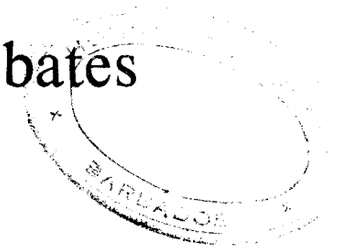
THE

House of Assembly Debates



(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961—66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4th August, 1964.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., *(Speaker)*; Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, *(Minister of Communications and Works)*; Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., *(Minister of Education)*; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, *(Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries)*; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. N. W. BOXILL; and Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of the 20th of last month have, I understand, been duly circulated, and unless there be any objection, I shall order the confirmation thereof.

There being no objection, I declare those Minutes duly to have been confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Racing Service Business Regulations, 1964.

An Account of the transactions in rum in the several Districts of the Island for the quarter ended 30th June, 1964.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

Resolution to amend the Schedule to Resolution No. 83/1961.

Resolution to approve the increase in the amounts which may be borrowed by the issue of Treasury Bills by a further sum of One million dollars.

Resolution to place the sum of $34,069 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65 Part I – Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1964-65 No. 21 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

Resolution to place the sum of $38,468 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65 Part I Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1964-65 No. 22 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 15/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is ready.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Leader of the House, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting to deal with the two money Resolutions of which notice has just been given.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 1 is to resume Committee on the Bill to amend the Sugar Industrial Agricultural Bank Act, 1943. When this matter was last considered by this Chamber, it was being considered in Committee of the House.

THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1964

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 4 standing in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works be the first Order of the Day under Government Business.

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

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

12.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 4 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works: To move the passing of the following Resolution: A Resolution to approve the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1964.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, these Regulations have been laid on the Table of the House and in accordance with normal practice, unless they are disapproved of by the Legislature, they become law automatically.

These Regulations are made under the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937 as amended by sections 41 and 42 of the Department of Highways and Transport Act, 1945 and they are amending the Regulations in the following respect: by the revocation of paragraph (24) of Regulation

15; and by the insertion immediately after regulation 15 of the following Regulation:

15A. (1) Every driver of a motor vehicle shall comply with the rules contained in this Regulation on the approach of –

(a) a unit of the Fire Service proceeding to a fire or suspected fire and sounding a siren; or

(b) a unit of the Fire Service on its way to answer any other emergency call and sounding a siren; or

(c) an ambulance or Police vehicle sounding a bell.

(2) Every driver of a motor vehicle on the approach of any such unit, ambulance or vehicle shall, subject to paragraph 3 of this regulation,

(a) draw up his vehicle as close as possible to the left hand side of the road and stop;

(b) thereafter keep his vehicle stationary until the unit, ambulance or vehicle, as the case may be, has passed;

(c) on the approach of any such unit, ambulance or vehicle at night, dip or dim the head lights of his vehicle.

(3) A driver of a motor vehicle shall not stop his vehicle or keep it stationary abreast of another vehicle or so as to cause an obstruction.

(4) In this regulation –

"Unit of the Fire Service" includes any engine, pump, trailer or other apparatus of the Barbados Fire Service and any vehicle in which any member of the Barbados Fire Service is being conveyed to any fire or suspected fire or to answer any other emergency call;

"Police vehicle" includes any vehicle used for conveying any member of the Barbados Police Force in the execution of his duties."

Then the Schedule is amended by deleting the figures and words "14, Old Central Foundry Site" under the heading "Name of Parking Place" and all the words and particulars relating thereto under the other headings contained in the said Schedule; and by inserting therein immediately under the figures and words "13 McGregor Street" and the words and particulars relating thereto under the other headings contained in the said Schedule the words, figure and letters as follows:-

(a) under the heading "Name of Parking Place" the figures, letter and word "13A, Constitution";

(b) under the heading "Description of Parking Place" the words "Area on the North Bank of Constitution River between Queen's College and Hardwood Alley";

(c) under the heading "Position in which vehicle may wait" the words

"Rear to Constitution River
Rear to Constitution Road
Rear to Queen's College";

(d) under the heading "Classes of Vehicles which may wait" the words "Private Motor Cars".

This, in short, as far as the Schedule is concerned, is abolishing the old car park at the old Central Foundry Site, and establishing a new car park at the back of Queen's College along the Constitution River.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious that I am in support of this Resolution, but there is something which I would like to draw to the attention of the Government and to the Island as a whole. In the amendment to the Regulations, you will note on page two, paragraph 2 (c) "on the approach of any such unit, ambulance or vehicle at night, dip or dim the head lights of his vehicle."

