may be developed as far as changing them from grass to hard courts I do not know very much about that; therefore, that to me is not vital; but I am very much in favour of the idea of the Government doing something for the development of sports in the Island generally.

This Resolution seeks to develop sports generally and I think the primary object is mainly for the acquisition of this land for the coaching of children. I think, so far as the location of the Garrison is concerned, that these tennis courts could never serve for coaching the children of all the parishes, but may to some extent serve for the coaching of children of the parish of St. Michael and to some extent the parish of Christ Church. But Barbados has a lot of children and they are not connected with the parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church alone. I, therefore, wonder how soon such development would extend to the rural parishes like St. Joseph. I wonder when some playing field would come to St. Peter. As a matter of fact, there are schools in Speightstown which have no playing field at all. I do know that it was the Government's intention to spread playing fields all over the country — in every parish. I know as far as cricket is concerned, that the Social Welfare Department sponsors school competitions; but right now very many people in the Northern parishes have found it very difficult to develop their sports through the lack of playing fields, and sport to the youngsters is very vital indeed. Government in its wisdom may be thinking that they are buying this land for certain developments.

1.35 p.m.

Personally, I do not think that this matter should be pinned down to a tennis lawn. I do not know at this stage what are the details; I was not in time to hear the Hon. Min-

ister make his speech on this Resolution, but I can tell the Hon. Minister and his Cabinet that if, as the hon. member for St. Joseph has hinted, he takes a ride into the country parishes he would be more *au fait* with the fate of the rural parishes, and he would realise that the lack of playing fields would not promote the encouragement and development of sport generally. It is not merely or it is not necessarily lawn tennis or hard court tennis, but it is a question of sport generally. I think that what accounts for the poor showing of Barbadians where sport is concerned... (ASIDES).

The CHAIRMAN knocked the gavel.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, I know that you are finding some difficulty in hearing me because hon. members are taking part in other exercises. I was saying, Sir, that I would like to see the extension of these amenities brought to the country side. I appreciate what the Social Welfare Department is doing at present with the Boys' Schools; but I do not know if the Girls' Schools are benefiting at all. There is a sort of inter-school competition obtaining among the primary schools and it is extending to the country districts; but there is no sponsorship for the primary schools, and as far as field and track events are concerned, I feel that we have too much concentration on Bridgetown.

I would like to see the lands for the existing grammar schools put to better advantage, and I would like to see something more done for the country parishes. I would give the Resolution my support; but I say that there are not enough playing fields in the country. I do not know if that is because of the use of the centres, which are mainly for public dances, and that that has got under the skin of the Government, and therefore they are marking time. These centres have not developed beyond being places of public amusement; but there is no excuse for that. It is not only the youths who get the benefit of the erection of these centres, but the grown-ups as well. What I will continue to press for and put before the mind of the public is that up to the present time there are not enough playing fields in the country districts except in the case of the parish of St. James where a man like Mr. Ronald Tree has given playing fields at his expense; but there are no real playing fields in the country districts. I feel that more could be done and much more should continue to be done in that direction.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I should like to reply to the remarks of the hon. junior member of St. Peter first. He refers to the fact that, with the exception of the parish of St. James, there is no playing field in the Northern parishes. Well, the hon. member does not represent the people in the Northern parishes because I can remember that there is a playing field at Rock Vale, St. Lucy, and there is also one at Belleplaine in the parish of St. Andrew. However, Sir, I should like to allay the fears of the hon. representatives of the northern parishes, particularly those who happen to represent the parish of St. Peter, in saying that the whole question of playing fields is engaging the attention of the Government. Right now we are negotiating for the purchase of land at Alleyndale in the parish of St. Peter and at Gall Hill in the parish of St. John for the provision of two playing fields. The hon. members for St. Joseph know that I pass through the parish of St. Joseph quite often and I know that there is no playing field there. Those hon. members can rest assured that we, on this side, will do all that we can in order to assist people with playing fields. The difficulty in the parish of St. Joseph is in getting a spot of land; and if hon. members can assist us in pointing out a suitable spot, I will see to it that the parish of St. Joseph gets a playing field.

The members of the last Government went down to St. Peter and decided to buy a swamp for a playing field. I do not think that they really wanted to put a playing field in St. Peter. The hon. junior member for St. Peter was a member of the last Government Party at the time; and instead of bemoaning the idea now, he should be bemoaning it, because he should have pointed out to the then Government that they were wasting their time then. However, we have been working hard on the question of playing fields. We have had quite a lot of trouble in trying to find a site in St. Peter. We have found a site and negotiations are being carried out for the

purchase of that site. I do not think that the hon. junior member for St. Peter will be bemoaning anything any longer.

The hon. junior member for St. Peter also referred to the fact that we should not only be thinking of cricket but also of other lines of sport; and I may say that that is why this Item 17, Development of Sport, was included in the Estimates. Unfortunately, we did not have funds in our hands when we took over the courts at the Garrison Savannah and we had to use funds which were provided for the ground staff for the maintenance of the courts there; we were unable to do what we had intended to do for the promotion of the minor sports. That is why we have come back for this supplementary vote in order to push forward minor sports.
1.45 p.m.

We do not only concentrate on cricket. We are determined to promote all forms of sport in Barbados, and we are even considering the establishment of a separate Sports Department where we will be able to do more for sports. Also to allay the fears of the hon. junior member for the City who, I know, is a keen sportsman — as a matter of fact he is responsible for turning me into a sportsman myself and he knows that I am as keen about sports as he is — we will do all we can on this side to promote sports. I do not like his referring to certain persons as sex-fast bowlers or mattress-makers, but I should like to point out to the hon. junior member for Bridgetown.....

Mr. LYNCH: On a point of order, I do not think of pleasing hon. members opposite when I am speaking.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I did not hear that point of order. When our separate Sports Department is established, the hon. junior member for Bridgetown will note that we will have provision for Specialist coaches, and when the Government finds it fit or necessary to have a specialist coach in lawn tennis, they will have a specialist coach; when they find it necessary to have a specialist coach in athletics, the same thing will happen. There will be provision for specialist coaches and these will be appointed according to the needs of the country.

With regard to the question raised by the hon. senior member for St. Peter, there are five courts at the Garrison. The requirements for the Brandon Trophy and other Trophies are two or three grass courts. I should like to point out to that member that even if the Government provides hard courts at the Garrison, not all the grass courts will be destroyed. The appropriate number of grass courts necessary for the holding of the Brandon Trophy and other trophies will remain.

Hon. members were a bit concerned about the extension of sports to the country districts. If some members who would like answers to questions were to listen, they would not be forced to ask certain questions which have already been answered, and I am referring to points made by the hon. junior member for St. Peter. The hon. junior member for St. Peter has to pass by Trents, and he will notice there that Government is beginning to put one leg forward in the provision of a Children's Corner. That Children's Corner will be opened in a few days' time, and that is what we intend to do in other parishes. We intend to make the fullest use of the playing fields not only for cricket, but for all forms of sports and entertainment for the youth of the country.

The hon. junior member for Bridgetown referred to 45,000 school children being coached at the Garrison. The hon. member knows as well as I do that of the 45,000 school children, although cricket is a national game, you do not find 22,000 of them playing cricket. Lawn tennis is not half as popular in Barbados as cricket, and the hon. junior member for Bridgetown is quite aware of the fact that he would not even find 5,000 of the 45,000 being potential for lawn tennis or would be interested in playing lawn tennis. We have sent around to the schools, and we have only been sent in small numbers of children who would be interested in lawn tennis at the schools, though there are enough to satisfy our requirements for carrying out the coaching sessions at the

Garrison, and enough to convince us that there is need for it; but nothing like the 45,000 to which the hon. junior member for Bridgetown referred. I think I have answered all the points, but if there is anything which I had omitted to answer, I am quite willing to answer if hon. members would mention them again.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, the Hon. Minister did more than attempt an answer to certain questions. He went quite beyond the Resolution to suggest to me that I should not bemoan or that I should not bewail the present state of things vis-a-vis the provision for playing fields for the parish of St. Peter, and in that context he made reference to a past Government and of what part I should have played with that past Government in providing a playing field for the parish of St. Peter. There he found himself completely beyond his depth, and he is talking something he knows absolutely nothing about, and he should seek my information if he really wanted to know. I would not attempt to plague this Committee in telling them the various exercises I have gone through as far as convincing the Government of which I was once a member in relation to providing a playing field in St. Peter. I was once Chairman of a Committee appointed by the St. Peter Vestry, now defunct, relative to playing fields. I played my part in drawing up a memorandum which was then presented to the Colonial Secretary. I played my part again with my colleague during the regime of the last Government with the then Minister of Social Services in going all over St. Peter considering playing field sites, and what I have to say about the efforts of the Committee and those who were interested is something anybody can know. It leaves my political career without a blemish as far as that is concerned; but because a thing was not done then, does it stand to reason that I should not bewail when the hint from the Minister means that I should say nothing more about it to this Government? I say, Mr. Chairman, that he went quite beside himself in replying to me, because if he thought he was entertaining the House in throwing dust in my eyes, he was wasting time and perfectly missing the bus and showing his ignorance, because he does not know what were my efforts in connection with a playing field for St. Peter and in connection with my efforts and struggles with the last Government. So when the hon. member does not know something he should not bring it up; it makes him look, in my opinion, not the politician he should look.

1.55 p.m.

Whatever this Government is attempting to do in the realm of that sport, I am firmly behind them, but the fact remains. Talking about the Government thinking of putting playing fields in a swamp, that is a controversial matter. They are so-called experts who do not agree with it. He may get one opinion on that and somebody would give another. Let us forget that the previous Government was trying to put down a playing field in a swamp. Let us forget that, and talk about what is needed now. My stand now is what it was then. During the Vestry system, I was connected with a Playing Field Committee. We had put forward a site in Boscobelle and another in Mile-and-a Quarter for a playing field and those things were turned down, not by me. We had other sites which came before us for a decision. The hon. senior member for St. Peter and I along with officers of the Social Welfare Department had many excursions visiting various sites. Why should he tell me I should beware? I will only tell him that what he is ignorant of, he should shut his mouth about.

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Chairman, I must say that I welcome some of the explanations given by the Hon. Minister of Social Services. He has mentioned that some negotiations are being made for the parishes of St. Peter and St. John but no negotiations have been made for the parish of St. Joseph. The Hon. Minister has also said that he would be glad if representatives of the parish would show him somewhere; but I would tell him that both my colleague and myself would be willing to point out to the Government places where they can buy land if they need it. This is a day when politicians can no longer fool the youth of the country. They have to face facts, and I would like to know how long I would be hearing that the Government would be interested about seeing about a playing field for the parish of St. Joseph.

Mr. SMITH: Before the Hon. Minister replies, I would just like to say that he said that he would like my colleague or myself to point out to him or let him know where he can get some land in St. Joseph. He can get some now if he goes up Parris Hill just above Blackman's Yard and go into Redland. If he goes up there, he will see a spot of sour grass which he can buy, but he must go very quickly. I had my eyes on two parcels of land, before, and I told the the Government about them; but as you know, Government works very slowly, and when the Government was ready, both parcels of land which were then in pasture were under cultivation of canes.

I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to let us go up there this afternoon or tomorrow morning, because if we wait until next week, canes may be growing there. If the Hon. Minister does not want to associate himself with us or with me especially, I am appealing to him to go right away up Parris Hill near above Blackman's Yard and go into Redland and he will see the place to which I am referring on the left. Let him work fast and sharp, and let us get that place for a playing field for the parish of St. Joseph. You should get it cheaply because at present it is growing grass.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to hear what a struggle and a fight the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and the hon. junior member for St. Peter had with their Party to get a playing field.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. I did not mention that I had any struggle or any fight with my Party because if I had any struggle or fight with them, I would have thrown them down because none of them was as strong as I. I had no struggle or fight.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Then, I take it that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was not interested in having a playing field for St. Joseph; otherwise he would have fought for it. It is only now he has awakened from his slumber and sleep. If the hon. junior member for St. Peter had pointed out in his remarks at first that he had those struggles with the last Government I would have sympathised with him, and I would not have had the occasion to mention the wailing or the mourning of which he spoke.

The question that Head 41 - Social Welfare - stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

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

2.05 p.m.

On re-assembling,

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I should like to draw to your attention the fact that there is no quorum present and I am asking that the bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thank the hon. junior member for St. Michael for drawing that matter to my attention. Let the bell be rung.

On the bell being rung, a quorum was obtained.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. Replies have been laid to the following Questions: Question No. 83, standing in the name of the hon. Leader of the Opposition, who, I observe is not now in his place; Question No. 89, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew whose seat is vacant at the moment; Question No. 115, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, who also is not in his place; Question No. 118 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, who is also not in his place and Question No. 125, standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas. I observe that that hon. member is in his place.

DISSATISFACTION AMONG SOME ISLAND CONSTABLES

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

Is Government aware that there is much dissatisfaction amongst some of the Island's Constables with regard to the pay they receive for making an arrest as well as the amount they get when they have to attend Court?

2. Will the Minister make an investigation in an effort to bring about harmony amongst the said persons complained of?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 125/1962 asked on the 21st May, 1963, by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas relating to dissatisfaction among some Island Constables is as follows:-

"No Sir; but I am informed that some Island Constables have questioned the interpretation of the Regulations under which they are paid, which provide for a fee of 96 cents legally apprehending any offender or conveying to prison any offender who has been legally apprehended by another person, and a fee of 72 cents for each subsequent day's attendance at Court in respect of any person who has been legally apprehended or conveyed to prison."

Mr. SPEAKER: I observe that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas is now in his place and, as I have already mentioned, there is Question No. 118 to which the answer has been laid. That Question stands in the name of the hon. member.

REPAIRS TO ARTHUR SEAT ROAD

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

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 118/1962 asked on the 23rd April, 1963, by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas relative to the repairs to Arthur Seat Road is as follows:-

"The Northern District Council has stated that provision for repairs to this road in question has been included in its Highways Programme for 1963-64 and that these repairs will be effected shortly."

Mr. Speaker, if you will permit me to trespass on your province, I think I have before now drawn the attention of the Chair to the fact that matters relating to Local Government Authorities are not strictly within the competence of Government Ministers to deal with. We answer these questions as a matter of courtesy, and it would be very much appreciated if in future these questions are very carefully screened and vetted so that we do not find ourselves trespassing on the parochial boundaries of the Local Government Councils.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite appreciate the remarks of the Hon. Premier, but he may well have noted that in this Question the phrase "Use his good offices" has been used. I gather that every other source has been tried.
2.45 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I should say that it is only when hon. members have exhausted all their other remedies and their patience that they should ask Government Ministers to use their good offices to do something.

Mr. SPEAKER: Patience may be exhausted before other remedies. I would emphasise "other remedies."

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: May I remind Your Honour that the answer to Question No. 115 is ready? The hon. member was not in his place when you called upon him.

Mr. SPEAKER: When I called Question Nos. 115 and 118, neither hon. member was then in his place. Since then both hon. members have resumed their seats. I have called Question No. 118 and that has been dealt with. I will now revert to Question No. 115.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows:-

"The Government has caused an investigation to be carried out by the Controls Department into the increases in the wholesale and retail prices of rum and the reasons therefor. The Government is not prepared to state that the increase in the price is justifiable."

Mr. SPEAKER: Question No. 132 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, who, I observe, is not instantly in his place.

Question No. 133 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Government aware that the road along Arthur Seat in the parish of St. Thomas is very muddy after a rainfall and is in need of repair?

2. Will Government explore the possibility of having the said road repaired for the benefit of the people living in the district complained of as soon as possible?

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

"The repair of the road along Arthur Seat in the parish of Saint Thomas is under the control of the Northern District Council.

I have been informed by the Local Government Commissioner that it is the intention of the Northern District Council to carry out the necessary maintenance to the road during its current financial year."

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary to that Question, I appreciate the Minister's remarks because since this Question was asked on 18th June....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member proceeding to a Question?

Mr. BATSON: Since this Question was asked on 18th June, repairs have been done and the matter has amicably been settled; so I think what the Minister has said I can appreciate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member proceed to the supplementary question?

Mr. BATSON: Is the Minister aware that since this Question has been asked repairs have been executed?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, the reply to that Question is "Yes, Sir."

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that there are no other Replies which have been laid, and we will accordingly revert to Private Members' Business.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, I wonder if I may have leave of the House to give notice of two Resolutions of which I forewarned Your Honour before the House started today.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a fact. The Hon. Minister of Education did envisage that he would be seeking leave of the House to give notice some time today, as he was not ready at the normal time, of certain matters. If there is no objection, I will grant the Hon. Minister of Education that leave. There is no objection audible and accordingly the hon. junior member for St. Lucy may proceed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the passing of the following Resolution:-

"WHEREAS this House has heard with profound sorrow of the suffering caused to the peoples of the territory of Martinique by Hurricane "Edith",

BE IT RESOLVED that this House expresses sympathy with those who have either been bereaved, or injured, or rendered homeless in that territory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contents of this Resolution be forthwith communicated to the Government of Martinique."

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there another Resolution? Let the hon. member proceed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I also beg to give notice of a Resolution in similar terms with reference to another territory. It reads as follows:-

"WHEREAS this House has heard with profound sorrow of the suffering caused to the people of the territory of Tobago by Hurricane "Flora",

BE IT RESOLVED that this House expresses sympathy with those who have either been bereaved, or injured, or rendered homeless in that territory,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contents of this Resolution be forthwith communicated to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago."

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member desirous of proceeding at this meeting with these Resolutions? If so, I will give instructions that copies be made and circulated if it is the wish of the House that they be dealt with as urgent matters in view of their content.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution really follows in form the messages of condolence we accept as read, because they do not contain controversial matters, and if the House will indulge itself in these matters, it need not insist on having copies.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member proceed with the motion.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, it was only a week ago that the people of this territory nearly had the experience of being brought to great inconvenience and possibly tremendous suffering by Hurricane "Edith". Fortunately for them it by-passed this territory, but it was too much to hope that all of our neighbours and fellow citizens in these territories and this region would have enjoyed a similar escape, and consequently we were very disturbed to learn that in the course of the night following our alarm, it had struck with tremendous force the French territory of Martinique as well as one of our closely connected sister territories of Dominica. Fortunately for the people of Dominica, although they had suffered some material damage, there was no loss of life. It was otherwise with Martinique. We have been reliably informed that the casualties there, though not very numerous, were mostly among children and young people. This House has always as a matter of sympathy expressed its sorrow at these calamities, because we live in a region where we can expect any year in this season to be similarly visited.

2.55 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, we do not look forward — indeed, we try not to have hysterics — but at the same time when there is trouble, it touches all because we are all involved. The people of Martinique have suffered tremendously from this upheaval of nature and it would be comforting to them to know that the people of Barbados sympathise with them.

I, therefore, have very great pleasure in moving the following motion:-

WHEREAS this House has heard with profound sorrow of the suffering caused to the peoples of the territory of Martinique by Hurricane "Edith";

BE IT RESOLVED that this House expresses sympathy with those who have either been bereaved, or injured, or rendered homeless in that territory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contents of this Resolution be forthwith communicated to the Government of Martinique.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I beg to second the motion.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I should just like to inform hon. members that on the day following the hurricane a telegram was sent from the Government of Barbados on behalf of its people to the Government of Martinique; and although it would not be out of place for this House to express sympathy to the people of Martinique in the manner which has been outlined by the Hon. Minister of Education, I think hon. members of this House would like to know that some token of sympathy has already been extended to members of that community.

Sir, while I am on that subject, I should like to make one or two observations on the ills which now beset us. We have in this territory a Hurricane Organisation which was formulated when we had the parochial system, and in those days the Colonial Secretary used to be head of the organisation.

I would say that it is an act of Providence that we had what I can only describe as a near miss on the occasion of the passing of Hurricane "Edith". There are one or two things which I must say at this juncture which may seem a bit harsh, but there are things which must be said if we are to avoid any great calamity in this island in the future.

The first thing which I should like to say, which may be hard to accept, is that the Hurricane Organisation is now under the direct authority and control of the Premier of the Island, and therefore, I am sure that if anything went wrong which can be circumvented by any planning, I would have to share the responsibility for any neglect on the part of anyone of my party or officer of the Government or the Hurricane Organisation itself.

When I said that it is indeed something to be grateful for that we had a near miss, not only were we grateful that the island was not laid waste with the full force of the hurricane, but it gave me and the people of this organisation an opportunity of seeing the defects of a system which, had the hurricane struck this island — I have no hesitation to say that apart from the warning given out, there was absolutely no organisation during the course of the visitation to deal with the disaster which may have befallen the inhabitants of this island.

I have, therefore, completely revamped the Hurricane Organisation because I have discovered that the Hurricane Organisation was an organisation which did not cater for the eventualities during the course of the emergency, but was what I would describe as a scavenging organisation. I told several officials whom I had with me on the following day that the Hurricane Organisation was a scavenging organisation whose work could have been properly performed by the Bridgetown City Council, the Northern or the Southern District Council and its operations which were set up under part of the Colonial setup provided that these people sit down in their homes and batten themselves in their homes with their family surrounded by telephones, and after the emergency was passed then the Organisation

was supposed to take over — that is to say, the Councillors came out of their boroughs, the army would then be called out and the Department of Highways and Transport armed like an army of occupation with their axes and pickaxes would then try to clear away the debris.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: What point of order has he risen on?

Mr. LYNCH: I do not have to tell the Premier. I would like to correct any implications which may have been made that members of the Bridgetown City Council were not at their posts. I telephoned the Commissioner of Police from my post, and he told me that he did not see people from the Central Government; but the personnel of the City Council was at the time at their posts when the hurricane was approaching.

Mr. SPEAKER: I agree that that was not a point of order, but I had to listen to it first.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown is always anxious to clear himself and members of the Bridgetown City Council. I am stating a fact. During the time that the hurricane was in progress or there was a state of emergency, apart from the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown illegally breaking open the doors of one of the Government school buildings in one of his political stunts, and breaking open an empty school for no reason at all, neither the Bridgetown City Council, the Northern District Council, the Southern District Council or anyone else was expected to be in a position of alertness where they would be at a point where they could be of use, where they could be reached when something was taking place.

This whole thing has got to be run like a military organisation. You cannot have a Hurricane Relief Organisation which is preoccupied with scavenging exercises. I am only drawing this to hon. members. There are people in this community of an extremely ghoulish turn of mind, and I am sure that most of them are within the ranks of the Bridgetown City Council and they much deplore the fact that the hurricane did not take place so that they could get an opportunity to play Santa Claus. I have heard people on the other hand criticising the Government and saying that the Government brought the hurricane but God turned it away. We dismiss that kind of statement with the contempt which it deserves, but I think the position should be made clear as it is today.
3.05 p.m.

The Hurricane Relief Organization, as from last Wednesday is no longer a scavenging set up; it is not the Bridgetown City Council Scavenging Department. Every officer, including the doctors, who pride themselves of being ready to dispense large quantities of biscuits and cheese from Hurricane funds, their efforts to dispense largesse does not go unheeded by the Government; the Government will be giving them a medal but at the proper time. We did not advertise the fact that the Government Ministers and I were until 11 o'clock that night, in close contact with San Juan in one office keeping a close check on everything and away from our homes. Apart from the Police and apart from Government Ministers, I am stating that there was no officer who had anything that could be described as a post unless it was the last post or the out-post; there was no question of anybody being stationed anywhere at all. It is not that people ran to their shelters; people who want medals must brave the elements and the fury of the hurricane. People who want to be handed out encomiums of praise and illuminated praise for services to the community in a hurricane, we expect that those people do not come out and make an ostentatious display of doing good after the hurricane. From the time that the Government states that there is a state of emergency we expect everybody to be at their posts. There was the Commissioner of Police and the Government Minister at their posts. I do

not want to say anything about the Civil Service, but the Head of the Civil Service returned to his office from lunch and to his consternation he found that the building in which we work had all been evacuated. No one had been given any permission to leave the building; there was not even a Messenger on the premises to bring a glass of water for the Ministers or to assist them with any lanterns. The Government Electrical Engineer brought in emergency lighting, and at Seawell Airport we had the Acting Director of Civil Aviation and the Senior Meteorological Officer giving information which was five hours ahead along with the projections made by the Hon. Minister of Communications who predicted to the last five minutes the time and position of the hurricane and its passage to the north of the Island.