The time has come when I think legislation will be necessary to enforce the importance of dimming headlights. As a matter of fact, I do not really think that motor vehicles should be allowed to burn their bright lights within three miles of the City limits. It is rather deplorable to be driving at night and because an oncoming car is burning its bright lights, you cannot see. The best thing to do is to stop. Sometimes, when you stop and you think that it was a car which was approaching, you discover that it is a truck. Some drivers are quite willing to dim their lights, but the vehicle which they are driving does not have a dip switch. You will also find that you dip your lights to someone, but that person does not dip his lights. When the car gets close to you, you realise that it is not the fault of its not being fitted with a dip switch, because it is a new car; therefore, it carries a dip switch.

I think the time has come when legislation should be made in here to make it an offence for motor vehicles driving within three miles of the City limits to have their full lights burning.

Another thing which I think is important is that motor trucks should be made by law to carry two lights on the trailer in the front, one a red light and the other green, so that oncoming traffic would realise that it is a truck and not a car. The time has come when we will have to bring in legislation to restrict this kind of thing in order to save a lot of embarrassment.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was wondering whether the driver of a motor vehicle who declines to dim his headlights when approaching another vehicle is not liable to being charged with driving without reasonable care and consideration having regard to other persons using the highways, thus contrary to the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act, 1952.

12.35 p.m.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your free advice.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I think I should take this opportunity to draw something to the attention of the Government and to the attention of the public as well. I would like to see the Police Department enforce traffic regulations more and more because, in Barbados, the traffic is growing and the laxity with which people adhere to the Traffic Regulations is not in the best interest of the progress of the community. For example, I say that it is a matter of discourtesy where people do not seem to realise that they should not park in front of the entrance to persons' residences. Some drivers seem to feel that, because there is a funeral procession going on, they have the right to block the entrance to people's residences. Some of the drivers can be very rude when you speak to them too. I live near to a Church and frequently there are funeral services taking place at this Church and some drivers seem to have the idea that a funeral procession has some peculiar first preference to everything else. The undertakers get the preference whether you pay them before you pay the family or not, but some of the drivers are ignorant of these things and they think that you have no right to get into your premises when there is a funeral taking place.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to play or indulge in cheap politics or to offend some of our people, but I do say that the time has come when something must be done to regularise these matters and bring them to bear with commonsense. If that were not the case, in New York when there

was the funeral procession on the occasion of the burial of President Kennedy, the traffic would have been blocked until now. Again, Sir, there is the question of drivers stopping too near to bus stops. You will find that people will park their cars near to these bus stops and they will get out of the cars and lock them. Speaking generally, it does not matter to me whom I offend, but I feel that one of the things which we have to try and get in proper order is the regularising of funeral processions so as to stop the nuisances which are being experienced at the present time. Another thing is that Broad Street is a narrow lane and it takes longer to get out of Broad Street than you will take to get from here to any point of the island because of the traffic. People want to park their cars in these narrow lanes and I feel it is a question of indifference. I do not believe that people stop at the bus poles with the intention of stopping the traffic, but that is what happens. In New York it is an offence for one to stop in the bus lanes. I feel that this is something which I should draw to the attention of the Government now that we are dealing with these Regulations so that the powers that be will pay some attention to these things which occur.

Another point is that not only do drivers fail to dim their lights, but sometimes a person is driving a car without any lights at all. He seems to think that, because his lights have gone out, he must drive without lights. I have seen a policeman stop a man in that connection. Then you have the case of a car stalling in the Deep Water Harbour area, and the driver of the car has the idea that it must be repaired in the middle of the road. The Policemen and everybody else seem to think that the driver of a car normally has to repair it on the spot and he does not have to push it out of the road. They think that the vehicle is an island. You have that vehicle being repaired there, and for fully half of an hour, it is in the centre of the road. That sort of thing will exasperate people. I am a representative of the workers and I say that it does not matter to the person concerned because he will draw his money; but, on the other hand, if he is a person who is hustling for a job he will try to be on the move.