Mr. Speaker, I am just stating the facts about the emergency. I am very grateful that the hurricane did not hit this Island because I am sure that every post would have been deserted. We are not even confronted with emergencies such as other people who are our neighbours have to undergo. The few emergencies which we have in this island we should be prepared for, and we should not therefore look upon a hurricane season which comes upon us every year as something as a result of which somebody is going to get a new house or a medal or something like that. I regret very much that we presented on Tuesday, the 24th September, 1963, the perfect portrait of the ugly Barbadian, and I do hope that in future Barbadians will not look upon hurricanes as occasions for people who are over the age of sixteen years and below the age of twenty and twenty-one to be putting on their bathing suits and running about the streets looking for some sort of excitement. I hope that Barbadians will not look upon hurricanes as occasions for people to be wading through water possibly with the intention of looting, when galvanized sheets are likely to be flying about the place. All of that has to be stamped out. In future the Militia will be called out and we will take over control of all the broadcasting services of the island because a lot of information went out which could have caused panic and despair. I want everybody to know that the Head of the Hurricane Organization is somebody who would not tolerate any of this nonsense. We do hope that in future we will have all active workers and not deserters.

I will turn now to the other aspect of the Resolution, that is, the commiseration with the people of Martinique. They say that it is an ill wind which blows nobody any good. We were fortunate that we had a crisis in Cuba and that they had frost in Europe and the sugar beet crop was not as high as it was expected to be. Therefore we got a very good price for our sugar. We do not hope that a good price for our good sugar is consequent upon the hurricane which struck Martinique. Martinique is not in competition with us in any way. I certainly would not want this island of Barbados to prosper at the expense of any other Caribbean island or territory for that matter. We therefore have to commiserate with our citizens in Martinique in connection with the loss of their staple commodities, and perhaps a commensurate drop in the national income of that country next year. As I say, we have to commiserate with the people and citizens of Martinique in the loss, not only of their staple commodity, but also on the loss of so many of their young lives, in a calamity which could not have in any way been avoided by any planning or anything like that on their part.
3.15 p.m.

I am sure that the people of Martinique, thanks to the weather service in San Juan and the information from our meteorological service in Barbados, had plenty of warning and did everything possible to offset the severeness of the damage which was suffered by them.

I regret very much that I have to take this opportunity to say, Mr. Speaker, that I was not at all satisfied with the behaviour of people from whom I expected better during this emergency. I am not satisfied with the kind of remarks which I heard about hurricanes; I was not satisfied about the attitude of some of the younger people looking upon a

hurricane not as something which should be treated with calmness, but as something which was the occasion for excitement and even enjoyment, and I think that Barbadians on the whole will have to do some drastic re-thinking on their attitudes to calamities of this kind, because we do not know for whom the bell tolls; it only tolls for thee.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, everyone will unhesitatingly support these Resolutions. While I must agree with the Hon. Premier in substance on what he said, I must make it clear that in detail he is not absolutely correct when speaking about the Northern District Council. The impression one might get is that in detail all persons were quite oblivious to their responsibilities.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I should just like to make it clear that I believe that everybody in Barbados, except some of the younger people, would be cognisant of their responsibility, but they were not prepared to carry them out and perform them. It is a different thing altogether, and I also postulated in the beginning of my statement that this was due to the fact that the whole hurricane organisation was geared to a scavenging job of operation and not an operation to cope with emergencies, and to this default I attributed no blame to the Northern District Council or the City Council. I said our attitude has to be revised, and I have revised and revamped the whole hurricane organisation so that people will be at their posts in an emergency and not after the hurricane has passed. The Scavenging Department can deal with the cleaning of streets, and the removal of the dead afterwards.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Hon. Premier in substance, but in detail I know that on that day persons including myself went to the Infirmary as soon as we heard the alarm and found out what was going on. That was about 1.30 p.m. in the day, and a few minutes afterwards one or two officers from the Council went to Plantation Limited in St. Peter and I saw the Clerk along with two others making preparation.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member and I have no dispute, but this is the very point I was trying to bring out about the purchasing of lanterns and that kind of thing a few minutes and hours before the blow was expected to fall. That should have been done before the beginning of the hurricane season. For instance, the book describing the duties of officers and so on was actually delivered from the Government Printery — and for this the Central Government must take full responsibility — thirty-five minutes after the alarm had sounded. This is a book which should have been in the hands of every single person concerned before the hurricane season started, not before it begins to blow and there is the frantic rush to hardware stores to buy lanterns. That kind of rush must take place in January or February or as soon as possible after the financial year commences, not a few minutes before the hurricane starts.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I want to make myself very clear. I am not attempting in any way to criticise or even find fault with the lesson learnt by the recent happening. What I am trying to make clear is that I do not blame the lack of responsibility to everyone who is supposed to be a responsible citizen and of whom certain duties are expected. There are some members of the North who did not sleep home that night and who went to every shelter before the hurricane and not after it had passed. Everyone was present from 1 o'clock to 6 o'clock.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: When the hon. member said that members did not sleep in the North, I am not impressed, because the hurricane passed at 8.05 p.m., and unless they go to sleep with the fowls before 8 o'clock, they went around like gangs of teenagers I saw looking for something to do after the emergency; but I am sure they were battered down in their beds at home when they should have been at their posts. It was absolutely shocking and Barbadians have something to be ashamed of, and in this I do not want to contradict the Hon. Deputy Governor of this island, because he could not see from his limited knowledge what went on, but I was in close contact and looking out for these things and checking to see if they were going on.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Again I may say that the system of the past rather contributed to any lack of diligence of any Councillor on the whole. The system in the past was bad. I am not Chairman of the Northern District Council, but I am a citizen of the parish of St. James with a certain amount of responsibility. The system might have been bad, but it would be better for him to say that he is not in charge of Home Affairs and not give the impression in the light of the system which prevailed last Tuesday that all persons who took part in it were sleeping. He can criticise the system of the past and say that from now on it will be different, but he should not criticise and impute wrong intentions to persons who might have been most diligent under the system.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, I never said they were sleeping; they were possibly regaling themselves with a few drinks. But let us be quite specific. He cannot tell me where the Chairman of the Northern District Hurricane Relief Committee was or the Clerk or the Treasurer at that time, although he is a member of the Council. The Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs, the Commissioner of Police and I received a complaint at 6 o'clock in the evening just two hours before the hurricane should have started, that people in Church Village, Saint Michael were met at the gate of the St. Michael's Cathedral by a centurion who calls himself the Verger, with instructions that no authority was given him by the hierarchy of the Cathedral that he should open the doors of the Cathedral, when it is clear that the emergency centres and every hurricane shelter, which includes the Cathedral, should have their doors open, and then we had the disgraceful episode at St. Mary's School where an erstwhile Churchwarden went and broke down the drawbridge.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid there is a departure from the point of order. Has the hon. and learned member for St. James completed?

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I do not know who had the register of persons and who should have been present or not. The system in the past was bad and might have been left open to all kinds of abuse, but I deplore anyone saying that because the system is bad, all who worked under the system had improper motives or were not diligent.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee of Hurricane Relief in the parish of St. George, I should like to bring out most forcibly that if councillors had read and studied the Hurricane Committee booklet carefully, they would have seen and known beyond any reasonable doubt what were their duties to be performed in the case of an emergency.
3.25 p.m.

I remember, Mr. Speaker, when this House was adjourned, I left St. Michael and journeyed to St. George, and the first thing I saw to was that each and everyone of each district was at their posts and I gave them the directive to go and notify all the people in the districts that we were expecting a hurricane to strike the Island at some time during the evening. After that job was carried out, I took up my position at Boarded Hall where I would be able to accept any communications and distribute any orders from anyone to anyone in any part of the parish. I went to St. Luke's Church and seeing that there was no electricity there, I went and got some lanterns and I also took some to St. Luke's School.

It is not strictly fair to say: "all Councillors". I waited there until the "all clear" was sounded and then I sent my Wardens to the various districts to notify the people that the hurricane had passed Barbados and they could go back to their homes. At 10.30 p.m., I was able to go to my residence.

If people have their booklets and do not study them and do not put the things within the booklet into operation, well, you cannot help that. I do not see how you can blame the Local Government or the Central Government or the personnel. The thing is to see to it that you have the right type of personnel in a hurricane organisation so that in the case of an emergency they would carry out the wishes and dictates of the Government.

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to elucidate some of the remarks which I have heard from the Hon. Premier. I am not a Councillor of the Northern District Council on this occasion; therefore, I can speak quite freely. When I was a Councillor, I passed through Hurricane "Janet"; therefore I know what it is during a hurricane. I do not think it is fair to say what the Hon. Premier said, nor can anything which he said be attributed to the Northern District area. I support all that the hon. senior member for St. James has said. As I have said, I belonged to the Emergency Committee and we have always kept in that area an amount of tools. That was so when I sat on the last Committee. I remember when I was on that Committee I heard the remark: "I wonder if the Government would grant the money." The tools were always kept for scavenging which must start after the storm is over — not before.

On the day when we got the notice of Hurricane "Edith" approaching and the House was adjourned by the Hon. Leader, when I reached St. James, every inmate from the St. James' Almshouse was placed quietly and happily in the precincts of the Church. I went around to the schools in the afternoon. Some of the schools have electricity, and those and others which had no electricity were supplied with lanterns. I then passed through some of the areas after I had been to my home. I could not reach all, nor could I reach every school; but all the schools to which I went were all prepared.

The Hon. Premier talked about scavenging but it serves the purpose. I can say that in the old days, in the Northern District, the wardens and the people were all at their posts doing their jobs when there was a hurricane. The "all-clear" came between 10.00 p.m. and 11.00 p.m. We got it from Rediffusion and I can say speaking personally, that between 5.30 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. I went through the parish and the Wardens were all at their posts and reported to me.

The Premier made the assertion that some people broke schools. Pamphlets were sent out to members of the hurricane organisation in my district, and I do not see any reason why anybody should have to break a school. I remember when I got to the Trents Combined School, a woman met me and said that the Headmaster had left the keys with her and he told her that if anybody came from the Education Department, she should deliver them to that person.

Sir, I have only got up to explain that in the Northern District area, I do not think any of those things which the Hon. Premier spoke of took place. That may have taken place in another district. In the Northern District Council, those who have taken up the job now will find a real set up with the amount of tools necessary and everything else. I have, therefore, got up to clear the air so far as the Northern District Council is concerned.

Mr. SEALEY: Sir, after hearing certain assertions by the Hon. Premier in this House, as well as certain accusations to members of the Bridgetown City Council, I feel they are unfair and unjust to members of the Bridgetown City Council. First, I would like the Hon. Premier to know that members of the Bridgetown City Council are humane beings. We work shoulder to shoulder and not one of us draws one cent for what we do. On Tuesday last, when the people began to panic, we of the Bridgetown City Council kept in close contact with the telephone and Rediffusion and I can assure you that from 7.30 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I rise on a point of order. I would like to emphasise that the source of information of the movements of a tropical disturbance is not Rediffusion unless any statement given over that service is prefaced by the remarks that this is a Government release. A lot of misinformation came over Rediffusion. Rediffusion was used by the Bridgetown City Council for publicity purposes. All of that is something which a Government in its right senses cannot tolerate. It is my belief — and a lot of people in Barbados — that the members of the Bridgetown City Council deplored the fact that they did not have the opportunity of displaying their powers of largesse. I know that Barbadians generally would agree with me. They wanted the

hurricane to come so that they might be able to score cheap political triumph.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I suppose if the Bridgetown City Council were in operation during Hurricane "Janet" and we were able to do what it had done by way of preparation during Hurricane "Edith", we would not have had the disaster which we had during Hurricane "Janet".

I say that it is not fair and it is dishonest to say that members of the Bridgetown City Council did not get out among the people.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Sir, I rise on a point of order. Is the hon. member suggesting that I said that? I did not say that. As a matter of fact, my whole thesis was that they regretted that they did not have the opportunity to get out among the people and show what munificence of the public purse they could show. Let us get this straight. I hope when the hon. member talked of dishonesty, he did not attribute it to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not understand the hon. senior member for St. Michael in his remarks to be using an unparliamentary expression to any member of this House. Had I thought that, I would have drawn it to his attention.

Mr. SEALEY: Sir, I would just like to clear up this point as far as a member of the Bridgetown City Council breaking a school is concerned. I was told reliably that the Headmaster of that school closed the school up because he did not want people to go into that school.
3.35 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I do not think that the hon. senior member for St. Michael should make that kind of statement. It is a fact that the school was closed; it is also a fact that the school had no business being closed; but to suggest that the Head of the school closed it and went home because he did not want any one to enter the school, is not correct. The Head of this school may have to be reprimanded, but I do not think that there was anything of a mischievous nature.

Mr. SEALEY: I did not say that it was mischievous.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Again on a point of order. The hon. member should not make his statement in that way. To say that the Head of the school closed the school is correct; and to say that I have my views about it is also correct; but to say that the Head of the school closed it because he did not want anybody to go into that school is quite something else.

Mr. SEALEY: Well, Mr. Speaker, somebody is sheltering somebody else. I want to say that I travelled to the schools as far as I could get and at 10.30 o'clock when the "all clear" was sounded, I was in Howell's Cross Road. At no time did I see any rum or corned beef being distributed.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. junior member for St. James. From the time when we heard that a hurricane was approaching us, the Hon. Leader of the House asked that the sitting of the House be adjourned so that we should go to our respective parishes. After that, all of us left with the assurance that we would go to our respective parishes and protect the people as well as we could. I asked a friend of mine to take me to St. Ann's; I went to my home and hired a car and went around to all of the stations where I expected that people would be. I want to say that the schools were open and all the places were prepared. When I reached these places everything was under control. I am sure that we, as members of this House, realise that it is our personal duty, in case of any emergency, to put our shoulders to the wheel and lend our power in order to assist the community.

The period of an emergency is no time for shaking off our responsibility. Talking about war begets war. We want to try to preserve the economy of the country as much as we can, and those who try to shirk their responsibilities

and duties are not loyal to their community. We have a Committee of the District Council, and when we heard that the hurricane was approaching we called out the Committee and delegated to each and every member what is his duty. We instructed them to get all their equipment and be ready for duty. When a notice is served in any district every one gets to his duty. I do not think that any sort of political stunt should be played when it comes to the time of trouble and distress. At such a time we should forget all questions of politics and show that we are not in any Party. We should be above that. We should forget all question of Party in the time of emergency and we should try to relieve the inhabitants of the country. I hope that if and when any such time comes again, each and every one of us will cast our lot for the benefit of the people as a whole.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I really did not know that I would have had the opportunity of talking about the hurricane or anything like that, because no such matter was circulated or placed on the Order Paper for today.

Mr. SPEAKER: A hurricane travels far and wide.

Mr. SMITH: Yes, Sir. Imagine the Premier of this country, instead of thanking those who are trying to help if and when the time came for that, making the remarks he has made! If the Premier knew that anyone was lacking in his duty at the time of emergency, he should be able to do something else; but when the Premier refers to the Hurricane Relief Committee, accusing them of not being at their posts but being around their tables with rum and cheese, that is disconcerting and harmful to the honest person who really intended to work. When one takes up the newspaper tomorrow morning and sees the praise which was showered upon these people by the Premier of this country, it will look very badly.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, we do not want people to intend to do things; we want them to do these things. I make no apology for saying that. I do not want to have the kind of person in my Hurricane Relief Organization who merely intends to do something and is not prepared to do it when the time is ripe for doing it. You can get your largesse in another way, but I want to have in my organization people who are prepared to carry out their duties.

Mr. SPEAKER: The last part of the Hon. Premier's remarks transcends the point of order.

Mr. SMITH: When the Hon. Premier wants to say something, he gets up on a point of order and says whatever he wants to say. That is not good enough. I am asking Your Honour to rule regardless of what the consequences are because these things are getting too far. To begin with, the Hon. Premier made a statement which was out of order because this Resolution was moved by the hon. junior member for St. Lucy relative to the hurricane-stricken people in Martinique and the Hon. Premier is now bringing the storm to Barbados. (Laughter). That is not fair. If the Hon. Premier knows about anybody who was drinking rum and eating cheese, I believe, it was his own rum and cheese. Some of us drink a lot of people's rum and eat their cheese but do not buy them; but these people, I believe, bought their rum and cheese.

3.45 p.m.

These people to whom he is referring I believe had bought their things, and it is not fair to the people to take up a paper and read the praises he is giving them because the storm by-passed us. It has by-passed us, and look at the praise and how he feels about Barbados and its people! If he knows of people who are not doing their duty, let him say so; and it lies in his power to do something with them.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: May I ask the hon. member where he was during the emergency?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that is not a point of order.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member has accused the Northern District Council and its officers, and I am sure, though I

could not be in St. Joseph, St. James and St. Lucy at the same time, that the organisation in the North did a splendid job though nothing happened; but they were all willing and ready and on the spot. There were the Clerk and his officers and everyone of the men going around to the various stations putting everything in order and just waiting. Do you mean to say that the Premier wants to tell this Honourable House that a member of the Hurricane Relief Organisation is to stay at his post and not go home and see to his family?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, the hon. member is asking a question and has called my name. That is what the Minister did, and that is what I expect every member of the hurricane organisation to do, or contract out of it. If you are not prepared to be at your post and want to be consoling your family, then you have no right in the organisation. If you read the Bible, you will understand what I am saying.

Mr. SMITH: I think you must mean the Law Book when you are referring to the Bible.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think hurricane or no hurricane, I still accept the hon. senior member for St. Andrew as the authority on the Bible.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. member says that is what the Government did. The Ministers are the Government, and if they did not do that, they would suit kicking out. Would he want every other member to do what he and his Minister did if it were true? I would have to see that for myself. You do not have to be at a post before a storm. It is after the storm that you have to get up and get so as to see about the sick and dying and things of that sort. You asked people to go to shelters and keep within doors, but you want a member of the organisation to go outside and let a sheet of galvanised iron chop his head off completely. That is what he is telling those who belong to the organisation. If the Ministers were at Government Headquarters, nothing could happen to them there, because that is a building which I believe has been built storm-proof. It is not fair to members when he is saying that a particular man or men went and broke down a school and advertised themselves and things of that sort. If that particular man saw that a shelter should have been opened and it was not opened and broke it down, I agree with it; the Premier should not be getting up here now and criticising. I just cannot understand the Premier. It looks to me as if his mouth has about twelve different sides, because he is telling you that people failed to do their duty in one breath and in another he is criticising one who did his, because if that person knew that a shelter should have been opened and it was not opened, and he broke open the door, he was doing his duty. I do not know how to please the Premier, because in one breath he is saying that you did not do your duty and in the next breath he says that you are advertising yourself.

Mr. Speaker, Rediffusion did a first-class job, but he has criticised Rediffusion and said they were more advertising the City Council than anything else. Rediffusion did a good job by keeping people alert and letting them know what was happening, but he is criticising them now. The Hon. Premier has said that you should not wait until the very afternoon to run about buying lanterns, but I should like to ask when he released the money to the Councils to buy these things, and I bet he does not answer that. Another thing I should like to say is that instead of some of the foolishness which comes over during the Government Programme, people should be told during that programme who is their Warden in each area and parish so that people would know whom to go to; or if they see the Warden pass, they would know that he is the person they have to go to in case of a storm. People should be told over the air where the shelters are, who are the officers and what is to be done, instead of some of the foolishness I hear on the Government programme sometimes. In fact I do not listen to it; but now he is getting up and putting the blame on the officers and saying they were round a table drinking rum and ginger. Rum is a good drink, Sir, and that is why he taxed it so heavily to get money. He knows it will be consumed and that is why he taxed it so heavily to raise money, and now he is insulting the people who were trying to do a good job. He

might have heard about one or two persons, and I am sure he is not going to call their names. He will only get up as he did in Welchman Hall and talk old iron talk.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I was not here but my colleagues informed me that while.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the Hon. Leader of the Opposition still addressing the Chair and ignoring any *asides* or *sotto voce* remarks?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I could never address anybody else while I am on my feet in this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is quite right.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have been told that I have been the centre of some criticism by the Hon. Premier. I do not like to go by things I hear unless I have proof, and therefore the most I can say is that I would be very much surprised if these things I have heard had really been said. Speaking for myself, I can say, Sir, that as soon as the Leader of the House decided that this House would adjourn because of the information received about a hurricane, I found my way to the Chairman of the Hurricane Relief Committee of the Municipality who was really not in his office at the time, and tried to get everybody ready to do what they could before the storm which we were told would arrive at 8 o'clock. It is none of my fault nor is it the fault of any of us if that information was wrong, but we do not blame people because sometimes information cannot always be correct. I have always taken this stand, Sir, — and I make no apologies for it — and if the Premier wants to know something, he can know it here and now.
3.55 p.m.

As far as I am concerned, when I was told that two loads of foodstuff were in the course of being sent down to the Bridgetown City Council — and I was told so by an officer from the parish — I suggested not to send them because the only thing which I thought was necessary at the time was to get the shelters opened and to get kerosene oil and lanterns in them.

For the information of the Hon. Premier, about six or eight weeks ago, we asked one of our members to go around at every school and every church and see to it that all lanterns had wicks and were filled with kerosene oil. No money was paid out for this. We discovered that they had. In the discussions we had, we were told to get the shelters ready and it would be the people at the Government Headquarters who would be responsible for appointing the Wardens. During the afternoon, before going home for dinner, we tried to make sure that everything was ready and that those persons who came in were under our control; so we asked them to report as early as possible so that in case there was a hurricane they would be there already. We got in touch with our doctors to remind them that we expected them to be on duty and that they had to use the institutions which we were in charge of.

Sir, I would not promise anybody that I would be staying away from home during the course of a hurricane. I would be a hypocrite if I did that. I live my life to suit myself. If there is a hurricane, at least I have a home and a family and I love them; therefore, I think it is my duty to be home during a hurricane. However, I am going to do anything in my power as long as I am a member of the Hurricane Committee to make things right. I said: "Do not send all that food down here." I also said to the people that no one would die within 48 hours if they did not taste anything, and that if everybody died during the hurricane there would be no need for food because there would be no Premier nor no Mottley. All that I said would be necessary was to get the kerosene oil and the matches.

Sir, without paying one cent overtime, we took one of our drivers and made sure that all of the schools in our area had lanterns with oil, and the only thing we could do for those who did not have a telephone was to put it over Rediffusion to remind those and people of the non-Conformist Churches to make available their chapels, and so on, for

hurricane shelters. This is a notice which appears every year by the Hurricane Committee of the Municipality asking people in charge of schools and churches to make them available in case of a hurricane.

I have understood that the Hon. Premier has said that I have broken open a school.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I want to tell the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown that there was not that kind of emergency yet, and if the hon. member wanted to set a good example, and not an example of lawlessness, he would have called up the Education Officer or the person who had the keys of that school to come and open up the school. I said that when you commit acts of wanton destruction like that, one can only come to the conclusion that it was not done for the sake of the emergency alone.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The Hon. Premier ought to be ashamed to make remarks like that. I do not beg for any mercy. I tell you, if you do not like what I did, put me in jail; lock me up. It was about half past six that afternoon. I was appealing to the Headmasters and Headmistresses, and I said to Mr. Dottin: "Would you open your school?" There was the Headmistress who had a sister ill at home and she went over and opened her school. I spoke to Mr. Dottin in the presence of the Mayor, the Town Clerk and other Inspectors who turned out to give assistance as well as in the presence of the man who was there to carry in kerosene oil. The Hon. Premier ought to be the last person to think that I in my capacity would do anything other than with the highest integrity. At 6.45 p.m., I was at home and I got a telephone call.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I was at my post.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I really am surprised at the Hon. Premier. The infant school was packed to overflowing. At this stage, it was still blaring over the radio that the hurricane would be here at 8.00 o'clock. There are over 2,000 houses in that area. Who would suggest to the people that they should come out when the hurricane was in progress and after the telephone and electric wires were down? We merely suggested to the people over Rediffusion that they should go to the nearest shelter as early as possible in order to avoid being trapped. That is what the Government of Barbados should have come out with over Rediffusion. People become somewhat hysterical in a storm.

At 6.45 p.m., I got a telephone call and that was a little after I got home and was told that there were hundreds of people down there who wanted to get into the school and it was not opened. I had told Mr. Dottin before he went away to leave the school opened. Mr. Dottin left the school shut and went away. I immediately telephoned the Vicar. St. Mary's Girls' School was opened. I also telephoned the Chief Education Officer, Mr. Jordan, and told him what the position was. I told him that this school was closed. The reverend got there along with two policemen.

Mr. Speaker, my work stands out in this country. I do not have to advertise myself. There were about 200 people standing outside of that school with their earthly belongings, some with five and six children around them, some expecting child-birth. If the Premier was standing there, I would have gone and broken the door and if it happens again, I will break the door again. Some of the people were howling and crying and I told them to be calm and to keep quiet.
4.05 p.m.

As a matter of fact, I think that the Hon. Premier ought to be ashamed of himself. I complained to the Hon. Minister of Education about this matter and I told him that the gentleman said that that was his school and nobody could come to it and do as he liked. All the people were standing outside with all their earthly belongings. This school was St. Mary's School and we put our shoulders against the door and broke it open. This was 7 o'clock and the hurricane was expected to arrive at 8 o'clock and what else could you do? If the hon. member's house was a shelter I would not have gone there. You realise that there were people there whose

houses could not withstand a storm? What would you do in that case? But you want to talk a lot of damned nonsense.

A MEMBER: Order!

Mr. MOTTLEY: Order what? You take advantage of people behind their backs.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, what I have to say I say before people's faces. (ASIDES).

Mr. SPEAKER: This sitting now stands suspended for fifteen minutes because of disorder.....

On re-assembling,

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere apology to you because what took place before the suspension of the sitting was not meant to be any disrespect to Your Honour. If I may continue my remarks, Sir, as far as I am concerned, I am not in any way defending the City Council; but I should like to make the position clear. We made it abundantly clear on the last occasion that we would appoint the Sanitary Staff and keep it as our Hurricane Relief Committee. We felt that the Sanitary Inspector today could tell us tomorrow whether a house was on a particular spot yesterday or not so that nobody could put anything on the Government. We offered to give the maximum co-operation. As soon as we left here, we went to get everything in order. St. Mary's School is in an area where there is a tremendous lot of small houses which could not stand the ravages of a hurricane. When I got home and I was called, not only did I remove from home, but I called the Minister in charge of education and Mr. Rawle Jordan in order to get things over. Seeing that this had not borne any fruit I was called again. People were in the Church at St. Leonard's and at St. Mary's School there was in the road a line reaching from Mr. Thomas' house; for the entire period you had small children. I ask: How could any human being allow little two and three-year-old children to go into a school without their mothers? There were the mothers who had their little "georgie" bundles, to use a common Barbadian colloquialism, outside. I did not care what happened; I was prepared to let them go into the school. I was prepared to break the door of that school because I saw that there was suffering humanity with the ravages of a storm expected to take place in another hour. I have only admitted that I broke the door, but really one does not know who really broke it. There were so many people who put their shoulders against that door that you did not know who actually broke it. (Laughter).

Hon. E. W. BARROW: The hon. member is on the principle of first degree.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If you have information that there is going to be the visitation of a hurricane, you will inform people of the matter and you keep the shelters open. That is what I did. My Sanitary Inspectors reported and we had the Park and all of these places opened. But one Minister started to give trouble and I warned him that I would draw the matter to the attention of the Government if he had refused to open the school. He said that he had got information from the Columbia Broadcasting Station that there would not be any storm taking place. The first thing which you will do in the event of a hurricane in order to avoid an epidemic of any sort, is to get rid of your dead and attend to your sick.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 4.30 p.m., of the clock, the time when the consideration of Private Member's Business expires and therefore the time for Government Business has arrived.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the debate on this Resolution must be very nearly concluded, I take it — or rather I will move that ten minutes grace be allowed. The Government is prepared to surrender that much time off Government Business.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do I understand that the Government is prepared to surrender as much time as is necessary in or-

der to complete the debate on this Resolution or to limit that time to ten minutes?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I think that ten minutes would be all that is required.

Mr. SPEAKER: On behalf of the Government the Hon. Minister of Education has stated that the Government is prepared to use ten minutes of its time in order that this debate — or rather in the hope that this debate may be concluded within that time. In that event, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition may proceed with the debate in Government's time. However, as a necessary formality, I will ask the Hon. Minister of Education to move the suspension of the necessary Rule.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. Does the hon. senior member for the City appreciate the fact that they broke into St. Mary's School and he is now breaking into the Government's time as well?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I appreciate that.
4.30 p.m.

I should just like to say that I am as anxious as anyone else to see this Resolution pass to our brothers.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do I understand that the Minister of Education proposes to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 18 to regularise this encroachment on Government Time?

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 18

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 18 be suspended for eighteen minutes.

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

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: As I was saying, we of the City Council and the last Government and those concerned with the administration of hurricane relief had a policy that as soon as there was a hurricane and we were notified, we would see that all shelters were opened, and when they sent the notices to us to be put up, we put them up at our own expense. The thing to do was to see that all shelters had lanterns. I understand there was some talk by the Hon. Premier about running around and buying lanterns. That could not be true about us because we had, and they were at every school, and we got two Sanitary Inspectors to go with a driver to these places six or eight weeks ago to see that the lanterns were in order. My own idea and the idea which we put to Government when we had a meeting on this matter — not this Government — was that what we felt was that no one could anticipate where the blow would fall, and we did not agree with the idea which was suggested to us of removing a lot of things from one place and carrying them to another as soon as you expected a hurricane, because that place might blow down while the one from which you moved then might not be blown down. When someone came and told me that he had a load of stuff, I told him not to bring the other load. This is what I would counsel Government on; who was to tell me I was to send back all this stuff? We sent it back and had it checked, and the Minister of Agriculture ought to know that is a fact. If I wanted to do something to show off, I had the stuff there and I could have broken it at St. Mary's and given it to everybody; but I saw no necessity for it.

Mr. Speaker, I have said on the radio that after a hurricane the first step taken is to remove the dead, because on every one person that is dead, you will have a post mortem; I think that is still the law. Then you will attend to your sick and in the meantime clean the streets and then you start to feed. Tell me of any man, woman or child who died from starvation within twenty-four hours! Ask the Minister of Communications, Works and Housing, because he has had the experience, how many hours he had to do without food. You get rid of your dead first and then attend to your sick, maimed and disfigured, and that is why we asked doctors and nurses who were off duty or on vacation to call in to

the institution by 7 o'clock. Unfortunately everyone turned up except one, and that one was ill. I am no hypocrite and you know where my post is during a hurricane. It is home at 'Lyndingrove', and anyone who tells you otherwise does not have a home or cannot go home. I am going to do everything to within the last five or ten minutes before I go home. On this occasion I took my car and had my son with me and went from school to school to see that everything was in order. I was asked by somebody to get one of the benches to make a cradle for a child, but I said I was not going to pull away anything from anybody. Happily for us there was no storm, but I had hoped that the Premier would have come here to deal with the man Pratt who could only be an immoral, lowdown type of specimen to have written a letter in the paper saying that the elected representatives of the people in this country were so sorry that a hurricane did not come, and they did not have an opportunity to share out and give people this and that. But who is Pratt? There were members in this House I know whose minds were below a cesspool, and I would not even accuse such members for thinking so low. I know they lied and said all sorts of things about people, but even such members I would not accuse of wanting to see humanity suffer in order to give away corned beef. If I wanted to give away corned beef, the Minister of Agriculture through his Department sent me a load of stuff in which there were five or six cases of corned beef, and if I wanted to show off and get votes, I could have taken up my car, got another, and driven around to every school with the corned beef and shared it out. But I did not think that that was fair. This Government has to spend money, and as there was no hurricane we sent it back.

Mr. Speaker, I am telling you that there are some things that hurt, and they hurt for the simple reason that if the Hon. Premier wanted to say something about me especially or the City Council, he should have said it while I was here and could have got up and defended myself; but he should not talk about people not being at their posts. I am the person who went to the Leader of the House and asked whether in view of this hurricane warning he could get information as to what was happening, and when he said "yes", I told him to adjourn the House then and let us get to our posts, and you can ask the Leader of the House if I did not tell him so. He adjourned this House and I went and drank my milk. Naturally, you have clerks working in a place, but by the time you get there, every clerk with a family wants to get home and they all went home; therefore the Mayor and those of us who could summon the Heads of Departments got ready and started to do our job. I just want to let the hon. member know when he gets up in here to tell people that I broke a school to allow hungry people to get in, that this man is such an ass in my opinion that he had the guts and temerity to say this was his school and he would open it when he wants to. This is St. Mary's School and it is up to Government to repair it or not. For your information when somebody said I should call the police, the police did come, but what could they do? Dottin was there and all these people were standing there shouting and wailing. After all I was not at Martin's Bay; it was a school in Mason Hall Street. What did he expect me to do? Put my hands in my pockets and walk away and say I do not care if the storm comes? Not Ernest Deighton Mottley! I broke open the school and I would have broken open a church. If you saw a person come from Chapman Lane in a 12' x 8' with eleven children, one in a human belly, two around her shoulders and two beneath her legs, and they were crying, would you not break down a door?

4.40 p.m.

She hears a storm is coming; she knows that electric wires are going to come down and kill people. The sooner the Hon. Premier realises that education is not all common-sense, the better. You have all education, but you have a long time in becoming a politician like me!

This thing hurts you because you realise that you were doing your best. If I wanted to be nasty, we would have told them to send the load of foodstuff down. I acted with the maximum co-operation. Why should I cause you expense by giving away things when there was no storm? I acted with the maximum co-operation and now the Hon. Premier comes

in here and accuses me of not being at my post. I am going to do what I think is best. When the hurricane is on, I am going to be at home with my family. I think every decent-minded man would be at home with his family at that time; but the minute the storm is over, you should get your jacket off, roll up your pants and go out and help the people. The Hon. Premier is fooling people. Are you going to be at St. John's Church during a hurricane and do not know what is happening with your family? That is all right with the Hon. Minister of Labour who does not have children or other ties to bind him at home; therefore, any place can be his home during a hurricane.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is necessary that you avoid personalities.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I therefore say that I am shocked. As a matter of fact, I am more than shocked; I am surprised. Imagine the Hon. Premier with the whole retinue of the Government coming and saying that I broke St. Mary's School and therefore, I am a vagabond! The trouble is this. I have given St. Mary's School out of my pocket at Christmas more than it would cost to build the door which was broken, so as to give the children there a treat.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to keep back this Resolution. I believe this is a Resolution extending our sympathy to our brothers in Martinique.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am surprised that the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown is not sure on which Resolution he is speaking.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Seeing that the Hon. Minister of Education has drafted it, Mr. Speaker, I support it, but I must say that I deprecate the idea that I should be accused in the way which I have been.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, regardless that the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown has fulminated and made a very good political speech in his own defence, the purpose of my remarks was in no way to indict the hon. member on the floor of this House. But when one has the responsibility of the hurricane organisation, and one sees the defects of it and one sees an instance which did not bear the test of legality, I think it should be brought to the attention of those concerned that Government does not condone that kind of behaviour. There has been a tremendous amount of Republicanism in this country, particularly amongst the District Local Government authorities. Some have their own cathedrals, their own services and now one has its own storm troopers.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Premier, but the time has expired for which this debate was permitted to be carried on.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Is this an attempt to curtail my reply? This is now the Government's time. The time was encroached upon by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and since it is Government's time now, the Government wants to make its position perfectly clear.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am saying that the time has expired under which the motion was made, but it is quite open to the Hon. Leader of the House to move a motion for an extension of the time.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: A point of order cannot arise in this respect.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 18 be again suspended until the conclusion of this debate.

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

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

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I was saying that the opportunity was taken on this Resolution extending sympathy to the people of the neighbouring colony of Martinique as a fitting occasion to bring to the attention of this Honourable House to the defects and weaknesses in the hurricane organisation, and I said that we are not going to get ourselves in a position of preparedness on the occasion of the next hurricane if we hide our heads in the sand like an ostrich and ignore that these defects exist. I said to a Government Officer that the hurricane organisation was appointed to deal with an emergency and it was only a scavenging operation. I also used certain instances which had occurred during the emergency — and there was an emergency despite what anyone may have thought of it — and the evidence that it was an emergency was a devastation which took place in Martinique of which we and they were sufficiently forewarned. In our hurricane organisation is grouped an element of Republicanism which I am convinced was in the body politic for some time now. In my opinion, the Local Government members themselves are also charged with some responsibility. There is no emergency after a hurricane is passed except the scavenging which is to be carried out. I am not surprised that among some of these Hurricane Committees there are elements of Republicanism because some have their own cathedrals, their own services and one has its own storm troopers.
4.50 p.m.

That is all I was saying. I said it with an element of humour in it, but I said it with all the due seriousness. I want the people in Barbados who are concerned with the hurricane emergency exercises to realise that this is not a matter, as an hon. member has said, or an occasion for some excitement or as an occasion for looting. It is to be realised that an emergency is to be regarded in the same manner as a state of war. The hon. member has glorified the sanctity of the family and all of that, but I should like to say that there are certain matters in the life of the country which transcend the attachment of your home. A hurricane is one of those things. I remember being in London during the War when I was sharing a flat with a person who was at his post and went out as a Warden. He did not wait until the "all clear" was given. People who are involved in these exercises should be free to come out from any of their shelters and from under the rocks and crannies where they may be hiding during the emergency; they must be operative. That is not a statement of Government's policy, but a command from the general Headquarters of the emergency station.

The hon. member has his army of informers, but sometimes you get a lot of mis-information from informers. It is not a question of my saying something behind anybody's back. It was the duty of the hon. senior member for the City to be here when I was speaking. The hon. member should know me well enough by now to know that what I said in here in his absence I would say if he were present. I did say that the hon. member had broken open the door of the school and there was no justification whatever for doing so. He may say that the Church was 150 yards away and I even heard him say that the Headmaster of the school was on the spot.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. No, Mr. Speaker, I did not say that; I said that the Policemen and the Vicar were there and I said that I spoke to Mr. Dottin about an hour before and told him to open the school. The Vicar and two Policemen were there, a crowd of people were there, the Church and the School were opened and the other school was packed with people.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: My information was that the Church did not have as full a congregation as it would have on a Sunday night. However, I am not impeaching the hon. member's motives; perhaps he acted with the highest motives, but he was misguided. Before the hon. member does things like that, he must remember that he is a person in responsibility and he must get proper information before breaking open places like that. The position is that we must

not lose our heads. If the people who are supposed to be setting example lose their heads, then that sort of atmosphere may spread and we will get all sorts of disorder. I accept the hon. member's explanation, but I make no apology for drawing attention to it as one of the instances of unpreparedness in this community. I drew to the attention of hon. members that it was reported to the Commissioner of Police, to the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs and to me that the doors of the Cathedral were shut and there were pregnant women standing at the door who were refused entrance, but we did not break open any door of the Cathedral. The Commissioner of Police, the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs and myself did not take the law into our own hands and break open the doors of the Cathedral. I directed the Commissioner of Police to get in touch with the Dean of the Cathedral and the doors of the Cathedral were opened. I am merely asking the citizens of this country to approach these matters in a disciplined and orderly manner. I am satisfied that the people have the kind of discipline which would bring us through with the kind of visitation which took place in Martinique.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Resolution do now pass. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those of a contrary opinion will please say "No". I declare that the "Ayes" have it. This Resolution has now been passed.

RESOLUTION re SUFFERERS IN TOBAGO BY HURRICANE "FLORA"

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I take it that hon. members would wish to proceed with the next Resolution which has been couched in precisely the same terms as the Resolution which we have just passed relative to the suffering caused to the people of the territory of Martinique by Hurricane "Edith". Without reading the Resolution I would make a motion that it do now pass. (A MEMBER: Read it.) The Resolution reads as follows:—

WHEREAS this House has heard with profound sorrow of the suffering to the people of the territory of Tobago by Hurricane "Flora";

BE IT RESOLVED that this House expresses sympathy with those who have either been bereaved, or injured, or rendered homeless in that territory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contents of this Resolution be forthwith communicated to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I beg to second that.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended at 2 p.m., of the clock the House was in Committee of Supply.

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

5.00 p.m.

Head 47 — Subsidies and Grants — was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 47 stand part.

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

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

1 — Annexed Estimates — Post Office — was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that I. Annexed Estimates — Post Office stand part.

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

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Chairman, I do not know how these additional posting boxes will be allocated. I do not want to be selfish or unreasonable, but I am hoping that of these ten posting boxes at least there will be one between the corner of Orange Hill and Baywoods, one at Upper Carlton near Sion Hill, and one at Paynes Bay. As you go a stretch of about two miles from Paynes Bay, you come to a posting box at the top of Thorpes; so that posting box is within a radius of not less than one and a half miles in three big districts. I am just drawing to the Minister's attention that this posting box at the top of Thorpes has to accommodate a stretch of about one mile at Hoytes Village — about one and a half miles — and right down to the highway in Paynes Bay another two miles. Maybe the Minister might think it necessary for an additional posting box to be put there at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, dealing with this matter, I can see that the time has come when the Minister should have a review into posting boxes. I have already said that the Post Office is very antiquated and is not at all in keeping with Barbados and its progress. I have just come back from a Congress in London where they dealt with all post offices throughout the world; and when you know the projection for postal arrangements in London and the United States of America, you will see that Barbados is in the backyard of postal arrangements in so far as one of its buildings is concerned. It is a very shabby building, disjointed and strung about the City, and though structurally Barbados has potential for a good system in that for a small territory the distribution of mail by postmen delivering them to people's houses throughout the Island of Barbados is unique for its size, yet I do not think there is any other territory in the Caribbean where you can get delivery of mail on the basis that you get it in Barbados. I would say that this is a very good thing. If this were the sort of thing done years ago, it shows that our predecessors were advanced in their minds along certain lines because they wanted mail delivered to them. The literate were voters and therefore they gave them the opportunity of having mail.

I have already mentioned to the Minister and will mention again that the present system we have of mail being put out on contract and of van taking mail is an antiquated system. You should bring postal services under the administration of the Post Office, and no private source in this age should be any longer responsible in that manner. There should be a complete re-orientation of your postal arrangements, and the man power and man hours available for postal work should be within the building of the Post Office and under the Postmaster General so that you can have a better time-table and a better system for the utilisation of mail. It is true we live in Barbados which is not like London and New York where post offices do not close so far as through-and-through administration is concerned. Mail is taken in and delivered in New York twenty-four hours a day; otherwise you could not get mail assorted and delivered to millions of people every day. I have not seen any system like this in any of the places I have visited where post office mail is still in the hands of some private person and you are leasing vans from them and paying for this sort of thing when they are not post office workers as such. Post Office people should be post office people and people should come under post office administration so that the taking up and delivery of mail from the various posting boxes could be done by postal authorities under the control of the Post Office as postal employees, I hope I will not have to repeat this, because you would be able to utilise the service of people on a round-the-clock basis. It was all right when the Barbadian mail service was slender; but with the number of migrants and the flow of education, more people can read and write, more people are writing letters and more people are communicating with each other. I do not see why we should not bring our postal arrangements up to date and make provision for them. Maybe Government is thinking of it, but as I said previously, your Post Office is one of your main sources of revenue. A lot has been done

for tourism and to beautify the Island; but the Post Office, which is the first thing tourists are going to look for after they get to the country, because they have to send out mail, remains the same. This shabby business underneath here is not good enough. I think the Government said that this is one of the things they have in mind, and on this basis I hope the Minister will give consideration to that system as I have already mentioned. I should like to see your postal arrangements come up to date. I feel that it can be done and we should spare no pains in doing so. These boxes are necessary additions to have throughout the Island. I believe that the ten or seventeen more posting boxes will serve a need because I believe if you go into the statistics you will find that more letters are written. I believe too, that this is one of the services where more stamps are being sold. The Government is selling more postal stamps than before because more people are writing letters; so I feel that we can give the public a better service because this is something which Government should worry about. People pay for the services they get, and that is one thing the Government is not subsidising in the sense that they are paying for it; and invariably the price you pay for posting your mail is cheap in itself, and since lots of people do it, it makes it easier for Government to finance it.

I feel sure, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister is not averse to changes, and because he came along and found a system operating, there is no reason why the system should be perpetuated even against basic common sense principles that everybody can see.

The question that I Annexed Estimates Post Office stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.
5.10 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$24,797 do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1963-64, NO. 18 PART II - CAPITAL - HEAD 6 - EDUCATION

Part II - Capital - Head 6 - Education - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 6 stand part.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, under this Head, I would like to find out from the Hon. Minister in charge what progress is being made relative to the school which is abandoned at St. Elizabeth's Village. This school was under consideration for a very long time, and I was told on the floor of the House already that the matter is under consideration and a spot was being negotiated for; but up to now, I have not heard of anything being done.

The children at this particular Girls' school are very unhappy, as well as the parents. One of them has approached me about the matter, and I believe they have approached my colleague also; they are under the impression, because they say that that is what they have heard, that the present Government is not prepared to do anything with that school until the next General Election. I would not, or could not believe that; but it is a possibility that it can be true because from the time this Government was in office even before that, this school was abandoned, and we were being told that matters were looked into and the erection of this school would soon be started. Up to now, nothing has been done.

Sir, you cannot prevent people from hearing things. But if they have heard that it is not Government's intention to do anything with that school until after the next General Elections, the Government should not entertain that. It is

a question of the children. There are other schools which have been started and built and have opened since this was under consideration. One of them is at Government Hill and one somewhere down Deacons Road. There are quite a few schools which have been started and finished and the children are already in those schools. At this particular school, the children cannot get the necessary accommodation, because one set has to attend on mornings and the other on evenings. That is not good enough and this Government has had time enough to get a site for that school. A site is not hard to get in St. Joseph. I wonder what is holding it up. I wonder if it is this General Elections talk. A General Election would only come in with the representatives themselves. They would not be accommodating me. The time is long passed when this school should be erected and we should know something as to the reason why it has not been erected.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The Hon. Minister of Education is not in his seat, but I do not know why the hon. junior member for St. Joseph should quote the rumour that the General Elections have something to do with this school because he has said that this was under consideration before the last elections. The Hon. Minister of Education is now about to take his seat and I am sure he has a logical and accurate explanation to give.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, the position in respect of these two schools is this. Long ago — it must be more than two years ago — one school was found uninhabitable, and it was decided to introduce a shift system; so I think we use the Boys' School and the girls are accommodated there for one part of the day and the boys for another. This is a situation which we have inherited.

For years, I have on the floor of this House joined voice with those of the other side, although my voice was a little louder, drawing the attention of the last Government to the plight of the people of St. Joseph in respect of these two schools. Since we took over the Government, we have put in the Development Plan the erection of a new school for St. Elizabeth; but the position is that if we build a school on the site which they have now, we would do so at considerable cost and we will have to plan to spend \$50,000 or \$60,000 with no prospect of providing playing fields to both schools.

It would be possible in theory that we could have a building large enough to serve both schools, but the cost would be prohibitive. A large amount of that cost would go in foundations and levelling off grounds; and when we do that, we would not have sufficient space for playing facilities.