Sir, those are things which I have noticed and I consider that too many of these things take place. These things not only cause accidents, but they slow down the operation of business and industry.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to inform the House that it is a contravention of the existing traffic regulations to have a vehicle at a standstill opposite a bus stop and within 30 feet of a bus stop. It is also an offence to stop a vehicle in front of people's residences, including the residence called "Gibraltar" *(Laughter).*

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the hon. member who has just sat down, and I will say that I feel that there should be some regulations governing traffic as far as this 20th century is concerned. I feel that there should be inserted in these Regulations a provision that funeral processions should have priority to travel along the street in the same way as it is done in other places. The burial of the dead today is not anything which you can keep under your arm. The time for the burial of the dead is 4.30 o'clock p.m. and we have to leave for the place of burial about 4.45 p.m. when the traffic is quiet. I should like the hon. member who has just sat down to realise that the dead must be buried, and a regulation should be inserted in these Regulations giving funeral processions some sort of priority. I remember that the Commissioner of Police was trying to see what he could do about these funeral processions because one of his friends got locked off and he could not pass because of a funeral procession. I want to say, Sir, that the people in Barbados do not pay proper respect to these funeral processions. I feel, Sir, as I have already said, that funeral processions should have some priority along the street. You should switch on your light and you pass on without any kind of interruption.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should to like to inform the hon. member that it would not be possible, even if it were the feeling of this Chamber, to insert anything in these Regulations.

12.45 p.m.

This Regulation is already law, having been laid on the Table of the House, unless we decide to amend it, but it could be the subject matter of another Resolution if Government and Parliament saw fit.

Mr. SEALEY: Thank you, Sir.

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT BAY STREET

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 5 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: This Resolution stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works: to approve the compulsory acquisition of three parcels of land together with the buildings thereon situate at Bay Street for the purpose of highway improvement.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Government policy to improve roads bends, and more especially to improve the access to the New General Hospital, lengthy and protracted negotiations with representatives of the owners of the properties as set out in the Addendum have proved almost futile, and in order to carry through its programme of road improvement, the Government has seen fit to come down with this Resolution for the compulsory acquisition of the three parcels of land as set out in the First, Second and Third Schedules. The First parcel is 6,360 square feet of land abutting and bounding on lands of the Jehovah Witness, on lands of the Roman Catholic Church, on the public road known as Jemmotts Lane and on the public road known as Bay Street or however else the same may abut and bound together with all and singular other the buildings and erections thereon.

The Second parcel as set out in the Second Schedule is 3,054 square feet of land abutting and bounding on lands of Roman Catholic Church, on lands of the estate of E. C. Hill, deceased, and on the public road known as Bay Street or however else the same may abut and bound together with all and singular other the buildings and erections thereon.

The third parcel is all that certain piece of land situate at Bay Street containing by admeasurement 3,042 square feet of land abutting and bounding on lands of St. Paul's Home, on lands of the Roman Catholic Church, on lands of the Jehovah Witness and on the public road known as Bay Street or however else the same may abut and bound together with all and singular other the buildings and erections thereon.

As I mentioned already, Sir, all efforts at negotiation with the several owners for the purchase of the parcels of land described in the Schedule together with the buildings thereon have failed to reach any agreement in price, and it is for that reason and in order to carry through with our plan for providing proper access to the new General Hospital from Bay Street, and to avoid the risk of accidents in that area - because it is a corner which has been very disturbing to the public from time immemorial - it is thought fit that the provisions of section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949 as approved by the Act of 1963 be implemented, so that a good and marketable title may be secured, and the question of price can be settled by referring the matter to arbitration as is usual in that case.

I may say that disparity in price in certain cases has been rather pronounced, and more especially in the case of the Jehovah Witness. In every case the Standing Valuation Committee recommended a certain price to Government, but the vendor's price for negotiation has substantially been in excess of the price which Government offered as advised by their Standing Valuation Committee, and negotiated by the Crown Solicitor on behalf of the Government. I hardly think there is anything that I can validly add at this stage in that

the person who negotiates on behalf of the Government is the Crown Solicitor and not my Permanent Secretary or myself, as apparently may be thought by hon. members who may have a brief and may want to argue about the price later on. I can only say that the price asked by the respective owners, especially in the case of the Jehovah Witness, is a long way off the price which the Government is willing to offer. In every case there has been substantial disparity or differentiation with respect to the price offered by Government and the price which the vendor is willing to receive.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

COMMTTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 2 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 2 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the island.

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

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.
12.55 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1964-65 No. 18

REFUND OF CONTRIBUTIONS, PENSION SCHEMES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution deals with a matter which in essence has been the bone of contention for some time between the party involved and the Government. It deals with the highly controversial matter of the Widows and Orphans Pension Funds. Hon. members will remember that in May last year a statement was made by the Hon. Premier in connection with the manner in which the members of the Civil Service and the Government would be able to resolve this question to the satisfaction of both.