We are exploring the possibility of resiting the schools somewhere else within easy distances of the children having to go there and that matter is under consideration. I have visited a site in St. Joseph in which the Government is interested some two months ago, and an officer is preparing a plan; therefore, it would not take as long to get a new school under this regime as it has taken in the past.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Hon. Minister for his reply, but I was hearing that long, long ago. I think it was the last time the matter was under discussion that the Hon. Minister called out an amount of land which they were seeking to buy, and I was shocked to hear of that amount of land which they wanted. I was thinking from then on where this land could be and I really cannot spot where it is. Well now, the Hon. Minister has told us that the Government, about two months ago, is seeking to acquire that land. Negotiations are going on and on, and, up to now, nothing is done. We should be hearing now that the school is about to start next week or next month. In other words, the present Government took it up in this condition, and they also took up other schools in the same condition; but they have done the others. I have passed the age which I can go back into that school now. Every minute you hear the Hon. Minister of Education saying that it is engaging the attention of the Government. I think it is time now to disengage the attention of the Government. It is not good enough. Those replies are too suave and easy.

5.20 p.m.

These replies are too oily. Let them get to work and buy a site and build a school. To be continually making promises is not enough. We have to try to do something. I cannot whip them, but something will have to be done about the matter.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is not very accurate when he says that the situation is exactly where it was before. I have intervened in this debate for the simple reason that when I saw the course of the construction of the foundation of the new school which would have been half-way completed, I drew to the attention of the Ministry of Education that the Government had acquired some 96 acres of land at St. Elizabeth's Village. This land will be used to develop the new industry of re-planting, re-afforestation and carrying out certain experiments. This land which we acquired was at a reasonable cost of \$250 an acre and I asked the Hon. Minister of Education to investigate whether it would not be possible to re-site the school on a part of this land which we had already acquired and thereby acquire adequate playing field facilities. It is not the policy of the Government to build any new schools in areas where the children do not have adequate playing field facilities. I believe that it is this aspect of the investigation which has taken a little time. We have only recently discovered about four or five acres of this land which would give us the facilities which the people of St. Joseph would need.

The hon. member is recalcitrant; I really cannot find words to describe his consistency or his inconsistency in coming here Tuesday after Tuesday and day after day upbraiding the Government for failing to complete or to build in eighteen months' time what the past Government had not been able to think about in fifteen years, far more to commence. But the hon. member's conversion is the most surprising one since the conversion of St. Paul on the Damascus road.

Mr. SMITH: I know that the Hon. Premier will try to say what he thinks. I am nothing to do with the last Government; if the last Government had done everything up to scratch, the hon. member would not have been the Premier today. In fact, he would still have been in the wilderness. When I say that he would still have been in the wilderness, I mean that he would have been outside of this House looking in. The people of St. Joseph are nothing to do with what the last Government did relative to the St. Elizabeth's school. This Government has built about two schools and added to more schools. The St. Elizabeth's school should have been done by them since this school has not been out of commission for so long. If the last Government had been returned and nothing was done about this school, I can assure the Hon. Premier that I would be here barking at them in the same way. It is of no use the hon. member referring to the 17 years' office of the last Government; the present Government is in office now and it is their duty to do something for the people of this country. It is the people who are paying the taxes and it is the people's money; it is not the money of the Ministers or that of other honourable members of this House. Mr. Chairman, something is wrong. It is foolishness to talk about building the school in the same place. When the Hon. Premier talks about the Government having acquired some 96 acres of land at St. Elizabeth's Village, I do not know if there are 96 acres of land in the whole of the parish of St. Joseph, except they are going to buy Joes River Plantation in full. I would suggest that instead of waiting for 96 acres of land, they should try and buy an area of about four or five acres in the vicinity of Cleavers Hill and erect the school there. That spot is there, it requires very little levelling and they would not be going too far away from the old site of the school either. It is only a question of negotiating for the spot and paying the money for it. Perhaps the next Election will catch us before we get that school; all the same, that would be all the better for me.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the hon. junior member for St. Joseph really understands how a Government operates. It is true that the school is a pressing necessity and that has been recognized on this side of the House even more so than it is recognized by

the hon. member. But if the opportunity comes along for us to acquire a large portion of land not only for the purpose of replacing a school but for doing other things as well, the Government takes everything into consideration. We are not saying that we will do everything before we provide this school; what we say is that we have bought this land, and in this land there will be an area set aside for the erection of the school. We do not want to re-site the school where it is now; we want to put it on a spot where we can have a playing field. The hon. member must not give the impression that we have some spite or vendetta to pursue against the people of St. Joseph. We have not in any way delayed the building of this school because we wanted to do so. The circumstances have already been explained. We have done something for another school in the parish of St. Joseph; we have erected Industrial Arts Wing at the West St. Joseph School as well as in other places. 5. 30 p.m.

There is a large school building and school extension programme going on in St. Joseph at the moment, and some of it has been completed. This will take its place, we hope, soon, and I give the hon. member my assurance that I will get them to bring it up to us, get the plans approved by the Planning Committee and the Cabinet and get the schools started. There is no holding back on my part. I have no reason to treat the people of St. Joseph differently in respect of their education than I would any part of this Island. As a matter of fact, my colleague, the Hon. Minister of Social Services, is from St. Joseph and got his education there. We would like to do for St. Joseph what we do for other places, but the hon. member must admit that this school building and school extension programme we have initiated since January last year more outshines in the twenty-one months anything that his own Government has done, and we have not left out St. Joseph in it because something has been done for St. Joseph. More has to be done and more will be done and we will not proceed on a discriminatory basis at all; so that I cannot allow the hon. member to give the impression that there is something radically wrong which prevents the people of St. Elizabeth's Village from having a school of their own choice. I will expedite the matter as much as I can, and I will give him the assurance that we will start construction soon.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering at this stage, Sir, whether I can have some information from the Minister of Education as to what is the position now with reference to the teachers that were promised from the Peace Corps. I see here that the two items add up to a grand total overall of some \$14,000. There are certain independent schools which teach Science and which would welcome assistance in the teaching of this very important subject from this Peace Corps personnel. We have been hearing about them since the end of last year. In fact it is almost a year now, Mr. Chairman, that we have been hearing about the visit of these Peace Corps people here to assist us in teaching not only in the Government maintained schools, but also at the independent schools.

As I have said there are certain independent schools which teach Science. Now I am connected with one myself, and our latest results in Science — the Minister can correct me if I am wrong, and the statistics are readily available to him — show that there was not a single failure at Advanced Level in any Science subject. It is obvious, therefore, that if you are able to command, if even temporarily, teachers from this Peace Corps, perhaps it would be of inestimable benefit to some of the children in this Island. It is obvious that there is no bold or imaginative plan for the assistance of independent schools which indeed try to educate three times as many children as attend the Government-maintained schools. If ever there can be assistance given to us in certain particulars such as this, well, then we might be able to keep our heads out of the financial waters, because it might not be known to the Minister, but not a single cent is charged for the teaching of Science in these schools that I know of, and the teaching of Science is a very expensive programme. Chemicals have to be bought and specialist teachers have to be employed; and as I have said, this being a scientific age, if there is any consideration at all being given to the youth of the Island particularly

and as a whole, and not only providing more and more facilities for the elected elite at the top of the Government-maintained schools, then some effort might be made to assist us, not financially, but with teachers, if even it be on a temporary basis.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I take it that the hon. member's question springs from the projection for Science laboratories for Harrison College and Combermere. I do not think that I can answer the hon. member's question, but the matter he raised about the Peace Corps, when there is news of that matter to be disclosed, it will be done in due course. I would like to tell the hon. member, however, that he might well guess that I would not be personally or as a Minister of this Government averse from seeking and getting overseas help of this nature for all schools in this Island. I may have drawn to the hon. member's attention in his capacity as Head of a school the fact that we have been approached by an organisation called the World Peace Programme of which ex-President Eisenhower and ex-Governor General of Canada, Mr. Massey, are patrons, who have written to my Ministry declaring their willingness and intention to assist in providing Science equipment for all the schools in this Island, and asking us whether we would be willing to accept, and we have answered them and said "yes". They have further asked us to give them an assessment of what we would need, and that has only come in recently, and all the schools in this Island, both our own and the private schools, have been asked by a circular from the Ministry to make their requests known, so that even if Government is not in a position itself to offer any assistance on this matter to the independent schools, we do maintain contact with such overseas agencies as are willing to assist and keep up correspondence with them, and we will keep in contact with them, not only on our own behalf, but on behalf of all the schools which teach this subject.

On the general problem of assistance to the independent schools, I think it is well known to the hon. member that discussions have been held between the representatives of some and the Ministry, in consequence of which discussions I have been able to finalise my own views on one or two aspects of aid, and I think I can pronounce that I have put before the Cabinet the proposals for the refund of examination fees covering last year and this current year. It is inevitable that this important matter of assistance to the independent schools should be done piece-meal, because it is a vast problem, but point after point in it will be attacked and resolved with goodwill on both sides. As far as we manage to reach agreement, I shall recommend to the Cabinet to proceed to the extent of the agreement which we have reached, and then when such matters are safely behind us, we will tackle new aspects of the matter and so on; so I do not want the hon. member either to think or to convey the impression that this Government and this Ministry are sleeping on this matter; but I want to re-emphasise that we have made ourselves available as the channel for overseas aid from the World Peace Programme for ourselves as well as for the independent schools, and they will shortly be asked by my Ministry to submit their needs and requirements so that we can pass them on to this very reputable organisation which, I feel certain will do what it can to help in promoting the teaching of Science in all the schools of this Island.

One last point: I like to keep educational matters out of controversy so far as I can, because I think that they are so important that we can promote the educational interests of the people of this Island if we avoid controversy as much as possible; but I must state categorically that when people say that the independent schools are taking three times or two and a half times as many people in their institutions as Government schools, I must beg to differ. It is very naive arithmetic, Mr. Chairman, which joins together everybody in schools without taking into account the various age ranges of the people in the schools. 5.40 p.m.

It is true, therefore, that in independent schools, there are large numbers of children of primary school age. Some of these independent schools may take children from the age of six years right on.

Obviously, if you think that there are more children in independent schools than in the Government schools, arithmetically, you may be correct; but surely that is not the point. The point is the type of pupils in these schools who are receiving secondary training; and if you take that, you will see the difference. Members should not forget that those independent schools take children from the age of seven years to ten years plus who have a right to be in a primary school and not in a secondary school.

The hon. member may be right, generally speaking, arithmetically; but on the basis of secondary training given, he is only entitled to compare those who are doing a secondary course in the independent schools with those numbers. You will find, therefore, that they are just as many in the independent schools doing secondary courses as in the Government Schools; so it is not a fair argument.

I can be as controversial as the hon. member or anybody else on these matters. This Government has nothing at all to be ashamed of in matters educational. I think that in the education of the young population, we want the largest common measure of agreement; but I am not going to allow this Government's case to go by default if arithmetic is used in what I think is quite an unfair way.

Mr. LYNCH: Sir, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for his promise to investigate such agencies as may be likely to assist us with the Science equipment. I hope the promise would come to some fruition. I would like also to point out to the Hon. Minister that such piecemeal benefits as are given such as he has proposed to give at the moment are of a very doubtful benefit to the independent schools as regards administration. When examination fees are returned to the parents of successful pupils, they are of no earthly benefit to the schools from which those pupils were drawn. Lest one may think that independent schools have now sprung in a new era of prosperity, it must be pointed out that it is to the pupils and not to the schools which the child attended that the benefit goes.

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

HEAD 9 - MISCELLANEOUS

Head 9 - Miscellaneous - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that Head 9 Miscellaneous - stand part.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the Resolution for the sum of \$62,658 do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1963-64 NO. 19 SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: In moving the passing of this Resolution, Mr. Chairman, we have one more indication of this Government's clear intention, not only in matters educational, but in scientific education. Hon. members are aware that in a few days - sixteen days from now - the College of Arts and Science set up here in Barbados by the University of the West Indies for the Windwards and the Leewards as well as this territory will be opened. That University development, that extension, has been brought about in recognition of the people of these territories for higher education at cheaper cost. The establishment of the College, apart from the fact that it would provide people right through the Eastern Caribbean with a good higher education at cheaper cost, would also provide for the people large

numbers of trained personnel for the schools and for the administration services.

In connection with this venture, the Government of Barbados, so far as students entering the College from this territory is concerned, has been prepared to pay their tuition and examination fees; but the Government has gone further now. Recognising the need for teachers in our schools, recognising the need for trained scientists to man the ever-increasing number of industries which we are attracting to these territories, recognising the need for a large number of persons with suitable training in technology to be able to act as consultants and advisers not only to Government but to industries and business houses, the Government of Barbados, in response to the suggestion of the University College, has decided to award ten scholarships in Science tenable at the College of Arts and Science here in Barbados. These ten scholarships are inaugural scholarships; in other words, they mark the beginning of the venture; and the successful scholars who are accepted to the University for three years will be provided with subsistence amounting to \$40 a month which for the three years of their degree course means that these scholarships are worth \$4,800 a year to the Scholars.

This request is for money to cover these scholarships to the end of the financial year. In other words, this amount is just half of the cost per year. In the new Estimates for 1964-65, we will put in the full amount until these pupils are graduated.

Sir, I want to stress that there is a considerable number of students well qualified to take the three-year University course in Mathematics and Science, and it will be from that number that the final selection will be made. In addition to these ten scholarships, the University of the West Indies itself awarded, I think, another ten scholarships, or possibly nine, to various persons in the Windwards and Leewards tenable at this College in Barbados: one for each of the territories except Barbados, and I think an extra one has been awarded to the Leeward Islands. However, nine scholars coming here from our sister territories plus those ten from here will be granted inaugural scholarships from the large number of students who have asked for admission and for whom examination fees will be paid. It is comfortably excepted that nearly 150 students will start their courses working towards a degree in a couple of weeks' time after the inauguration.

5.50 p.m.

This ceremony takes place on the 12th October, this very month, eleven days from now. This is a venture which the people of this island could scarcely have foreseen. Nobody asked us when we were in the Opposition to see that a College of Arts and Science is established. Frankly speaking, we did not project our thinking thus far. We were prepared to finance higher education as we could, but because of the unstinted support which we give to the University, we have been able to do this. Just as there will be an institution for studies of this nature in Jamaica and a separate College for Liberal Arts studies in Trinidad in addition to the College of Engineering and Agriculture, so too in Barbados is the extension of the University made manifest in the establishment of this College for the use of the people of the Windwards and Leewards and of this territory. This therefore is an original College, a laudable venture; and it does not prejudice any future extension of the University in any other territory. I am very pleased to be associated with the Government in a venture like this in view of the fact that the people did not ask for it. As a matter of fact, we did not commit ourselves to it in the Manifesto; but we saw the possibilities and we reached forward and took hold of those possibilities with both hands. Therefore, Sir, from next week the people of this island will have an institution of higher learning connected with the University of the West Indies, an institution which they will use not only for their own enlightenment but which they will share with their fellow citizens of the Windwards and Leewards. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that you do now report the passing of three Resolutions in Committee.

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

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

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

On motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON in each case, the Resolutions passed in Committee were read a first and second time and agreed to.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 9) ORDER, 1963.

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 Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 9) Order, 1963.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, this Civil Establishment Order made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee on the 16th day of September 1963 under the provisions of Section 3 of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949 seeks to re-organize certain of the Departments of Government such as the Service Commissions, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Services relative to the District Hospital Service at Oistins, Health Centres and the General Service. The changes which are being made are merely normal re-adjustments, but in the case of the Ministry of Education Your Honour will see that there is a new post being created, and that is the post of an Archivist and another post of Assistant Archivist and Public Records Officer. Those are the only new posts. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE LEASE OF LAND BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MESSRS. WILKINSON AND CHALLENGOR LTD.

Mr. SPEAKER: 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 lease by the Governor-in-Executive Committee to Messrs. Wilkinson and Challenor Limited, of a parcel of land situate at Prince Alfred Street, St. Michael.

I should like to say that I have been informed that our amplifying apparatus is presently out of commission.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks the approval of the Legislature to the lease to Messrs Wilkinson and Challenor Ltd. of a parcel of land containing 17,480 square feet situated at Prince Alfred Street, St. Michael, which was formerly thought to contain by admeasurement 17,922 square feet but which was found by recent survey to contain by admeasurement 17,480 square feet. The period of the lease is a period of seven years with effect from the 1st May, 1963 at the rate of \$175 a month. We are accordingly seeking the approval of the Legislature for this lease.
6.00 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I cannot hear the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is no fault of the hon. member.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: This land had been leased to Messrs. Wilkinson and Haynes since 1936 at a price of \$840

per year. Now it is to be leased at \$175 per month. The land which was formerly 17,922 square feet and is now 17,480 square feet apparently has been eroded due to erosion that took place in 1955 after hurricane "Janet". The firm of Wilkinson and Haynes is amalgamated with R. & G. Challenor and is now known as Wilkinson & Challenor Limited. This land is at present occupied by Messrs. Da Costa and Company and is used as a store-room and warehouse for high octane gas and other petroleum products and is on the western end of the Pier Head at Prince Albert Street.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: I wonder if I may ask the Hon. Minister this. The 17,480 square feet is now being leased to Wilkinson and Challenor as rightly said, and the rent has been raised to the rate of \$175 per month.

Mr. SPEAKER: There can be no question and answer across the House. I realise the difficulty under which the Leader of the Opposition is labouring, but if he would give way, I am sure the Minister of Communications would repeat what he said.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: In 1936, Mr. Speaker, the land was leased for seven years at \$840 per year. It had previously been increased from \$840 in 1936 to \$1,800 in 1954, and we are now increasing the rent by \$25 per month and asking for a rent of \$2,100 a year or \$175 a month.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition gave way to the Hon. Minister.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am perfectly satisfied with the Hon. Minister's explanation.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order standing in the name of the Hon. Premier has not yet been circulated to hon. members. Order No. 5 which is the following Order of the Day has been, I am advised, circulated and that is in the name again of the Hon. and Learned Premier: to move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Solicitors Act, 1896.

THE SOLICITORS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1963.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Solicitors Amendment Bill provides that Section 9 of the Solicitors Act of 1896 should be amended so that a person who has taken a degree (not being an honorary degree) at any of the Universities specified in clause two of this Bill would be exempted from the preliminary examination under the Act. Clause 2 of this Bill accordingly seeks to amend section 9 to such extent as is necessary to give effect to that proposal.

Then by virtue of Section 17 of the Act an articulated clerk is not eligible to be a candidate for the intermediate examination under the Act unless he has served at least two years under articles of Clerkship. It is proposed, however, that an articulated clerk who holds a degree (other than an honorary degree) in any subject from any University specified in section 9 of the Act should be eligible to take the intermediate examination as if he had served at least one year under articles of clerkship and that he should have the right at the end of another two years after passing the intermediate examination to take the final examination and be enrolled if he is successful. This therefore would cut down the time which an articulated clerk who has a degree from a recognised University would have to serve under the existing Act. This matter has been gone into very thoroughly by the Law Society and by Government, and I myself think that it is a very laudable exercise.
6.10 p.m.

It has extended the schedule of Universities to include the University of the West Indies and other universities and

these should be set out as far as I remember in Section 2 of the Bill: The University of Wales, the University of the West Indies, the University of Toronto and other Universities of that nature has now been included in the Schedule.

Mr. Speaker, I now beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 inclusive were called separately and passed.

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE STOLLMEYER PENSION BILL, 1963

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Premier: to move the second reading of a Bill to authorise the payment of a gratuity and a pension to Charles Rex Stollmeyer formerly Trade Commissioner for the West Indies in Canada, in respect of his service from 15th September, 1931 to 31st December, 1953.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, in 1955, the Government accepted a recommendation - *(Loud Asides)*.

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of the difficulty of the incidence of the acoustics, I would ask hon. members to desist even from whispering among themselves.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, in 1955, the Government accepted a recommendation of the Regional Economic Committee that in view of Mr. Stollmeyer's - who was lastly West Indies Trade Commissioner in Canada, - 22 years of service before he was assimilated into the Federal affairs with the Government of the West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras, we should accept liability for the payment to him of a pension in respect of his service from 15th September, 1931 to 31st December, 1953. I believe that was the day in which he was assimilated in the services of the late Federated territories of the West Indies.

This Bill seeks to authorise the Accountant General to pay Mr. Stollmeyer a pension on the basis used for calculating pensions under the Pension Act of 1947.

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

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

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

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. E. W. BARROW, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 were called separately and passed.

On motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. E. W. BARROW, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee.

6.20 p.m.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS CONCLUDED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for the day.

THE ORDER PAPER

In fixing the Order Paper under Government Business, the items will remain as they are. I do not know if any hon. member has any matter under Private Members' Business which he wants to move up. In that case he has the opportunity to do so now.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I am asking that Order No. 12 standing in my name under Private Members' Business be made Order No. 1 for the next meeting of the House.

Mr. SMITH: I object to that.

ORDER WITHDRAWN

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, I am asking that Order No. 15 standing in my name under Private Members' Business be withdrawn.

There being no objection, leave was granted the hon. member to withdraw the Order.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn....

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I am asking that Order No. 12 standing in my name under Private Members' Business be made Order No. 2 at the next meeting of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is subject to the Hon. Minister giving way.

There being no objection leave was granted the hon. member.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am asking that Order No. 4 standing in my name under Private Members' Business be made order No. 4 at the next meeting of this House.

Mr. BATSON: I object.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 15th October 1963 at 2.30 p.m. of the clock.

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

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 15th October, 1963, at 2.30 p.m., of the clock, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

6.30 p.m.

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 15th October, 1963.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (*Speaker*); Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, (*Minister of Development, Trade Industry and Tourism*); Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Mr. F. E. MILLER; Mr. E. S. A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries*); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (*Minister of Education*); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (*Minister of Communications, Works and Housing*); Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. S. C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. L. A. LYNCH, J.P.; Mr. G. V. BATSON, (*Chairman of Committees*); Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. D. C. EDWARDS, (*Minister of Social Services*).

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the Meeting of the 1st October have been circulated. If there is no objection, they will be confirmed. (*A Pause*).

Hearing no objection, I declare the Minutes of that Meeting to have been confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On behalf of the Hon. Premier, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Local Government (Compensation) (Amendment) Regulations, 1963;

The Special Development Area (East Coast Road) (Belleplaine to Bathsheba) Order, 1963;

The Development Duty (Capital Gains) (East Coast Road, Belleplaine to Bathsheba) Order, 1963;

The Betterment Charge (East Coast Road, Belleplaine to Bathsheba) Order, 1963;

Statement of sums of money paid over to the Accountant General by the Commissioner of Police during the quarter ended 30th June, 1963;

Statement showing net Customs and Excise Receipts for six months ended 30th September, 1963;

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados, and the amounts received from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts; for the period ended on the 31st March, 1963 in respect of schemes sanctioned by the Legislature;

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados, and the amounts received from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, for the period ended on the 30th June, 1963 in respect of schemes sanctioned by the Legislature;

Barbados Statistical Service — Special Studies No. 6 — Census of Tourism: 1961.

Also, on my own behalf, I am commanded to lay the following:—

Eleventh Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Natural Gas Corporation for the period 1st April, 1961 to 31st March, 1962;

Twelfth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Natural Gas Corporation for the period 1st April, 1962 to 31st March, 1963.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Resolution to place the sum of \$675 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1963-64, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1963-64, No. 20, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Resolution to place the sum of \$1,487 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1963-64, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1963-64, No. 21, which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Resolution to approve the statement set out in the Schedule thereto, showing the mileage, locality etc., of highways or portions of highways in the Northern District Council Area which the Governor-in-Executive Committee proposes to place under the control of the Director of Highways and Transport under the provisions of section 9 of the Department of Highways and Transport Act, 1945 (1945-12).

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Resolution to approve the sale by the Governor-in-Executive Committee of a parcel of land situate at Bay Street, St. Michael, as described in the Schedule thereto.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Governor-in-Executive Com-

mittee of the Sugar Work Plantation called Graeme Hall, described in the Schedule thereto, for the purpose of ensuring a proper system of land utilisation for the use and benefit of the public.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: A Bill relating to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: A Bill to repeal the Attorney General (appointment, conditions of service and dismissal) Act, 1961.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: A Bill to provide for the establishment of a Bank to be known as the Barbados Development Bank to provide financial assistance to development enterprises in the Island and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: A Bill to make provision for the registration, licensing and supervision of quarries; for the safety of workers employed therein; for the fencing thereof and for matters incidental to and connected with the foregoing.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: A Bill to provide for the establishment of a Corporation to be known as the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, for the functions of the Corporation, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 83/1962, asked by the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown, is ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 89/1962, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew is ready and that this Reply was given on a former occasion which was on the 10th September, this year.
2.55 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Replies to the following Parliamentary Questions are now ready:-

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 100 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James;

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 110 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas;

Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 133 also asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas.

In connection with the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 133 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, I should like to state that the Oral Reply to this question was ready and was given on the 24th September, 1963.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 136 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Andrew is now ready.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the suspension of Standing Orders 5, 14, 16 and 18 for the remainder of today's sitting.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

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

WHEREAS there are over a dozen tenants resident in the parish of Clifton Hill Tenantry in the Parish of St. Thomas;

AND WHEREAS the said tenants experience much difficulty in getting in and out of their homes after a rainfall;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request the Government to make provision for resiting the said tenants in an effort to alleviate the sufferings of the said people.

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

WHEREAS the people of the Sugar Hill area surrounding Kellman's pond have for sometime been suffering as a result of the water which runs from the Sugar Hill highway to the said Kellman's pond, and more so during the week of heavy rainfall where the said water remains much longer than is necessary for its disposal through not having any proper means of disposal;

AND WHEREAS this matter was brought to the notice of this Honourable House on a previous occasion, but there seems to be a shifting of responsibility between the Department of Highways and Transport, and the Public Health Authorities of the Northern District Council as to whose duty it is to provide a proper suck for the disposal of the said storm water;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that in view of the fact that the people who live in the area are human beings, and all form a part of the Government, and further that the health of the Community being of first importance, this House request Government to issue instructions to the said Department of Highways and Transport to prepare a proper suck with as little delay as possible for the disposal of any such water.

QUESTION

Mr. HOLDER: Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Minister of Social Services:-

Will Government resuscitate the two lawn tennis courts at the Playing Field at Thorpes Housing Area, St. James, upon the spots where the two courts were formerly sited, one for the convenience of the residents of the said Housing Area, and the other for the use of the St. John The Baptist Primary Schools?

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE PRESENTED

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, I rise to lay the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1957. The Report reads as follows:-

The Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1957, have the honour to submit the following Report:-

1. The Committee met on two occasions.

2. The Committee had at its disposal a memorandum in the form of a draft Bill which had been prepared by the Crown Law Office to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1957, and after careful consideration of the same, recommend that the Bill as appearing in the Schedule here-to be substituted for the Bill presented for its consideration.

3. The substituted Bill in no way conflicts with the principle of the Bill introduced by Mr. F. L. Walcott nor are its Objects and Reasons in any way affected by the substitution. It simply embraces in a more comprehensive form the proposals envisaged by Mr. Walcott in his amending Bill.

4. The Committee appreciates that other Bills such as the Local Government Act, 1958, will have consequently to be amended so as to bring them in line with the provisions of this Bill and that regulations governing the mechanism of allowing school children of 18 years old and

over — as well as inmates of institutions such as the Government Industrial School — to vote, will have to be made, but do not regard it as within their competence to make any recommendations with respect thereto."

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On motions of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA in each case, the following Bills were read a first time:-

A Bill relating to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

A Bill to repeal the Attorney General (appointment, conditions of service and dismissal) Act, 1961.

3.05 p.m.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Bank to be known as the Barbados Development Bank to provide financial assistance to development enterprises in the Island and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to make provision for the registration, licensing and supervision of quarries; for the safety of workers employed therein; for the fencing thereof and for matters incidental to and connected with the foregoing, be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Corporation to be known as the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, for the functions of the Corporation, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, be now read a first time.

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

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

STATEMENT re LOSS OF FISHPOTS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, at my request, the Fishery Officer has been conducting an investigation into the loss of fish pots suffered by fishermen as a result of the rough seas following in the wake of hurricanes "Edith" and "Flora". This inquiry has been in progress from the day immediately after the earlier tempest and will be concluded within the next few days. All fishermen who have sustained losses and who require assistance should supply evidence of ownership and loss to the Fishery Officer before Saturday, October 19th, in order that Government may assess the extent of assistance to be rendered.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to make the following Statement to the Honourable House:-

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE PREMIER TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS TO TOBAGO

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

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

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

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

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

1352 cartons canned meat
1500 cartons condensed milk
179 cartons butter
162 cartons cheese
15 boxes and 2 bales dried fish
1058 cartons canned fish
170 bags hard wheat flour
108 cartons and 15 chests tea
10 drums vegetable oil.

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

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

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

I also have the honour to make the following Statement on Local Government in this Island.

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE PREMIER ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN BARBADOS

"I have the honour to inform the House that I intend to advise His Excellency the Governor on the appointment of a Commission with the following or similar terms of reference:-

To examine in all aspects the working of the three Local Government Councils since the coming into operation of the Local Government Act of 1958 and to make recommendations thereon in order to effect greater efficiency in the services now rendered by the system at the lowest possible cost to the ratepayers and taxpayers of this Island."

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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 in order to deal with the money Resolutions of which notice was given today.

I should also like to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply to deal only with the Resolution of which notice was given earlier today in connection with the sending of a representative to the Malaya Sitting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, you will pardon me because I came in late; but are we on Government Business now, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House had earlier given notice of his intention to move the suspen-

sion of Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16 and 18, and I am advised that that has not yet been done; but the Hon. Leader had the intimation from the Chair that the leave of the Chair is granted. I appreciate that intimation from the hon. junior member for St. Joseph reminding me that the motion had not yet been made.

Mr. SMITH: Is the hon. member asking for leave to deal only with this now? I would like the assurance from the Leader that after this we will revert to Private Members' Business till the time expires because this is Private Members' Business' time.
3.15 p.m.

That is what I want to find out. If he is not going to return to Private Members' Business after that, I would be objecting; but I do not want to object to prevent him from dealing with this matter now. I would like to know before we start to fire off the gun.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, before the hon. member starts to fire off any gun, he should pay attention to what is going on. I distinctly said that I was asking leave to deal solely with the Resolution.

I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders 5, 14, 16 and 18 for the remainder of the day.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member seconding the motion?

Mr. SMITH: No, Sir. The Hon. Leader of the House is moving a motion which has the effect of doing away with Private Members' Business for the day.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand him to say that he proposes immediately after the suspension to deal only with the Resolution of which he gave notice today.

Mr. SMITH: After that, I take it that you will be going on to Private Members' Business.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second the motion.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken and that the first Order of the Day be the Resolution for the sum of \$675 to which I directed your attention earlier today.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply and that the House while in Committee of Supply be instructed to deal with the Resolution for the sum of \$675 of which I have just given notice.

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1963-64 No. 20

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, it has been the position of the Barbados Branch of the Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association to participate in the activities of the Association. At all the recent meetings, this Branch has been represented, and it is now proposed that, for the meeting scheduled to take place in Kuala Lumpur in Malaya in October to November of this year, a member from this Branch should also be sent.

Hon. members will note from the Addendum to the Resolution that since we are members of the Association the actual cost of travel for our representatives to and from Malaya and also incidental expenses while in Malaya will be met by the General Council of the Association and by the host country, Malaya. In other words, the Association itself will pay all travelling expenses from Barbados and back, and the actual expenses for hotel, entertainment and what not in Malaya itself will be borne by the Government and people of Malaya. All that we are asked to do, and what we normally do, is to provide the representative with a small subsistence allowance; and this, Sir, the sum of \$675 is the amount sought by the Resolution for the purpose of granting a subsistence allowance to the member who may be selected as the representative of the Barbados Branch. It is calculated at the rate of \$25 a day.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

QUESTION TIME

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

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

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

ENQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF MR. ARNIE GREAVES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Reply has been laid to Question No. 83 standing in the name of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will Government as soon as practicable cause a commission of enquiry to be instituted into the case of the death of Mr. Arnie Greaves, who was hospitalised as a result of burns received from the fire on board the M.V. Daerwood?

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

"The case of Arnie Greaves was the subject of a Coroner's Inquest at which all the circumstances surrounding his death were examined. In view of this it is not proposed to institute a Commission of Enquiry into the matter."

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, in the circumstances, I thank the Hon. Minister for his reply.

HARDSHIPS EXPERIENCED re ROADS IN THE SOIL CONSERVATION SCHEME AREA

Mr. SPEAKER: The Reply has also been laid to Question No. 89 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew:-

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

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

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

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

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

"1. No, Sir. The roads in the Scotland District fall under the control of the Director of Highways and Transport in respect of construction, repair and maintenance in accordance with sections 4 and 11 of the Department of Highways & Transport Act, 1945 and the First Schedule thereto.

2. Repairs have been carried out by the Soil Conservation Board to Rock Hall road. In view of the unstable nature of the terrain in the other areas mentioned by the Honourable Member, it is not proposed to undertake reconstruction work until the subsoil has been stabilised."

PUBLIC INCONVENIENCE IN OBTAINING CERTIFICATES FROM THE REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: The Oral Reply to Question No. 54 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is also ready. That Question was enquired of the Honourable and Learned Premier:-

Mr. COWARD: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is it within the knowledge of the Minister that the general public who require Certificates from the Registration Department of this Island is put to much inconvenience in obtaining such Certificates?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative will the Minister issue directions that something be done to relieve such conditions?

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 54 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph on the 12th June, 1962, is as follows:-

"1. There is no indication that the public suffers undue inconvenience in obtaining certificates from the Registration Office. Certificates are normally available within 48 hours after application has been made, and where requests for certificates are urgent, every effort is made to have such certificates prepared and issued without delay on the day of application.

2. The possibility of further improvement of the system is under active investigation.

PROTECTION ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE WHARF

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been informed that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 110 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is also ready.

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

Is the Minister aware that quite recently a motor vehicle ran off the road adjacent to the Wharf into the Careenage?

2. Will the Minister give urgent consideration to the erection of a rail or some other means of protection running along the length of the Wharf so as to prevent the recurrence of such an incident?

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

"1. I am aware that recently a motor vehicle ran off the road adjacent to the Wharf into the Careenage.

2. The erection of a rail along the length of the wharf, while affording some measure of protection, would not necessarily prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

Government is considering plans for the reconstruction of Victoria Bridge and for the erection of a new financial building. These projects will entail re-alignment of the roads and sidewalks in the area and the question of providing suitable protection for the wharf will be given consideration when the plans for the area are being implemented."

Mr. SPEAKER: The Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 133 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is also ready (After a pause). I am informed that that Question has already been answered, but somehow or other it has been placed on the list of notices which I have received. I am advised that the answer is ready to Parliamentary Question No. 132 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown. 3.35 p.m.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

1. Do any Bus Concessionaires have written concessions from the Government to operate buses along their respective routes?

2. If the answer to (1) is in the affirmative, what are the names of such Concessionaires and the respective dates of such concessions and will copies of the concessions be laid on the Table of the House for the information of Members?

3. If the answer to (1) is negative in whole or in part, why, and what action does Government intend to take to remedy such a situation?

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

"No, Sir.

Does not arise.

The Government proposes to review the question of bus concessions in the light of the recommendations of the Committee appointed to carry out an investigation into the Public Transport of the Island as soon as the Committee submits its Report."

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his replies.

Mr. SPEAKER: There remains apparently one more Oral Reply standing, and that is to question No. 100 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James who, I am advised, is unable to be present this afternoon on account of urgent, professional duties elsewhere.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I gave notice of the fact today that Oral Reply to Question No. 136 was also ready.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 136 is ready, and that stands in the

name of the hon. senior member for St. Andrew. That question is to be found on page 8 of the Order Paper on its right hand column.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Since the Haggatts Sugar Factory in the parish of St. Andrew ceases to operate as such any more, will Government cause an investigation to be made so that workers who have been employed at the said factory — both in the factory and otherwise — will be told without delay what compensation, if any, will be paid to them by the present owners of the said Haggatts Factory?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Reply is as follows:-

"The Government, the Barbados Workers' Union and the Sugar Producers' Federation of Barbados have agreed to implement a scheme for severance payments to displaced sugar factory workers. It is expected that legislation to give effect to the proposals will be submitted to the Legislature shortly.

In the circumstances the Government does not propose to initiate an investigation of this nature since it is not considered that it would serve any useful purpose."

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems that there are no other Replies laid to questions, and Question Time accordingly is automatically closed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken, and that the time be allowed for Private Members' Business should be until 4.30 p.m.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John: to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution re the Domestic Science Class at St. John's Mixed Schools. The hon. junior member for St. John was speaking when the time for Private Members' Business expired on the occasion when last previously this matter was being discussed. Does the hon. junior member for St. John care to resume his address?

RESOLUTION re DOMESTIC SCIENCE CLASS AT ST. JOHN'S MIXED SCHOOLS

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Speaker, when I last spoke on this Resolution, I thought I had cleared all the aspects of this Resolution. I had an indication from the Minister that by next term this Science Class at St. John would be re-organised. There is one thing which really struck me on the last occasion when I was speaking, and it is when the hon. junior member for St. George said that his Government had sent overseas to Canada 1,200 domestics, and although that number had gone from this Island, only one domestic had gone from St. John.
3.45 p.m.

All that happened in the Barbados Labour Party Government's time, and I think I have said already that there were many reasons for that, and I believe that the hon. junior member for St. George knows of some of the reasons.

Mr. MILLER: Sir, I rise on a point of order. I am most reluctant to join issue with my hon. friend on this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Joining issue would not constitute a point of order.

Mr. MILLER: The Resolution which my hon. friend is speaking on deals with the Domestic Science Class at St. John's Mixed School and it was a question of whether the Hon. Minister would be willing to re-open this class.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Honestly, the member in charge at that time was a Minister of the Barbados Labour Party Government, and he also knew the reason why none of the domestics from St. John got the opportunity of going out to Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I took pains here to give this Honourable House some of the reasons which prevented the girls of St. John taking that active part which they should have taken, and, as I have said, the present Ministry of Education is making sure that this Science class will be re-opened as from next term.

Sir, the only type of opposition to this class being re-opened came from the hon. junior member for St. George. He said in his speech — a nonsensical speech I would call it — that I was unaware of the things which were going on in the parish of St. John and that I did not even know where the school was situated. I never expected to hear that from a member who was in Government at the time.

Mr. MILLER: Again, Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, a Minister of the present Government said on about three occasions during the debate that several times the Government made efforts to re-open the class and nobody was willing to come forward. The Minister made it clear that nobody was willing to go on the class.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Sir, I think it is only fair to point out that the Hon. Minister had tried to draw to the attention of the House that there was a group of students who had Grade 3 certificates and they were upgraded at the request — I would not say compulsion — of the Minister of the last Government, and then he coerced the person responsible for the examination in downgrading those people who did not do too well in the examination. Consequently, when girls came forward to join the classes, they came forward with a lack of interest; but that was a result of a loss of confidence in the last Government and not in the Centre, because the re-grading of those pupils was done at the instance of a Government Minister.

Sir, I know that the hon. junior member for St. George has not been powerful in arithmetic. If the allocation is 42 persons a year, how can he say that during their regime 1,200 persons went? They have not been in office for 30 years; it is not thirty years that this scheme has been in operation. How can he say that in the Barbados Labour Party's regime 1,200 people were sent to Canada? That could not be right, not only by any law, but by any arithmetic.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. John was speaking and he was interrupted by his hon. and learned colleague.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, can I ask a question?

Mr. SPEAKER: There are only two points, one a point of order and the other a point of elucidation. Sometimes these points are made without conciseness, but it is still on a point.

Mr. MILLER: Well, Sir, on a point of order, I would like to know — in fact I was looking at the Order Paper to see the hon. members who spoke on this motion and it is clear that the Hon. Premier did not take an opportunity to address the House on this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. George is directing my attention on a point of order that the Hon. and Learned Premier has not yet spoken in this debate.

Mr. MILLER: I want to know if the Hon. Premier has just made his speech or if it is a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I allowed it as a point of order just as I allowed the hon. junior member for St. George to rise on a point of order.

(The hon. junior member for St. George and the hon. junior member for St. John were on their feet.)

I see two hon. members on their feet. Will both resume their seats? Has the hon. junior member for St. George completed his point of order?

Mr. MILLER: No, Sir. Again, there is no mass arithmetic involved here. It has to be taken that the Hon. Premier has now made his speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. junior member for St. John proceed? This is a speech in winding up the debate. The hon. member is making his speech in reply to hon. members who spoke on the motion.

Mr. YEARWOOD: That is my observation, and I am very thankful to the Hon. Premier for really explaining the true position.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. I have protested on several occasions over this amplifying equipment which we have in here. As Minister of Finance, I do think that, if we find this equipment is useless, we should send it back to the people from whom we got it as a free gift. Alternatively, if the equipment and the defects are due to inefficient operation, then I think we should get efficient people to operate it. This has never happened in the regime of the last Government, but any time a member of the present Government is speaking we have the greatest difficulty in making ourselves heard even with the so-called system of amplification which we have. I am tired coming in here and hearing members having to make the same complaint.
3.55 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to inform the House that during the two weeks' interval since the last meeting of this House, I instructed that the persons from whom this equipment was bought, Messrs. K. R. Hunte and Co., should send in their engineers. They have alleged that they have remedied the trouble in respect of two condensers and they have given a certificate to the effect that the equipment is in good order and is voiceworthy again.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I take it that this certificate is as valid as those which are issued by the St. John's Housecraft Centre.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not sure about that point which was made by the Hon. Premier.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: It was a point of order.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say how pleased I was and how thankful I am to hear the Hon. Premier enlighten the hon. junior member for St. George that it could not have been the number of 1,200 domestics who went to Canada in their time, if they were sending out forty-two domestics per year. Again, the Hon. Premier might not have worried himself to think about the matter; this number of 1,200 could have gone under the Government of the Labour Party, but you do not know how they would have gone. That is what I was coming to. This number of 1,200 could have gone out, but not as domestics, because I know that a lot of them who went out did not go as domestics; yet, they went. That is what is happening. We do not know how many people went through the chute.

Mr. Speaker, I hardly think that any hon. member of this Chamber would oppose the re-opening of this Centre and therefore I have concluded my speech.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: In accordance with the notification which was given to hon. members already as to the proposed joint meeting of this Chamber and the Other Place at 4 p.m. of the clock, I now beg to move that this House do now adjourn or rather that this sitting be now suspended for half an hour.

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

The question that this sitting be now suspended for half an hour was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accordingly.

On re-assembling,

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, there being no quorum I am asking that the bell be rung.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thank the hon. junior member for St. George for pointing out to me the absence of a quorum. Let the bell be rung.

Mr. SMITH: For how long is the bell to be rung? (A MEMBER: For two minutes.)

On the bell being rung a quorum was obtained.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Hon. Leader of the House let us know whether he proposes to proceed with Government Business now?

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Government Business be now taken.

Mr. SMITH: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, am I in order or are we in order now to proceed with anything? The motion was made that this House do now adjourn until 4.30 p.m., of the clock and that hour has long passed. I would like to know if we are in order now to make any motions or to do anything.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. There was never any such motion made. The sitting of this House was suspended for half an hour; therefore I do not know where these illusions are coming from now.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Clerk has advised me that the official record states that the sitting of the House was suspended for half an hour. According to the record, the House was not adjourned but the sitting was suspended for 30 minutes; therefore it is in order for us to proceed with the business of the day.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to second the motion that Government Business be now taken.

The question that Government Business be now taken was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

BANKING BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day under Government Business stands in the name of the Hon. Premier:—To move the second reading of a Bill to make provision to regulate the business of banking and for purposes connected therewith.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, what I am going to say on the introduction of this Bill is not going to be pleasing to a lot of people in this community, but at a time when we are undertaking social and economic changes, it is inevitable that a few eggs have to be thrown in if we are making omelettes. It is also inevitable that a few skulls will have to be cracked, and people who have been enjoying immunity and who have chosen to tamper with business of this kind, will find legislation of this nature very distasteful.
4.50 p.m.

This is only the beginning of a series of legislative measures which will tighten up the financial institutions of this country. I hope very shortly to introduce legislation to deal with insurance companies, but anything that I may say about the introduction of legislation is not to be taken as an indictment necessarily against all the institutions which now perform services in this country. I want to make that clear. I therefore make no apology for the provisions of this Act, because it is long overdue.

In recent years the need for banking legislation in Barbados has been manifest to all and sundry because of what has happened in connection with more than one bank or so-called bank. The whole object of this Bill, Mr. Speaker, is to protect the money belonging to the public. In particular, the Bill seeks to protect depositors. In the Bill the term "banking business" has been defined as meaning among other things receiving money from the public on current account, deposit account or other similar account. It has been suggested that this alone should not make a banking business.

Within the past forty-eight hours I have been discussing with some of the interests whether Friendly Societies might not find themselves caught within the toils of the provisions of this Bill. That is a matter of legal interpretation, but it is not our intention that Friendly Societies should be considered banks within the meaning of the Act, because they are sufficiently controlled, in our opinion, by other legislation which we have on the Statute Book of the Island. It has been suggested, as I said, that the mere depositing of money with a person or an institution should not render that person or institution liable to the sanctions which are imposed under this Bill. We cannot accept the suggestions, Mr. Speaker as it would then leave the door open for someone to set up an institution, receive money from the public on current account, deposit account and other similar accounts and not conform with all the various safeguards and requirements of the Act. The public would not be protected.

All of these points, Mr. Speaker, have been discussed with all the reputable banking institutions in this country. I do not claim to have discussed them with all, but certainly the opinions of all the major reputable banking institutions in this country have been canvassed, their advice has been sought, we have held several discussions between my Ministry and the banks both on an official and unofficial level, and points have also been raised by the leading business interests in the City of Bridgetown and outside of it. We have discussed these points with them; but we have converted them, in the majority of cases where they had certain fears, that there is nothing for the honest man to be afraid of in a Bill of this kind.

One other objection which has been made is that this legislation puts great power in the hands of the Minister of Finance and that there might be a Minister in future who would abuse this power. It has never been suggested by any of the business interests or any of the banks that the present Minister is likely to abuse this power. This kind of heresy can only be found among the ranks of the former Government Party. I should like to say, Sir, that it does put a lot of power in the hands of the Minister of Finance, but not power for evil, but power to root out evil; and the people who are honest in this community would have nothing to fear from me personally or within the constitutional protection afforded by the Bill against any future Minister of Finance, because there is no provision in this Bill which gives the Minister of Finance power to commit an evil act against any institution or person going in for the business of banking, but only power to root out evil. I should like to say that, moreover, an elected Government is always subject to the controlling influence of public opinion with all the necessary checks and balances which a nominated official or nominated member of a legislature would not normally be subjected to.

As an encouragement, Mr. Speaker, to the establishment of indigenous banks, provision is made in Clause 7 for the paid up capital from such a bank to be not less than \$250,000 as against \$2 million in the case of Banks incorporated outside the Island. I think it should be clear to

everyone, that by stipulating a smaller paid up capital for local banks in contra-distinction to foreign banks, we would encourage the localisation of savings by people in the community, and encourage them to go in, whether as cooperative or otherwise, to the business of banking for themselves.

Now I do not know whether I would be trespassing on private preserves by mentioning this, but I do not intend to call any individual institution. It is within my knowledge that certain business places in Bridgetown have for a very long period of time with the shrewdness of the average Barbados businessman been mobilising savings by having people deposit savings with them on which they pay rates of interest. I think I am extremely fair to these business places. In other words, they have been more or less acting as bankers. This is how the institution of banks grew up after the Middle Ages, the late Sixteenth Century and early 17th Century. The goldsmiths were the traditional bankers. People deposited their jewellery and currency with the goldsmiths because they had the safes in which to keep articles of value. The average wealthy person in Great Britain and in Europe at that time, because the New World had not got off the ground yet, as it were, did not like to leave their articles of value at home when they went to their country estates or when they went out on their several occasions; and so they would go to the goldsmiths and deposit these items of jewellery and so on. Eventually they began to deposit currency, and after a time the goldsmith began to use the money by arrangement with their clients and to pay interest on the money which was left with them. It is still the practice of many persons to go to banks and deposit their jewels with their bankers, and this only carries on a tradition out of which the whole system of banking arose.

Similarly, here in Barbados we have a rather unique practice which is not in any way primitive. It is a bit more advanced in most countries in which people deposit money with certain business houses — and this is something which I am aware of — and the business houses pay them interest on it. Well, there has been a certain amount of trepidation in the business community as to the position of these business houses in relation to the practice which they have traditionally carried on. I should like to say, Mr. Speaker, that it is a question on which I have not finally made up my mind; but let me put it this way: I cannot take judicial notice of a practice, not being a judge of course in the first instance, or even in the position as Minister of Finance, and legislate against a practice which is not illegal.

5.00 p.m.

What I am trying to do is to legislate against illegal practices; I cannot legislate against things which are perfectly legitimate. I would go further and say at once that it is more than possible that when these business institutions take legal advice they may find that they come under the provisions of the Act. What this Government is trying to do is to ensure honest banking practices. We are trying to make sure that the mobilisation of savings in this country is in no way discouraged by people who manage banks which appear to be banks but which go in for all kinds of speculative practices, thus jeopardising the deposits of their depositors. Where a business house wishes to deposit its account with a bank, that is a matter of private domestic arrangement, and if they prefer to do that where they may not be protected by the provisions of the Act; where they prefer to do that, probably by way of inducement, by way of higher interest rates, rather than go to traditional institutions to bank their money, that is a matter of private domestic arrangement and I have no intention to interfere with that. But I should like to let hon. members who may not be aware of these things know that I am aware of these things. These are my general observations and I do not intend to be personal. I think that the banking business in Barbados is growing, as can be witnessed any time one goes down Broad Street. You find that the small people in Barbados are becoming conscious that there is an institution of banking in this country and I think more people are familiarising themselves with the mystery of the cheque book, and all those things help to mobilise savings in a country.

Mr. Speaker, you know that we have actively supported an organisation promoting thrift among the community and

the "Buy Local" campaign. This Bill is an extension of these attitudes of the Government. I am making sure that the public whose interests we try to invoke in these matters are not fleeced by the dishonesty of people who even do not know what they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill is divided into seven parts. Part I relates to preliminary matters and Part II relates to the licensing of banks. Part III provides for capital and reserves, that is to say, the minimum capital authorised, subscribed and paid up and so on and the maintenance of reserve funds. Part IV deals with the restriction on banking business, for or against, such as restrictions of dividends, persons debarred from bank management, restriction on use of title "bank", and restriction on certain activities by licensed banks. Part V makes provision as to returns and necessity for submission of such returns to the Minister of Finance and for the due publication of balance sheets. Part VI deals with examination and audit. Part VII deals with General, such as restrictions of loans on the security of land; on unclaimed monies; fee payable by licensed bank; Attorney General's fiat; imprisonment in default of payment of fine; publication of orders; regulations; saving and repeal.

Sir, there are two Bills in which the Government is actively interfering with banking business. Firstly, I should like to say this. Barbados has at present on its Statute Book an Act dealing with foreign banks. It is probably about two or three clauses and it deals with the licensing of those banks. That, of course, will be repealed.

I may also say that in the United Kingdom there is no legislation whatsoever dealing with or controlling the activities of banks. I should like to make this clear. That is what probably explains the way in which Barbadians have been allowed to do as they like with the money of depositors and the general public, because Barbados feels that England does not have any legislation for the controlling of the activities of a bank, and therefore, we need not have any, either. That is not the view of this Government. Sir, I am very happy to say that within the last four weeks after we had decided on this matter, a Bill was drafted. We have people here as competent as people in the British Government. We have some people in the Civil Service as brilliant as some in the British Civil Service.

We are interfering — and interfering actively — in the banking business of the island. In the first instance, we have set down a specific amount of money as the minimum capital authorised. We are interfering by making them maintain a fixed reserve ratio, and we are interfering by making banks do something which they did not do hitherto — and that is to publish their accounts and submit them to the Minister of Finance so that we can keep a constant check on their business. I may say that the authorised capital is low, but we have to make it low in order to encourage the easy credit of the country.

Let me explain to you what has happened in the United States which is a country which believes in free enterprise. There was nothing to control their banking business and, Mr. Speaker, you will forgive me if I digress for a few minutes to say this. In 1929, I think it was on the 26th October, — it was a Black Friday — 4,000 banks in the United States closed their doors on that day. I think it was either the 26th or the 29th October. Anyone who lived through the depression of the United States would know of the 25 million unemployed in the United States, the 10 million in the United Kingdom, the 15 million in France where the whole racket started; and, therefore, everyone in Barbados who knows of that would agree that we should tighten up on the financial institutions of the island. Anyone who is acquainted with what happened during that depression would not want to go through that time and experience again. All of that was due to some bankers in France and the United States. As a result of that, President Roosevelt had to set up a system of banking business and there are 1,200 Federal Reserve Banks in the United States.

5.10 p.m.

As far as I remember, the Bank of England came into legal prominence about the year 1799. The Bank of England is the governing bank, but it is not the Government's Bank. It is really a joint-stock bank, but the Government has the right to appoint the Managing Director as it were. In England they did not really need any legislation like this because they have accepted certain conventions and certain traditions. The Bank of England is the bankers' bank; it is not the people's bank and they have been using the device of the inflation of the fiduciary issue. There is now an amount of some £1,742 million. That is the amount of notes which they have in circulation during the normal year. They are able to use that device in order to meet the inflationary and the deflationary situation. They do not have to have the system which we have; we have to offer for every dollar, four and twopence deposited with the authorities in the United Kingdom. When we talk about the fiduciary issue, we do not have that issue which the United Kingdom has had. In the Banking Department the Chancellor of the Exchequer works in close co-operation with the Bank of England, and he can actually drive five joint stock banks in England into the Bank of England by manipulating the rates of interest. When money gets short they have to go to the Bank of England, and that is why control is exercised. That is not a situation which would lend itself to our situation here and that is why we must introduce banking legislation.

It was discovered that the Banks used to lend some money on the deposits. I want to make it clear that, as to the acceptance of the local currency bank notes — one and two dollar notes — they have intrinsic value in themselves. I am explaining to hon. members why we have to have this legislation whereas in the United Kingdom they do not have to have it. I am not giving hon. members a lecture on banking; I am just making this explanation to hon. members. The position is not as it is in the United States. If you have two dollars — I do not know if anybody here has a United States dollar note with him; perhaps the hon. junior member for the City will lend me one free of charge. However, Sir, you will find that in the United States currency you are given the amount of silver on presentation of a note. This dollar note is a silver certificate; this certificate certifies that there is on deposit in the Treasury of the United States of America one dollar. This certificate is legal tender for all debts, public and private. One dollar in silver payable to the bearer on demand. The United States of America is now on the silver standard, not the gold standard. On presentation of this dollar note which I hold in my hand, theoretically at any rate, one can demand that he be given the equivalent amount of silver. (After a Pause) This is not to be made the property of the House (Laughter). It may be that that is why the hon. junior member for the City was so reluctant to surrender his U. S. dollar. (Laughter). I want very briefly to explain this matter. The value of money in a place like Barbados does not depend upon your ability to trade it for a given amount of silver or gold; it all depends on the confidence which the people have in the negotiability of our money. In the last analysis however, if you have Eastern Caribbean currency, it means that you have to be paid in pounds sterling. We have had a lot of trouble with British Guiana where the Government even refused convertibility into another paper currency; but all we can insist upon is that as long as you present more than \$25,000 at one time you can insist that you be paid for this at the Bank of England in pounds sterling. In the United States of America, you have a certificate which has intrinsic value in silver in making spoons, bracelets, trophies and all sorts of things; as a matter of fact, you can do all things with silver, but you cannot do these things with paper. Mr. Churchill has tried out a device which brought out a treatise on the gold standard.

Anyhow, Sir, the position is that our currency is very closely linked up with the system where people deposit money on a bank. When people left money with the goldsmiths, they used to go out on trips and they did not know when they would come back. Some of the rich landowners would insure that their jewellery was all intact. It looks like the apocryphal story of Barbadian depositors going to Barclays Bank and calling for their money in order to make

sure that it is still there, counting it, and putting it back there right away.
4.50 p.m.

This is not such an apocryphal story or fatuous exercise as a lot of people would think, because there were people in the United Kingdom who used to go to the goldsmith and call for their boxes to see if their money was still there. Of course bank notes were not currency at that time so much; so they would go and count their gold coins. Some of them would not have a safety deposit box and would leave their gold coins with the goldsmiths because they had vaults; so in time the goldsmiths found they could safely use the money because money was not identifiable in contra-distinction to jewellery which had dowry hallmarks and things like that on them, and even if a fellow came in and asked for his money to be counted, he could take up 500 gold sovereigns and say "This is your money; it is still there". But what he discovered is this; that he had 100 clients who used to leave their things with him for safe keeping, and perhaps in the course of twelve months only ten of these people would come in and draw back out their money, and so they cleverly decided they could lend out the other 90%, get interest on it, and apart from making people pay rent for the vault, they could then make some extra money on the deposits which were there for the simple reason that the coins were not identifiable, and that is how the whole banking system arose.

Banks do not make money because they apply fertilisers to the money which has been deposited and watch it grow. They make money because when you deposit money through that establishment, on the law of averages you are not going to come back in a certain time for it, and they can safely lend it out; and even if you do come in for it, unless there is a run on the banks where everybody loses confidence in the country, you are perfectly safe to lend out 90% or 92% which you have on deposit. We are now making provision for that in this Bill. Obviously it is not right that all the deposits should be lent out. In truth and in fact I am going to make a fantastic statement; they do not lend out 90%; they lend out 900% on the average. That is what happens in the banking system, and this is another exercise altogether, because people who want to borrow large sums of money do not walk about with suit-cases; they do it by way of book transactions; and every time you make a big transaction you are increasing the deposits of the bank, and from the initial deposit, say, of \$100, you can probably get out deposits of \$10,000 just by book transactions. The bank might have \$190,000 on deposit at the bank theoretically, and then they take 90% of \$190,000 and deposits on the books are increased in that way. But why am I saying all this? The average person in Barbados does not understand the very danger implicit in a situation like that. It means that if you have a person who is reckless running a bank, in his avarice to get interest or to speculate, he may take all the depositors' money and lend it out, and then something happens — a war is declared or some external thing he does not think of — and there is a run on the bank and what happens? You have to declare a bank holiday. This was the whole business of a bank holiday. When the bank found itself in an awkward position, it would close its doors and say the bank was on holiday, and then run around and borrow money from somebody and fix the books. The next morning or a week later the doors would be opened again. We are now sanctifying bank holidays and elevating them in prominence on the Statute Book; but a bank holiday was a device to keep a bank out of trouble near the end of the month particularly. A bank holiday usually followed a week after the end of the month. A bank holiday was given to give the bank a chance to catch itself and borrow money from overseas to get the books fixed up. We do not go in for bank holidays; we have to change that Act and call it the Public Holidays Act because we are not giving people bank holidays to fix up any books.

Mr. Speaker, what happened in the United Kingdom was this: it was known amongst people in the banking and business world that a bank could safely lend out 92% of its deposits, but during the depression or just before the depression there was a lot of speculation going on. The banks lent out a lot more; so the amount of hard cash which they had in their vaults and the day to day withdrawals from

the bank were far below what they actually should have had, and in many cases they were non-existent, and this is what happened in October 1929 in the United States. The 4,000 banks had lent out so much money and made so much money out of the depositors that when the bubble burst and the inflationary spire started to take the steep down-turn, these banks had no money to pay to their depositors, and therefore they had to declare a bank holiday for 4,000 banks; so Federal Reserve Legislation was introduced to stop this kind of practice.

We are now a society which is in the transitional stage. People are now beginning to appreciate the institution of banking. We are getting more and more investment in joint stock organisations; we are getting people who are conscious of the use of the cheque system, and it is all the more reason why we should try to safeguard the community at this stage before things get out of hand. The banks in the United Kingdom paid lip service to the idea of a liquid reserve ratio, that being the money which they would actually have in their vaults in the banks when they made up their balance sheets; so you would find that the banks would have a liquid reserve ratio and a cash reserve ratio. If it had in the liquid reserve £1 million, it would try to get another £1 million in cash. It would have a second line of defence which would be money on call at short notice, then Treasury Bills, Treasury Deposit Receipts and matters of that kind, and then long term loans and matters like that which in all cases they could not hope to put their hands on. The cash reserve value and the 10% liquid reserve might be to the order to 30% or 35%, because they should have not only cash, but another 25% of money at call and money at short notice, and things like Treasury Deposit Receipts and Treasury Bills which in ninety days at the maximum they could have back in.

If I had told you something, Mr. Speaker, you would not want to believe me; but there are five joint stock banks in the United Kingdom, and when the financial papers pointed out that they were not playing the game, they said "Look at our balance sheets; we have a respectable reserve ratio." Why should the Government of Barbados put itself out to insist that balance sheets be submitted at specific times to this Government? I will tell you the reason, and it is with my insistence that it has been put in. You could not want more reputable institutions than these: the Midland, the National Provincial, Barclays, Lloyds and Westminster. These are the five big joint stock banks in the United Kingdom and they have joint banks all over the world. There are no real banks outside of these in England, because most of the private banks are usually subsidiaries of what was called the Big Five in England. What they used to do was to publish their balance sheets on different days of the week. There are seven days in the week and they only had five banks; so it would run like this. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the days of the week, but it would be to this order. The Midland Bank would publish theirs on Monday; the National Provincial on Tuesday; Barclays on Wednesday; Lloyds on Thursday and Westminster on Friday. Well, what was the purpose of doing that? The first thing that appears on the left hand side is the assets of the bank, and there you will see the ability of the bank to meet demands for withdrawals made upon it demonstrated.
5.30 p.m.

Therefore, what you have on the left hand side is very germane to the bank's solvency or liquidity. There people look at your cash in hand, and if they see that the ratio of cash in hand to total deposits is alright, well then, those people would go to bed happy. As I was saying, they had one bank and all the cash used to be in that bank and on a Monday a van would drive with that cash to the Midland Bank, and then the bank would say that the cash they have in hand was so many million dollars. On a Tuesday morning, that same cash would be driven to another bank and, as you would see, it would be the same kind of cash moving from one bank to the other. The Accountant would go into the vault which has that kind of solid rolled steel doors such as you have on a rolled top desk, and he would say after making a check that the cash in hand was so much and that would go on the books of the Bank. This is what has happened in my time — not in antiquity. This is what has happened right

up to pre-war days and post-war; therefore, in 1946, they had to insist that all the banks make up their balance sheets on a Wednesday. That shows you what the lust for making profits would drive some people to do. I have used that as an illustration. Of course, some people would say that it is a libel on the banks, but I have had opportunities for checking it. Now, the Bank of England, not so much by legislation, but by entreaty, has now persuaded the General Stock Banks to make up their balance sheets on the same day.

We are insisting that the banks in Barbados publish their accounts and submit them to the Minister of Finance because if we do not protect the public in this way, it would be possible for a dishonest banker to borrow money by usury, and say his cash in hand is so and so, therefore inspiring false confidence amongst the members of the public and, as I have said, after he has finished making up his balance sheet, he will send back the money.

I am not an accountant; but when we put in this Bill that they must publish their accounts and submit them to the Minister of Finance, it is not because we want to pry into anybody's accounts. The only body who has any such authority is not the Minister of Finance, but the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. There is no politician, no Minister, no Government Servant who can go and investigate, even when this Bill is passed and becomes law, the individual accounts of depositors who put up money in any bank. I am not interested in anybody's account, but I hope the Commissioner of Inland Revenue does his duty and when he is doubtful of anybody's accounts, he investigates it. I, as Minister of Finance, am not interested in how much Mr. So-and-So has on the bank; I am interested that Mr. So-and-So's money is protected and, therefore, as Minister of Finance the banks have to send me periodical statements of their accounts so that I can scrutinise them and examine them or seek the advice of any expert to decipher them. Sometimes, you have to call in some real boss crooks to give you information; in fact, sometimes you have to set a thief to catch a thief. A most famous gambler, Escarny, is in the permanent employment of the Government of the United States because he knows all the intricacies of gambling. I, therefore, reserve the right to call in any accountant or anybody whom I think can assist me in analysing the accounts of the various banks. As I have said, I am not interested in the personal accounts of anybody, neither will the legislation which is introduced here today afford me the right to examine anybody's accounts in the banks.

I think it is part of the duty that a bank must keep a cash reserve of five percent and we have put in this Bill what is accepted as the minimum cash reserve ratio which a bank should have in its vaults. We allow five percent because if you set it too high, with any country whose economy is expanding, it means that it will have an inflationary effect on the colony and a lot of money which is now out on credit will have to be called back in to build up the colony's income.

Sir, I do not know if there is any provision which might cause some remarks from hon. members, but the interesting thing about this cash reserve is that a cash reserve of five percent of their deposits must be deposited into the Treasury of Barbados; therefore, the Treasury of Barbados will be the custodian of the deposits of the people of the Island and they cannot send in and tell us that they have five percent on deposits. They have to deposit it with us in the Treasury and we will have the position where the Treasury will not be depositing money with them, but they will be depositing money with us.

In Part V, we make provision for the submission of returns to the Minister of Finance and for the due publication of the balance sheet and we have made provision in Part VI for examination by audit and, as I have said, Part VII seeks to make provisions of a general nature.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that I have not bored hon. members by my exposition of the necessity for legislation of this kind. If I appear to be pedantic, it must be borne in mind that when you are in a community like this, you have to go in for words of one syllable so as to make it abundantly

clear to the people what you are doing, because after you have sat down, you may feel that you have made yourself clear as, what hon. members used to say, a pikestaff, although I have never seen one, but you will find that hon. members will get up and ask you questions and accuse the Government of doing something. Sir, I think that I have sufficiently explained the motives behind this Bill and I hope that it will find general acceptance with hon. members. (Cheers).
5.40 p.m.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House support the principle of this Bill. It is quite a long time now that a Bill of this sort to regularise banking in Barbados should have been put on the Statute Book of this Island. The depositors in the community should be protected and it should be the duty of the Government to see that they are protected. Without these banking laws it can be an easy matter for anyone to come in and set up a banking business. We saw, for instance, not so long ago, that a bank from overseas with an overseas name, a Canadian name, had put up a sign board, and within the space of a few weeks of deposits being made, enquiries were made; nobody seemed to know the substance of this Bank and in three or four weeks' time it ceased to exist, but the money was paid back. Nobody lost anything as a result, but that does not make for confidence in people saving their money. Fortunately, in Barbados, we have established reputable banks in which people have some confidence and it is for that reason that people go to these banks and deposit their money. The rates of interest at times are very low, but people will only look for places in which they have confidence. Mr. Speaker, it is for that reason that I say I agree with the principle of this Bill. In this Bill the commercial community were concerned as to whether they would be included in the term of a banking business. The practice has gone on for a long time that people who have extra cash will deposit money in the banks in Broad Street on short terms. For this reason this business has expanded and it helps the economy of this island. The money was deposited, as I say, on short terms or on call. All of these businesses were working on large overdrafts. For every thousand dollars they can take in from somebody at one percent less — I may say that if the commercial banks charge seven per cent on their overdrafts, the commercial businesses would take in money at six percent and that would reflect in the balance sheet at the end of the year. That policy also gave the person who was lending the money a better rate of return than he would get either at the commercial banks or the Savings Bank. You would not get every person who is going to walk into the firms and do that; the firms do not advertise so that it is not generally known that that is done. However, the practice has sprung up here and it has strengthened the development of this island.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to note that the Hon. Minister of Finance said that it was not his intention to interfere with practices which are above-board and provided that no one drew his attention to it. That is all very well and good in that sense, but the Minister has very sweeping powers in this Bill. He has said that it is not his intention to interfere with good practices; but suppose we have another Premier and Minister of Finance! I do not think that the Bill as it has been drafted should remain in this form, because it is not the intention of the Minister of Finance to interrupt good practice. He should not put on the Statute Book something which could be interpreted by a Minister, and then there is no appeal to any one else, in a manner which is not the intention of the legislation which is being passed. The Banks may seem to be satisfied, but this is a most technical Bill. I do not pretend to understand or to follow the ramifications of this Bill; but where this Bill is concerned, in order to do justice to the laws of Barbados, I do firmly believe that it would be a wise thing to refer this Bill to a Select Committee so that we can hear the opinion of everyone, not merely the bankers, but the commercial community, the depositors and the Government; then we could come back here and have a proper Banking Bill placed on the Statute Book. We welcome this Bill, and we say that it is overdue.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, is the hon. member suggesting that this is not a proper Banking Bill? I should like to inform the hon. member that I have been working on this Bill for about twelve or fifteen months and the only reason why it has taken so long to come before this Chamber is that we have been canvassing the opinion of all the mercantile community. That is why I gave such a full exposition as to the Objects and Reasons of this Bill, and I gave the assurance that there is nothing which would restrict legitimate practices which now go on. In spite of all that, the hon. member says that we should send this Bill to a Select Committee and bring in a proper Bill! That would mean that the whole of this twelve or fifteen months' work has created something which is not in order.

MEMBERS: Order!

Mr. SPEAKER: I am unable to hear the point of order which is being made by the hon. member because of other voices which I am hearing.

A MEMBER: We are speaking about order.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I am at a loss to understand the Hon. Premier when he says that he has put the terms of this Bill to the commercial community because, as far as I know, this Bill has only come to their notice within the last ten or twelve days.
5.50 p.m.

I was one of a delegation that met the Financial Secretary and the Attorney General on this matter, and neither one of those gave us any assurance. What the Minister has told us today is something I have heard for the first time.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order, they would be out of their minds if they gave hon. members an assurance. I am the only person who can do that. We do not run this thing from the foot; we run it from the top. The point of order is that the only person to give the assurance is myself, and that is why I gave it here on the floor of the House.

Mr. GODDARD: The Hon. Premier has now given me the assurance for the first time, but he also said he gave the commercial community. I should like to ask at what stage. (Hon. E. W. BARROW: I said they were consulted). As far as I know, the assurance that you gave today is still somewhat contradictory.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Is he talking about the Speaker? He cannot say: "the assurance you gave".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Speaker tries to intervene as infrequently as possible.

Mr. GODDARD: In Clause 2 "banking business" means the business of (a) receiving money from the public on current account, deposit account or other similar account; (b) paying and collecting cheques drawn by or paid in by customers and making advances to customers. (c) receiving money on a savings account from the general public repayable on demand or after not more than three months' notice. It goes on to say in Clause 3, subsection (2) that the only person who can interpret that is the Minister of Finance. This is sweeping power that is given to that Minister. It reads as follows:-

"In the event of doubt as to whether a company is or is not carrying on banking business the matter shall be submitted to the Minister for his determination and the decision of the Minister thereon shall be final and conclusive for all purposes of this Act."

Now the Minister of Finance has assured us today that it is not his intention to interfere with the commercial community.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of elucidation, I really do not want to interpret the hon. member, but I think I should make my position clear because he may not

have understood me. You will remember, Sir, that I said very clearly that in my opinion it might be just possible — and then I went on to say more than possible — that they do come within the provisions of the Act. I made that abundantly clear. I do not give any legal interpretation, nor do I allow any Government official to give legal interpretation to statutes, because I think that is the business of the Courts, and I have said in here time and time again that it is not the duty of any Minister — particularly the hon. senior member for Bridgetown who is always asking for legal interpretation on certain Clauses, nor of any politician — to give a legal interpretation. I am not disguising anything, but I have expressed an opinion that it is more than possible that they do come within the provisions of the Act; but the legislation was not intended in the first instance to apply to them, and under normal circumstances I would not strain at looking to see who was carrying on legitimate business. I would only be concerned with those who are doing illegal business. That is all I said. I do not want it to be said that I gave the interpretation that they do not come within the provisions of the Act, because I deliberately refrained from saying that. I said the opposite — that in my personal opinion they appear to come within the provisions of the Act. The private firms receive deposits from selected customers, and that is something I have known about for years, and something which is not a novel, financial arrangement, but which is probably responsible for a lot of activity in this country.

Mr. GODDARD: In pointing that out, it is still good to know that the practice is well known to the Government and it is fully appreciated that that practice has stimulated activity in this Island and it will continue to do so, and any interference with that would mean the withdrawal of funds that are actively engaged in strengthening the finance of this country. No Minister of Finance could be foolish to do that, because he would actually be putting a deterrent on activity in Barbados and would be further increasing unemployment. That is the point I am making, but I want to say that you are Minister today.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I am not.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, through you I want to say that the present Minister of Finance may not be the one tomorrow, but he would be putting on the Statute Book something that could be interpreted by another Finance Minister and which could be used to the detriment of the economy of the Island. That is why I thought that if it were sent to Select Committee, some Clause could be put in to exclude specifically something we do know exists. I am not a lawyer and I cannot draft it, but with the aid of someone something could be inserted to clarify the position whereby no other Minister could do something that we today do not wish him to do.

The fact remains, Mr. Speaker, that this Bill is overdue and we welcome it, because, as I said, Government should encourage people who earn money and set aside savings. As a matter of fact, I know they are encouraging them; but they can only be encouraged if they have sound foundations where these people can put their money. It is also in the interest of Government to see that the interest these people get from their savings is the highest that can be given, and with proper security from Government, people should not be denied good returns on their money. I look forward to the time when there will be more public companies established in Barbados, whereby the public generally would be subscribing to the stock of this Island, and not only in savings. Just as you have Banks Beer, I wish the day will soon arise when there will be some sort of Exchange where you can sell and buy shares over the counter that will make the common man interested in owning shares in the Rum Refinery, Banks Beer, Da Costa and Company or other public institutions. It only calls for the setting up of an Exchange, because it is the capital that is needed for expansion. Many of these firms with know-how and administrative ability can go forward further, but they are hampered because of lack of capital which cannot come out of savings alone, because taxation being what it is, there is not enough to plough back in; but if every small man who has small savings can find a ready investment in the wealth of

the Island, it would make the Barbadians economy stronger because it is owned and worked here.

We are proud of the fact that 98% of the Island is owned by Barbadians. There are very few absentee proprietors here; and though we do not wish to get rid of them, the day they want to sell out, there is always a Barbadian ready to buy. With those remarks, I still support the idea and hope the Premier sees the wisdom in my remarks. 6.00 p.m.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am not a banker because I do not have money; but I agree that this Bill is necessary and that you should have some tight controls when it comes to people with public funds at their disposal. However, I do not believe in unnecessary interference in running a country because a country has to be run by the people who live in it, generally speaking. That is what civilisation is built on. Civilisation is built not on the Police Force or the Army, but it is built on the people who live in the State, and if they want to abide by civilised standards.

I have no misgivings about giving power to a Minister because in the final analysis it is for the people to determine who the Minister should be; and when you have an intelligent public, its members are not going to keep pace with an ignorant Minister. You see that from time to time. You will find that people will draw to the notice of the public any harm which an ignorant Minister has done and as a result of that the people will relieve him of his office at the polls. I have no serious misgiving about that because all of us can control that. If a Minister of Finance stultifies the Island's economy, he would not be Minister of Finance for too long.

Now, Sir, you have to ask reasons for doing so-and-so; but I do not ask reasons from the Objects and Reasons; I ask reasons from what comes out of the mouth of the Introducer of the Bill. Now, Sir, the Hon. Premier has said that there are banking institutions that are reputable institutions. What I would like to know is, what are the irreputable banking institutions, because I think that they should have been brought out in his speech. This Bill is not aimed at reputable organisations, because you do not need legislation for reputable people. You build gaols for people who have criminal intentions. You will not build gaols for reputable people because the money which you spend in building gaols would be well spent in doing something else. No reputable man is afraid of any legislation which is passed, but you do pass legislation when you are aware of people in your community who are likely to take chances when there is not a Bill of this nature. Do not put a reputable man up on the altar and you do not have to couch it with so much power because that power and decision will have to work against all those reputable institutions, and that is where people become doubtful and suspicious. I feel if you have reputable banking institutions in Barbados, as the Hon. Premier has said, then you need no legislation for them because they are reputable organisations. They are just like decent citizens. You do not need any policemen to protect you if you have all decent citizens; but you put a policeman to watch a man who is not a decent citizen.

I would like to ask the Hon. Premier some questions. I know of the institutions which the hon. junior member for Christ Church has spoken about; but what worries me in this Bill, Mr. Speaker, I must confess, is that the powers for licensing are not direct. You say that a person should have a right to a licence. I will read that part of the Bill: "Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act, no banking business shall be transacted in the Island except by a bank which is licensed to carry on banking business in the Island."

You have that inserted in your provisions; but there is nothing in this Bill which says that this is what the people must do to comply, and when they comply with that, they will be granted a licence. (A VOICE: You must have \$250,000 to set up a bank.) That does not give you the right to have a licence.

The point which I am making is that it does not give you a right to have a licence. It says in all of these clauses that in the event of doubt as to whether a company is or is not carrying on banking business the matter shall be submitted to the Minister for his determination and the decision of the Minister thereon shall be final and conclusive for all purposes of this Act.

Now, you come to a very important one in considering an application for a licence. Under this Section, a Minister may require a company requiring a licence to give him such information within such time and in such manner as he may think fit. All of these things are necessary. The Minister may in his discretion amend any application for a licence under Section 4, but if the Minister is of the opinion that it would be undesirable in the public's interest that such application should be granted, he may refuse to grant the same and need not give any reason for so refusing. Let us put it plainly. Let us say that you retain these Clauses, but what are you putting in as a guarantee for compliance? You say that if he complies with the Minister's request he may be granted a licence.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: I rise on a point of order. I should not interrupt the hon. member, but I would just like to inform the hon. member by giving him an illustration of a means for refusal. Suppose the information that I was asking for is whether you have been convicted of embezzlement or any practices like that, and you say "yes"; must not the Minister exercise his discretion? It is on matters of that kind. There must be a discretion given to the Minister because the person is now coming into business. I am sorry that I had to interrupt the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER: I regard that as a point of elucidation.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am in complete agreement with him. I am not questioning the divulgence that you must say to the public why you refuse to grant a licence because in banking business, sometimes, it is a matter of security involved. I am not opposed to that. What I was questioning was that you must give a citizen the right where he can say that all the things which he had to comply with in the Bill, have been complied with. 6.10 p.m.

I have no feeling that a Minister will go along willy-nilly and do these things, but in a small community such as ours, there is little difference from a big community. I do not want to chide the Hon. Premier for his remark, but he has made a remark to the effect that as long as he holds the present position he holds, an individual in question would not be permitted to do so-and-so. I say that, in a small community like this, if a Minister says that as long as he is holding the present position which he is holding you will never be able to do so-and-so, that throws out to the community an atmosphere in which you would use spite, in some instances, in your effort which may call for a judicial decision. The Minister of Finance in this Bill possesses judicial functions; he is going to be the judge and arbiter determining who shall have a licence in order to operate a bank. I will say, however, that if you have an independent Government that is the price which you have to pay. I am not against that principle; but in this Bill you have to comply with things which the Minister of Finance says must be done from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting that in a Bill of this character it would be infinitely wrong if you were not to make the position unmistakably clear in view of the fact that the Minister has the sole discretion of determining under what circumstances a licence to operate a Bank must be granted. It must be clear that the terms on which a person can have a licence to operate a Bank should not be left in any doubt. I do not think, if people are going to comply with these conditions as set out in this Bill, that you should have a Bill of this character which precludes an association from complying with all the requirements and yet not having the assurance which they should have. I want to say that the Courts do not work by intention and therefore things should be set out clearly. I am not a lawyer, but I am not a complete fool either. I have been to

school, not at night but during the day. I have seen legislation having been brought down here and what I said about that legislation has come to be true. We passed a Bill stating that there should be as many constituencies as they are members. That was passed at once, and it was right as long as it was passed at once, but I tried to comply with the rules.

I do not think that there should be any legal interpretation about this matter because this is a matter of making things clear. I do not feel that this Bill gives any institution the unequivocal right to have a licence although it may have complied with what you want that institution to do. I feel that the Hon. Premier should put people's minds at rest, beyond the shadow of any doubt. You should have the reserve powers to be able to refuse the granting of a licence and not give any reasons for so doing, but it should be stated that you have given all the facilities for an institution or institutions to comply with the requirements. If you do not give an institution the right to comply with the requirements and you take away its functions, that institution cannot seek any injunction.

Another point which I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister is this. The Hon. Minister spoke long on the matter of the banking system, but he did not speak long enough about Barbados. In Part III, Clause 7 says this:

"A licence shall not be granted to a Bank unless.....

There is no question of discretion there. It does not say what you have to do in order to get a licence. (A MEMBER: You only have to apply). What are the conditions which would permit a person to have a licence? This is what it says: the Hon. Minister spoke about other places and this is what it says in Sub-paragraph (c) of this Clause 7:-

"In the case of a bank incorporated in the Island, not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the subscribed capital have been paid up in cash at the time of the application for the licence and, in the case of a bank incorporated outside the Island, not less than two million dollars of the subscribed capital have been paid up in cash at the time of the application for the licence."

Then Clause 8 (1) says this:-

"8. (1) Subject to subsection (2), every licensed bank shall maintain a reserve fund and shall, out of its net profit of each year and before any dividend is declared, transfer to that fund a sum equal to not less than twenty-five per centum of such profits whenever the amount of the reserve fund is less than the issued paid up capital of the bank."

Subsection (2) says this:-

"(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to any licensed bank with respect to which it is proved to the satisfaction of the Minister that the aggregate reserves of such licensed bank are adequate in respect of its business."

I want to ask the Hon. Premier this. In the Barbadian context — not in the American context — what has led him to the belief that in a community like ours, half a million dollars as set out in Clause 7 of this Bill must be paid out in order that you can have something in the name of a Bank? This Clause says that a licence shall not be granted to a bank unless (a) the authorised capital of the Bank is at least \$500,000 and (b) that capital to an amount not less than \$500,000 has been subscribed.
6.20 p.m.

This is my opinion, Mr. Speaker, (Hon. E. W. BARROW: A sou-sou) Yes. We will have to have more sou-sous if we are to develop the economy of this Island, because the amount of money available in this Island for investment cannot come in large measure from people who have large incomes. The Trade Union Movement in the United Kingdom has the Co-operative Wholesale Society which is a bank.

I do not consider that the restrictions should be on the capital you put up. It does not matter anything to this country if you have a bank of \$10,000 as long as you can guarantee the inspection and controls for that money and see that the money is adequate to maintain the structure for the money which people have put there. That is the control you require. Every bit of control must be organised, but there is no intrinsic value in saying to a man who can get 5% or 6% interest on money in an organisation that is only holding \$100,000 that he must have \$250,000, if he can show you that he has collateral and enough to guarantee the capital, or if he can guarantee your Federal Reserve Bank that he can at all times give his depositors all they require in relation to his capital.

Mr. Speaker, if you are saying that a country with a total national income of roughly \$120 million, a *per capita* income of less than \$600 per annum, an average wage structure in which you freeze wages to the average working man at \$25 a week for some time and then say within the context of this economic setting that the only type of bank you are going to give a person permission to form is a bank with a capital of \$250,000 — it is not indicative of the economic circumstances that surround you in Barbados. You will have now to look at the small farmers. You do not have to tell them they must go into co-operative societies, and there can be no law to tell them they must go into them. In order to form a bank they must go into a co-operative society; therefore there is nothing to prevent an organisation or institution in this Island..... (Mr. GODDARD: Not with \$10,000.) \$10,000 is only used as a figure, but any idiot would know that is only a hypothetical figure, but there is a gap between \$10,000 and \$250,000.

I am a member of an institution in which I do not regard banking as being above the membership we have, because we can see that we may be able to do more for our workers in our own banking arrangements than what somebody else is doing. We have people outside to advise us, and this stupid idea that we cannot do this because we do not have the money or because our grandfather was not a banker does not impress me. If you have a bank of \$250,000, you must have some controls. You are not telling me that the maximum deposits he can take are \$250,000, because in the Bill you say that whatever you do, this is the type of Bank we are going to allow to start, but you have to give us guarantees on the people's deposits which you have. Whether the amount is \$500,000, \$1 million or \$10 million, the Minister has to satisfy himself, and that is why I say that controls must be given. I would go further and say that even the controls in this Bill are not as tight as I would like to see them, Mr. Speaker, because if you look at Part VI — "Examination and Audit" you will see that the hon. member spoke about a Federal Reserve Bank. It says: "The Minister may at any time require one or more qualified persons, whom he shall appoint, to make a special examination under conditions of secrecy of the books and affairs of any licensed bank where he has reason to believe that such bank may be carrying on its business in a manner detrimental to the interests of its depositors....." I would like to see more than this. What I would like to see you do in this Banking Bill is to set up a Board which you can call by any name you choose — a Board of Inspectors if you like — not to wait until you find a man is not carrying out his duties, not to wait until a man has done something wrong, but to have the right to go in and inspect at any time. There is nothing in this Bill which gives the Minister the right to send in Inspectors as a matter of right, no matter how well a person is carrying on business. There is no power for inspection in the Bill. Why should you wait until something has taken place? When the Minister has heard about something going wrong under this Bill, all the money would have been gone. When you have reason to believe that a person is carrying on business detrimental to the community and send in people to inspect, where would the money be? The money would be in Honolulu or the manager may commit suicide; so where are the powers of inspection prior to the man doing this? I feel, if you are running a country, that you should run it in accordance with the economy. The Premier mention sou-sous in a *sotto voce*. If we did not have sou-sous.....

Hon. W. A. BARROW: On a point of order, the hon. member may be interested to know that I have been conducting now for a considerable time a study of sou-sous as a banking institution — what we call a meeting turn — and I agreed with him entirely that we have not so much to discard as to put on the shelf the traditional methods and traditional banking institutions if we want to mobilise savings, and Government would have to run a meeting turn itself. So I just want him to know that I have about 78 closely written pages on the meeting turn as a financial institution in developing countries which I would be very pleased to let him read one of these days. So we are not at variance on this.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to hear this, because the Premier in his Budget Speech made the pronouncement about this country getting on with savings; but if you are thinking in terms of savings, do not thwart these natural desires of people to find avenues that are appropriate to the facilities and the amounts that they may have to use. I am in agreement with protection, but do not suggest to me that the only protection you can give to people is for a bank to be capitalised at \$1/4 million to start with. I do not subscribe to that and I want to say this quite frankly.

6.30 p.m.

Many organisations will be interested, not in your telling workers to go to the Government Savings Bank or Barclays Bank and save your money, but in their saving with organisations in which we, the directors, do not get dividends. We feel that we should not be hamstrung or that small organisations or small industries should not be tied down to look for a quarter of a million dollars to set up as capital. Some Ministers talk about a quarter of a million dollars in terms as if it is some money in which you can get around the corner. A quarter of a million dollars is a lot of money. Why do I say that? Go and look at the savings of any bank. There was a time when the accumulative savings in the banks were \$50 million. You should not say to a business institution which is making application for a licence to open a bank that you want to know if you do not have a quarter of a million dollars. We are not talking of the Bank of Nova Scotia. We are a small country; and if you can build up in the minds of the people the need for savings with institutions which are worthy and worthwhile, well then, that is quite all right.

The Hon. Premier says that you should have protection. In 1928, there was a depression in the United States and there were no "Sou-Sous", and President Roosevelt came along and put controls on banking and now the people have insurance for everything. Sir, do you think any of us in this Legislature representing the people would not be at one with you that the savings of persons who put money in a bank should not be protected?

Sir, I have my misgivings about the amount which you have set up as the minimum. I may be a little forward-looking, but I feel that the time is not far distant when small people will be going in for banking business. The Hon. Premier has said that the mystery of banking is not going to be a mystery for all times. Just like the hon. junior member for Christ Church, businessmen in Barbados have evolved. They did not come and find that system operating, but out of their business intuition, over a period of years they fell upon a scheme and evolved that system; but to ask a business man how long was that scheme in operation, he would not tell you. What they have done within their own business is that they have utilised money which if they had to work through the bank, they would have to work on overdrafts. What they have done among themselves is something which should have been done by some banks. It is a sort of inflation to create more capital for those who are really in the investment field.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I feel this is something, as the hon. junior member for Christ Church has said, which you should encourage. The Hon. Premier has said that he has no intention of abandoning this system. I do not speak for the banking business or the employing interest; I speak for the workers. But there are some politicians in this

Island who are so much against certain interests that some believe that if the hon. junior member for Christ Church and his family are conducting something which in itself is above board, because they have so much dislike for that family, they would do everything to avoid that family. I have been in politics long enough to know that if some person does not like the hon. junior member for Christ Church, it does not matter how much he knows about business, how much contribution he and his family have made to the Island. I have seen in this Island that because a Government in power did not like the hon. junior member for Christ Church and his family, none of them could get on a Tourist Board, no matter if they had owned all the hotels. They rather would bring the man who cooked soup on a donkey cart and say "Put him on the Board." You had so much dislike for the man and his family that it did not matter how much contribution they had made to the Island.

(A VOICE: Was that the last Government?)

The last Government does not mean the last person. I cannot speak for every Minister and say that every Minister is an angel and he does not have any spite in his heart. We are granting power to a Minister and I said this in front of the Premier's face; this was from the fulness of his heart. The Premier had said to a member of this Chamber: "As long as I was in power, I would see to it that you should not get so-and-so." If a Minister would say that, let us say that this man is associated with banking business, what do you think would happen?

I regard that as a rash statement to be made in small communities like this. Are you asking me to say impartially that this would not be the case from an application in this respect? Let us suppose it was a bank or an institution which brought forth that strong statement.

Sir, I am not now concerned with that; I am concerned with the provisions of this Bill. I do not consider that there is enough in these provisions to give institutions their right to have a licence if they comply and if they are doing everything. You have all these negative clauses and it is still left within the discretion of the Minister. It is not for those who have started already. I would say that if the Minister wanted to say that you have enough banking institutions already and that there should be no more, he should have said so; but if you say that there should be some, the people should have the right. What do you give us who are representing the people to say? Do you think that we can say that we are satisfied that if you comply that there would be no doubt which we would have? The Hon. Premier said that if a man was a criminal, he would not be granted a licence. There are cases when somebody would come along and bring up something about your grandfather. They would say that he went to gaol one time. Yes, that may be so; therefore, you say that his grandson cannot do banking. You can bring all those spurious bits of things against people. Nobody knows that better than we. An election campaign is going on; you do not know people, but then you hear somebody say, although you knew who was his father all along: "You think his father is so-and-so but his father is not his father." (Laughter).

Sir, I feel that we should protect these institutions. You know that I could not be a representative of these big institutions, but I am a member of a small institution. I feel if our institution concurs that we should be granted the same facility which is extended to the large groups, therefore, I would like to know why \$250,000 is set as the minimum.

6.40 p.m.

There was a bank started in Trinidad by the McShines and I do not think that it started with \$250,000 as paid up capital. I may say that if you are satisfied with any institution — you may start a banking institution within your own organization. You may have an institution where you take money on deposit; you can start a small institution and I say that that institution should be given all the safeguards. You have operating in the minds of people that you are doing them a service; but you do not need to have \$250,000 to do that service. You have your Co-operative laws, but every

organization may not be able to shelter under those laws. I would like to put this point to the Hon. Minister. My organization has to think of entering into the economic field of this island, and if we open a business we do not want to go cap in hand asking for help from any business firm, because we have our own international institution to which we can look. If we are providing more facilities for our workers, we want to be able to do so in a proper way. I may divulge a secret now; we have erected a building and the most we paid on the money we were loaned is two per cent, if we had been forced to go to the institutions here, we could not have erected that building. In fact, instead of that building costing us \$80,000, it would have cost us \$160,000. That was done in 1959.

There are certain things in which people are involved. We cannot run on the old-time bogus theory where you are not projecting your thinking into other things. I feel that you would not have the Bank of England or the Bank of Nova Scotia coming here without an authorised capital of \$250,000 because they are big institutions; but you will have small institutions where a small amount of money would be suitable for their needs. There is no control on any of the Banks; all you are doing is to make them apply for a licence, and if a licence is granted you have to hear that they are going wrong before any step is taken. You really have not got any control over this business. In the United States of America you can send in an inspector. (Mr. MOTTLEY: You can do that here too.)

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Look at Part VI of the Bill.

Mr. WALCOTT: What does Part VI of the Bill say? It says this:-

"The Minister may at any time require one or more qualified persons, whom he shall appoint, to make a special examination under conditions of secrecy of the books and affairs of any licensed bank —

(a) where he has reason to believe that such bank may be carrying on its business in a manner detrimental to the interests of its depositors and other creditors or may have insufficient assets to cover its liabilities to the public or may be, either in the Island or elsewhere, contravening any of the provisions of this Act;"

It does not say that that is inspection as a routine; it says that if something in the Minister's opinion is going wrong when it gets to his notice that something has gone wrong, this examination may take place; but it may happen that when something is drawn to his attention as having gone wrong, the money has gone too. All of this is something which is negative; this is a negative clause where something has gone wrong. The Bank may suspend payment, but it does not say that the Government has the right to send in an inspector. (A MEMBER: You have to make a return.) The question of making a return is not an inspection; I do not say that you should not control people, but I do say that if you are controlling people you should make the setting up of a bank for all sections of the community as easy as possible and with all the controls. If the Minister is satisfied that none of these small institutions can have a bank unless it has \$250,000 as paid-up capital, then that is his view; but it is not my view. I do not think that we should rule out people who cannot have more than \$250,000 as paid-up capital. When you talk about Credit Unions, you cannot ask me to have a Credit Union when you put all the capital to the Credit Unions; you have co-operatives which look around to see where people can put in two cents. I am not thinking of this small poke-in-the-hole business; I say that this \$250,000 should not be a fixed amount for people to start off with. We do not want to take up money from the big stores in Broad Street; we want to help small people who will come in for this money often; nevertheless we want to help them.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask this question. Can anybody who has money deposited in the Savings Bank, borrow money in order to put a shingle on his house? We want to think in terms of where the money can be safeguarded as well as thinking in terms of profit. Imagine a

small man putting up all the reserves! You do this and that, but we can put some money in houses so as to help some of these poor people, which the bank will not do to help them. 6.50 p.m.

I am thinking a little further than the Government in this matter. I am not making the workers and people of this Island everlastingly dependent on people other than themselves for the type of investment they should have, and I feel you should do anything that can bring the workers into the economic sector of our community. It appears to me that \$250,000 can be a deterrent to some people, with all the controls you put in, from doing business. I understand that one of my colleagues over there has a bank. I do not know if you are going to call it a bank. By now it has more than \$250,000 and has been operating already; so it does not matter fortunately. It means that if he had to operate from now, it would be "Good night, Nurse!"

Mr. SMITH and Mr. MOTTLEY rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Joseph first caught my eye.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I feel it is getting late and I will not be too long on this, but I must compliment the hon. senior member for St. Peter on his speech. Now, Sir, this is a Bill which I can see clearly is seeking protection, but we have to be more than careful that while we are seeking protection for the big business people, we may not also be seeking destruction for the small ones.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, do I understand the hon. member to say that the Bill is seeking protection for the big business people?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know what the Hon. Leader of the House understood, but that is what I heard him say. He is merely expressing his point of view which he is entitled to express, no matter who agrees or disagrees with it.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I just wanted to be sure that is what he said.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the Hon. Leader of the House like me to ask the Reporter what has been said by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Not since Your Honour's interpretation is the same as mine.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not so much the interpretation as the understanding.

Mr. SMITH: I know that every now and then you will see someone getting up and interrupting, but, Sir, the Hon. Premier said that he had discussed this matter with all the reputable banks. You cannot blame me for thinking that the ones which the Premier consulted or interviewed are reputable ones and the others are not. I am wondering whether he approached the Community Bank, the Civic Bank and the Co-operative Bank to get their opinion, because it would be but fair if he wanted information on how these banks operate. He should not make it his business to approach a few of the banks; he should approach all the institutions that are carrying on business as banks. Mr. Speaker, I cannot hear myself, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret the acoustics in that particular part of the Chamber, but I can hear the hon. junior member for St. Joseph admirably.

Mr. SMITH: When the Premier can say that he approached some of the reputable banks and did not approach the others as I said just now, it means that the ones he did not approach are not reputable. I do not know all the banks, but I know from the sign board that the Civic is carrying on a bank; there is the Community Bank and the Barbados Co-operative Bank. I am in agreement that this Bill should seek protection, but the big banking business does not need protection from this Government at all, because they can protect themselves.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, I hate to interrupt the hon. member, but I should like to find out what part of the Premier's speech can lend itself to the interpretation that a discussion on his part or an interview by him with the banks was with a view to protecting these big banks. This legislation is aimed to protect not banks, but depositors, and therefore the hon. member is deliberately distorting the entire purpose of the Bill, and, worse than that, distorting the remarks of the introducer. He said nothing about protecting any banks.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I have not said that anybody is protecting banks. I am talking about the Bill, and when I go through it, I am going to prove it. I am not prepared to sit down without proving it. What is wrong with the Hon. Minister of Trade? After all, Sir, it is not fair for a Premier or any Minister to introduce a Bill, say whatever he cares to say on it and then leave the Chamber without waiting to reply to comments. I have noticed from the time this Government was in power that the Premier will introduce something and leave the Minister of Trade to do the battling; and this has happened more than once.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, the hon. member is probably so omnipotent that he can control his affairs and responsibilities from day to day without clashes, but there must be occasions in the lives of ordinary people when more than one important function will clash at the same time. Whether or not the Hon. Premier is here, the point is that the hon. member must not distort anything that took place here this afternoon, nor the proposals of the proposed legislation before us. He can talk for two hours and no one will say anything about battling or bowling; but the moment he distorts anything, we will have to start battling and bowling.
7.00 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am appealing to you for protection, and that you do not allow any Minister, if a member is speaking, to get up and make speeches on a point of order. That has been happening the whole of this evening. Always apply your gavel on that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would remind hon. members who have not spoken that they have a perfect right to speak and deal in detail with the remarks of any member with whom they disagree and to do whatever they like with it. But so far as our limited powers under the Standing Orders are concerned, I have asked the Clerk to redraft Standing Order No. 28 so as to permit of more latitude. I would invite hon. members who desire to rise on a point of order, whatever point they are submitting, to make it concisely and the Speaker or Chairman would give his decision.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. senior member for St. Philip has heard you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope all hon. members have heard me.

Mr. SMITH: When they fail to obey and honour the Chair, it would be a nice idea if it goes down in history that you named a Minister.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Is the hon. member suggesting that any action of mine this evening would cause dishonour to the Chair? All that I have done, and I am entitled to do it, is to question the accuracy of the statement made by the hon. member. It appears as if he wants you to hear him speak and not me.

Mr. SMITH: Now, Sir, the Hon. Premier made reference to the banking system and the definition has me worried. In the definition clause, "bank" means any company carrying on banking business; and all the offices and branches in the Island of such a company shall be deemed to be one company; "banking business" means the business of receiving money from the public on current account, deposit account or other similar account paying and collecting cheques drawn by or paid in by customers and making advances to customers; receiving money on a

savings account from the general public payable on demand or after not more than three months' notice.

Now, Sir, I heard a lot said about meeting turns and Sou-sous. There are a lot of these people who are carrying on meeting turns and they keep a lot of money for the people. Some meetings run for as long as ten and twelve months before they expire, and some of the people in meeting-turns draw as high as \$300 and \$400. That is a fact. Now, if those persons who are carrying on these meeting-turns do not comply with the requirements for a licence, what would happen to those persons? I ask that because if you go by the definition, Mr. Speaker — and I know that you are one of the good lawyers, therefore, I know that you would understand me — you must say that those persons who are keeping this money are carrying on a savings account.

Now, let us suppose that there is some dispute between those persons who are carrying on these meeting-turns and a limb of the law or somebody who knows the law. All that person has to do is to bring a case against the person carrying on the meeting-turn because they are not registered to carry on a banking business. They have not applied to the Minister for a licence; therefore, they are not qualified. This point which I am making might sound foolish but all is well that ends well; and if you read the definitions of "bank" and "banking business", you will see that these people would be breaking the law as soon as it comes into operation.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. This, Sir, is really too much for me to sit without rising. You are not there as Speaker to sit and endeavour to inform hon. members as to the matter under discussion, but certainly, Sir, it is not only a deliberate waste of time, but a deliberate distortion on the part of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to attempt to say that this Bill includes meeting-turns. The hon. member quotes from Clause 2, of Part I.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the Hon. Leader of the House making a speech?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I am merely asking you as Speaker to decide whether the interpretation asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph on Part I should be permitted.

Mr. SPEAKER: Any hon. member may put any interpretation which he thinks fit on any Clause so long as its meaning is not dishonourable to any hon. member. As long as he expresses it in parliamentary terms, he can put any meaning which he thinks fit.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I merely want to suggest to this honourable Chamber that the interpretation which the hon. junior member for St. Joseph is putting on subsection 3 of clause 2, Part I, is completely untenable and is a deliberate attempt to distort what is before this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not for the Hon. Leader of the House to rise at this stage and put it that way. It is unfortunate that we have only these two points of interruption in the Standing Orders. I would wish the Hon. Leader would try to co-operate with the Chair and assist the Chair while working within these Standing Orders.
7.10 p.m.

It is not a question of how one hon. member interprets one section of a Bill and how another hon. member interpreted it differently. That is not the point, and I would appeal to the Hon. Leader of the House that he would spare some time and let us revise our Standing Orders so as to permit what hon. members would obviously like to have. I am entirely in favour of the revision of the Standing Orders.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I am merely submitting that the hon. member is not in order. He is completely out of order by making the submission which he is making on the matter which is before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Any hon. member before he rises when any other member is speaking, should remember that he may only rise by our Standing Orders on a point of order in order to direct attention and bring to the notice and submit to the Speaker or Chairman for decision, the point which he is making. It is not for the Speaker or Chairman to give a decision as to the interpretation of any section.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Your Honour is quite correct. I rose on a point of order and I am saying that in the opinion of either Your Honour or the Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph should not be allowed so manifestly to be out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member can put his point of view, however wrong it may appear to other hon. members. So long as he is speaking on the subject and he is acting on the Standing Orders the Speaker or Chairman has no control over that; but the hon. member in his reply can deal with the matter.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is accusing Your Honour of allowing another hon. member to be speaking out of order. The hon. member has said that and you did not call him to order when he said it.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I appeal to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to proceed with the matter of banking? We have been here from 2.30 p.m., of the clock today. Will the hon. member forget other hon. members and concentrate on the subject of banking?

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am willing to proceed; but over and over again the hon. senior member for St. Philip is accusing me of distorting this and that. This is a very simple question. Your Honour is one of the good lawyers; if you are interpreting something before a Judge, would it be fair for the Judge to accuse you of distorting something?

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite appreciate that, but that may cause the hon. member to take umbrage as it may appear that the hon. member is trying to associate himself with the Chair.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I can be rude and rough.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member cannot be rude in here.

Mr. SMITH: The hon. senior member for St. Philip is accusing me the whole night of distorting something. The hon. member is quoting from sub-paragraph (c) of this Clause 2 (1), but I am quoting from sub-paragraph (a) of the Clause which sets out that "banking business" means that business of — (a) receiving money from the public on current account, deposit account or other similar account. How would you term "or other similar account?" I am referring to those people who are receiving money from the public and keeping it for over a year and these people are drawing \$400 and \$500 at a time. The hon. senior member for St. Philip says that I am distorting something; if the hon. member has not read this Bill, I have read it. Another thing is that the hon. member is not the person who is in charge of this Bill and he is replying to me. What is the meaning of the words "or other similar account?" You have a bank, for instance, Barclay's Bank, which is a big established Bank and it is taking money from people at the rate of fifty cents a week or a dollar per week and those persons draw it out. They are receiving money from the public. If I am receiving money, I am not established as a big Bank, but I am paying it out in the same way. How would you term me? This Bill is for the purpose of protecting people from being robbed. What is the good of bringing down a Bill of this sort and asking us to pass it and we are allowing people all over the island to be receiving money in the same way and paying it out and they are not doing anything? What is the good of passing this Bill? What protection will this Bill give to people? Instead of one person doing this business in a big way, ten or twelve people are doing it, and perhaps when the public is ready to draw their money they cannot find it. I am trying to get wrong things put right; I want to know what will be done

with the people who are taking away this money from other people. (Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sit down and I will tell you.) You cannot tell me anything.

Mr. SPEAKER: To whom is the hon. member speaking now?

Mr. SMITH: I am replying to the *sotto voce* remarks which I am hearing.

Mr. SPEAKER: I thought that the Clerk was being asked not to stand between the Chair and the hon. member who is speaking.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, it appears to me that as soon as the members over there become Ministers, they feel that they can do as they like. As soon as they lose their seats at the polls, what do they look like? That cannot happen to me. You cannot tell me anything. I have been born working and I do not want to get rich.
7.20 p.m.

The Clause mentions "or other similar account". I know of people receiving money from others, spending it or doing anything they like with it up to a certain time and paying it back out at their own leisure. Here it is; the Government brings down a Bill to protect that. I am sorry I cannot name this Bill. This Government brought a Bill which I named the Ronald Mapp Bill, and I will name this Bill the Mackie Symmonds Bill. Tell me any other bank operating for the longest time in this country of which you have heard anything. The Government did not think of bringing anything of the sort, but it may be that a little thing has happened with one of us and you get the same people going out to kill, crush and do everything and saying they are not personal and not referring to any particular individual, but they are only trying to protect. One of the clauses in this Bill is so water-tight, Mr. Speaker, that if you had anything to do with banking business at all and you dropped through, and then found yourself with more money to go into any other concern, you are debarred. You cannot be a Director, Manager or anything at all. Are you going to tell me that you are not personal? Call the name of a person in Barbados that was running a bank and dropped through that the Government has to take it up so quickly and so rashly. After all, we might as well move out to Russia.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, I do not mind the exposition which the hon. member is making in his ability to understand what is before the House, but I am strongly going to object to any deliberate falsification. The hon. member has said that if you happen to be in a bank and for some reason or other it falls through, you cannot be the Director or Manager of any other concern. There is no part of this Bill where any such provision occurs, and you could not possibly expect me to sit here and listen to these fictions and illustrations without contradicting them.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point of order has been made, but the hon. member is not entitled to amplify further after he has made it. That point of order has been substantiated.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the light worries my eyes after a certain time, but I will find the Section which I think is Part IV — "Restrictions on Banking Business," and it reads as follows:—

"Any person (a) who has been a director of, or directly or indirectly concerned in the management of, a bank which has had its licence revoked in accordance with paragraph (c) of section 17 or has been wound up by a Court of law; or (b) who has been sentenced by a Court of Law to a term of imprisonment for an offence involving dishonesty and has not received a full pardon for that offence; or (c) who is or becomes bankrupt, suspends payment to or compounds with his creditors, shall not without the express authorisation of the Minister act or continue to act as a director of, or be directly or indirectly concerned in the management of, any bank."

Now the Minister can do everything; too much power again.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, the Hon. member has said that no person who is in a bank and it drops through or is bankrupt can be a manager or director of any concern. That is what I object to because the section says if you were bankrupt or you were directly concerned with a bank which has failed or sentenced by a Court of law to a term of imprisonment for an offence involving dishonesty and has not received a full pardon for that offence, or if you had suspended payments to your creditors, you shall not continue to act as director or be directly or indirectly concerned in the management of any bank, not of any concern. What the words of the hon. member would convey to the public is that if you were guilty of these things, you could not go outside and be manager of a garage or gasoline station or open a grocery store or any of these things. That is what he is trying to create.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House has made his point very effectively, if I may say so.

Mr. SMITH: I never said he could not go out and deal with any concern. I said "a bank". He is catching at straws.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did hear the hon. junior member for St. Joseph use the word "concern".

Mr. SMITH: I meant banks; I was not thinking of a grocery business. When I used the word "concern", I meant the same banking business; but I cannot find out why he is so touchy.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the hon. member not try to find out.

Mr. SMITH: I heard the Hon. Premier in his reply to the hon. senior member for St. Peter this afternoon say that if he or any Premier knows that a person went to gaol, the obvious thing to do would be to debar him from taking any part in this business. My reply to that before I go further, Sir, is that there are some people who went to gaol who should never have gone, and there are some who never went who should be living there, because when one owes you and does not pay, it is trouble. He is worse than someone who uttered a bad word or misconducted himself, was arrested by a police and was sent to gaol by the magistrate. There are some who would not pay even if you lock them up, and that person is the one who should be in gaol. I am not saying that you should put that person to be a manager of a bank over people's money. I will tell you why I say we might just as well move to Russia.

7.30 p.m.

The Clause says that a Minister can turn down any concern or any person without the right of appeal. Well, Sir, you have not said which Minister. You do not say the Minister of Finance. The Bill refers to the 'Minister'. I have not seen 'the Minister of Finance' stated. You have more than one Minister. You have one at St. Mary's Church, you have one at St. Lawrence and you have one at St. Matthias.

Mr. SPEAKER: Clause 2 defines "Minister". "Minister" means the Minister charged for the time being with responsibility for the subject of Public Finance.

Mr. SMITH: All right, Sir. Minister means the Minister in charge of finance. Now, Sir, here it is that you are putting all of this power in the Minister of Finance, and while I did not hear it myself, because I was not present at the particular meeting of the House, I have heard it said that the present Minister of Finance used a threat and said that another member of this House would not get pioneer status as long as he, the Premier, is in Government. Now, Sir, how on earth can you give this same Minister that power? If he can get up and use his authority and say that you will never get pioneer status as long as he is in Government and as long as the people put him there, are you going to put this power in his hand? This power which you are placing in this Bill in the hands of the Minister should be decided at Cabinet level, and not by one Minister, because you may not always be a Minister who is sympathetic. There are some people, even some Heads of these Depart-

ments, who take the little power which they have and give their subordinates everything that is bad. They are not afraid to tell those who are under them that as long as they are in charge, it cannot happen. All about in these Government Departments, you find Heads of Departments who threaten the people under them. You are telling me now that you are going to put all this power in one Minister's hands, one who has already confessed and said "Well, you cannot get pioneer status as long as I am running this Government". How on earth can you do that? We would be doing wrong.

Sir, this entire Bill wants going to Select Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Thomas has risen.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph has just said that the Hon. Premier told an hon. member of this Chamber that as long as he is Premier that member would not get pioneer status. What the Hon. Premier said was that as long as he is Premier that hon. member would not have a particular industry.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not dealing with pioneer status. Let us confine ourselves to this comparatively lengthy Bill on banking. Let us get along with it.

Mr. SMITH: Now, Sir, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas has helped me. He made it clear. I believe if he should die that he would go to Heaven because he likes to speak the truth.

Mr. SPEAKER: I repeat, let us confine ourselves to the subject of this Bill which deals with banking.

Mr. SMITH: I was making my point. I am giving my reasons why this Bill should be sent to a Select Committee. It should be sent to a Select Committee so that certain things in it may be ironed out because there are some things which should not be in it. This Bill should not be passed like this. People who do murder have the right of appeal and in this case, everything is done by the Minister and you have no right of appeal. Whatever he says is the position and whatever he agrees to and says is that. If he does not agree to give you a licence, though you might have a million pounds you will not get a licence. That is not fair. That is putting too much power in one man's hands, and if that is so, we better move on to Russia. This thing is not good enough.

Mr. Speaker, you may not hear, but hon. members will hear more from me when this Bill is dealt with in Committee because I would have every chance to read and speak on every section. I repeat, the powers which you give to one man in this Bill is sufficient to kill him. It can cause the death of this particular Minister because the power is too much. The Hon. Minister who is in charge of this Bill says that it is protecting the public and the depositors of these banks, but everything is left in the hands of the Minister. Suppose that Minister were to find himself involved with a particular bank and the bank called on him to pay or called on him not to give a licence to a particular concern which was coming into being, do you think that Minister would have all this stamina to do what he should do? He owes the bank, and if he does not pay he would be exposed. You do not carry potatoes or breadfruits in a bank. It is all money in a bank, and you are dealing with money. There are some of us who cannot resist temptation. Are you going to put one man in charge of so many? Sir, we would not be doing our duty to the people of this country if we do that. I am not against this Bill for one moment, but it wants a lot of slack screws tightened up. Do not let us put this power in the hands of a Minister; let it be the Cabinet because the Government is comprised of Ministers, not one Minister.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member does have some difficulty in interpreting this point on which he is debating, and that is responsible for the inaccuracy which he seems to put up from time to time with respect to Ministerial powers. I think he knows that

every member of the Cabinet has certain powers delegated to him. I, for instance, have powers which I exercise exclusively and against which there is no appeal. For instance, if a Barbados Scholar wants to do a course of study of which I do not approve, I withdraw my approval and he has no right of appeal.
7.40 p.m.

Just as how I, as Minister of Education, have powers delegated to me which no other member of the Cabinet can question, so, too, in the matter of banking, the Minister who is responsible for public finance has certain powers delegated to him by the Cabinet.

Mr. SMITH: I thank the Hon. Minister for what he says but when he has powers delegated to him, he is dealing with people who are coming with cap in hand to him begging him; he has to pass out something to the scholars; they are people who are begging him. But I am talking about people having cash and the power is being given to one man who can so turn down people that they will suffer.

The Hon. Minister might not have been in here, but I have been accused of undertaking to do things which I cannot manage. However, I am quite willing to measure up to any of them. The hon. member is now coming up with his hanky-panky excuse that he has powers delegated to him where scholars are concerned, but the scholars can tell him something too. I am now dealing with people who have hard cash. When I say that this can be destructive to people, I mean that if you cannot collect \$250,000 you cannot start business. Mr. Speaker, is not that keeping out the small business people? I know that some businesses can start with less than \$250,000 and they can thrive and they are thriving too; but this Bill is telling you that unless you can raise \$250,000 you cannot carry on the business of banking. I believe that the Civic is a Bank today, and when they started off I do not think they had any \$250,000. The Civic Managers were so smart that they took the people's money and started a bank. As soon as you put up this amount of money for a start you can keep out the small people; you do not want the small people to interfere with the big ones.

Sir, I am not saying that the Minister was so much bent on keeping out the small people, but I am drawing it to his attention that by this Bill he is keeping out small people. There is a man called Grafton Clarke who says that D.L.P. means "Destroy Little People". If I do not have this sum of \$250,000, according to this Bill I cannot carry on. I will have to go to the big people and borrow money.

Mr. Speaker, I am not criticising the Government; I am pointing out things to them so that they may be able to see. If I see that something is wrong, what am I if I cannot come in here and say that something is wrong? It would be unfair to the people who sent me here and to myself if I saw that something is wrong and did not say so. There are people who ask me to keep money for them and I do not put it in a little place and tie it up; I carry on business with it. I am wondering if this Bill is for the purpose of helping these Credit Unions which are coming into existence now. There are people who have something to bank and there are those who do not have anything to bank; we have to try and help those who do not have anything to bank. If I am asked to keep money for these small people, that is in their interest. It may not be enough with which to open a business, but when the "coolies" come around these people can send and ask for the loan of a dollar. I do not know if the Hon. Minister knows anything about this.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to talk any more on this Bill because I could talk about it until tomorrow morning. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister to accept the suggestion that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee and allow the necessary changes to be made; but do not let them come back here with this Bill as it is because this is a Bill which will destroy the little people.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have mixed feelings about this Bill. I do not agree that a Bill of this nature is not necessary. If you begin this business and everybody

should be allowed to set up and keep a Bank and thereby, possibly by accident or design or ill-luck or ill-fate, deprive though not intentionally, of their savings those persons who have brought together their small savings, they will lose them. When I was in my teens I happened to be in the United States of America when the depression hit that country, and you could read every day of persons who were jumping through windows because they had deposited all of their life savings in banks only to find that when they appeared at the doors of those banks to withdraw certain of their savings, nothing was there.
7.50 p.m.

That resulted in the bankers themselves committing themselves, and the depositors themselves were so depressed that they committed suicide. History, I believe, will record that one of the United States greatest Presidents, Franklyn Delano Roosevelt, had to come in and bring about such legislation as to give a federal guarantee to all United States citizens and others depositing money into banks up to a certain amount, so that if a crisis had again come about or the country had been faced with a depression, there would be some protection. If I remember correctly, this amount was set up to something like \$10,000.

I did not hear the Hon. Premier's speech, and I make no apology for not hearing it, because people believe that I must go home and sleep, but I will just say that my health means more to me than anything else, and I have not been a robust and strong man for a long time, although I can protect myself against the best of you politically on a public platform; but I must go home and eat, and therefore if a speech was going to be made about anything or anybody, even about me, I am not going to sit here; I am going to eat. Those who want to ingratiate themselves at this stage with the public and want to ruin their health may do so. However, I am going to begin with the last part of the speech which I heard. I make no apologies for the point of view which I represent, and I do not object to the Hon. Minister of Trade correcting me if I am wrong. The views of the commercial houses had been canvassed, so to speak, or sought on this Bill. I was the most surprised man to hear that because I knew that the four banks in Bridgetown had seen copies of this Bill and had discussed it with Government. You might say this is a Cabinet secret, but it is not a Cabinet secret as soon as more than one person goes to see the Minister of Finance to discuss a Bill of such paramount importance with him. I knew of it, but I never saw the draft or a copy; hence when I received this Bill, I was more than glad we had not met last Tuesday, because I believe we only got the Bill in time to be able to discuss it last Tuesday night. As far as my Party is concerned, Mr. Speaker, you will agree that it represents a considerable portion if not altogether the commercial element, and sitting around the Table, we the representatives of this Party in this House were somewhat surprised that we did not know of any of the ramifications or suggestions in this Bill. As we looked through the Bill and read the Objects and Reasons and saw the Clauses which were said to be new as against other Clauses, and discovered that the Bill was taken from the Jamaica Bill, we hustled through to get what I have in my hand now, a copy of the Jamaica Bill; so when I speak on the Jamaica Bill, I speak *ex cathedra* because I have the Jamaica Bill, and if any one, whether he be Legal Draughtsman or otherwise, says that something was taken from there and put in here, I can speak on it.

When it comes to knowing about the Bill, Mr. Speaker, I say I was at a loss. Let me preface my remarks again and I am prepared to go in the Market Square or the Lower Green and say that the only thing wrong with this Bill is that you have not brought side by side with it a Bill to regulate and control insurance companies in this country.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, the hon. member said when he began that he was not here when the Hon. Premier spoke, but I am almost sure that the Hon. Premier did say in his remarks that legislation was now under consideration to control the business of insurance in the Island. I am reminded that he did say it.

Mr. SPEAKER: He did say that.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: This is definitely the case. Very shortly legislation will come to the House for the purpose of controlling insurance in the Island. While I am on my feet, hon. members, I think, have reached the end of their tether.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I should like to thank the hon. member for what he has said, and must apologise if I misquoted the Hon. Premier; but that is how I felt about it. Despite the fact that I have got anonymous letters from insurance companies abusing me, I still feel so.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of order, the hon. member can rest assured.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that further consideration of the debate be postponed at this stage.

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

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

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, 22nd October, 1963 at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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

8.00 p.m.