It was decided that payments of one half of the contributions paid under the Widows and Orphans Pension Act, 1928 during the period 1st June, 1963 to 31st January, 1964, should be made to every contributor who made contributions during that period except those contributors.

(a) who are public officers and elect to remain under the 1928 Act;

(b) who are retired public officers or have left the Barbados Public Service ; and who pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of Section 3 of the Widows and Children Pensions Act, 1963 have elected to remain under the 1928 Act.

The Addendum points out the reasons for making the deadline June 1st, 1963. It is consequent upon the Honourable Premier's statement during his budget proposals in May, 1963, that the contributions made by civil servants to the Widows and Orphans Pensions scheme would be reduced by 50%. The Widows and Children's Pensions Act, 1963 came into operation on 1st February, 1964 giving effect to this proposal.

Meanwhile, during the intervening eight months civil servants continued to contribute under the Widows and Orphans Pensions Act, 1928, at the rate of 4% of their gross salaries since the legal position was unchanged.

The Honourable Premier further stated in his recent budget proposals that civil servants should be refunded half of the contributions made to the Widows and Orphans Pensions Scheme during the eight months before the Widows and Children's Pensions Act, 1963, came into operation, since it was only because there was delay in enacting the new legislation that contributions continued at the rate of 4% instead of 2% of salary.

This Resolution seeks to provide the sum of $55,000 to make payment of amounts equal to one-half of the contributions paid during the period 1st June, 1963 to 31st January, 1964 on the conditions set out in the Schedule to this Resolution.

The actual principle was settled as far back as last year. The Government enacted legislation to give effect to this and, as Your Honour is aware, as the drafting of legislation takes some time, it is only fair since the Act has come into effect eight months ago that the contributions made during that period should be refunded from that period.

I beg to move that the Resolution do now pass.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1964-65 No. 19

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to take charge of this Resolution for the sum of $17,650 which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Premier.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, hon. members will observe that this Resolution provides for two things: (1) the continuation of the policy enunciated in the current estimates when money was provided to honour the Government's pledge for the equalisation of pay between male and female teachers in this financial year; and, secondly, in consequence of representations made to Government by the representatives of teachers, Government undertook to examine the position which was made and to give effect to the shortening of the period in the interest of this cause.

During the debate on the Estimates, I gave the House some indication of the total cost of this policy of implementing this matter about equal pay. Now, over the five year period in which this transformation was to take place, the cost of the implementation was to the effect; for the first year, $40,000, for the second year $84,000; for the third year, $132,500; for the fourth year $179,000; and the fifth year, $200,000.

We had therefore in this financial year made provision under the old decision for a sum of $70,000. However, in the light of the decision in the Hon. Premier's Budgetary Proposals that the period be shortened from five years to four years, it has become necessary to supplement the provision in the Estimates.
1.05 p.m.

Consequently, in order to equalise Head Teachers, the additional sum required is $1,008; for the equalisation of Assistant Teachers, $14,369; for the Equalisation of Supernumerary Teachers, $757; for the equalisation of Acting Staff, $504 and for the equalisation of grants, $1,012. That makes a total of $17,650. As I say, Sir, I do not need to detain the House any longer on this matter. The policy has been accepted; it has already been implemented in the current Estimates; but because of the undertaking which has been given by the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance to shorten the period from a period of five years to one of four years, this additional sum of money is required for the financial year to implement that proposal. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to see that this Resolution for equal pay for these teachers has now been implemented, because I have been saying, for many years now, that there is no real justification in having professional teachers, whether they be male or female, not being paid on a professional basis. This is a matter for negotiations; and if it were within my province, I would have put up a different proposal to the Government. Where you will find difficulty is that if you are implementing a system of equal pay for these teachers on a long-term basis, this amount of $17,650 per annum is not a very big figure to ask the Government to deal with. Where I see that a greater problem will arise among the members of the teaching profession is that if the Government regards this implementation as taking place in a period of four years instead of five years, you can have a review of salaries. In my view, if I were representing the teachers, I would ask the Government to make this implementation now. The female teachers are going to get an increase in their salaries based on this implementation which is of a monetary value to them, and it would have been accepted as a negotiating point if you had concluded a comprehensive agreement and said: "This will be my agreement for teachers and we will grant you that we will not have any increase in salaries for three or four years." If we deal with the matter in this way, we will be implementing equalisation proposals, but it does not mean that you will not face the implementation of the teaching problem.

Last week I heard the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works make the point that drivers' salaries were negotiated on a two-year agreement, but he did not realise that this period of two years is a normal period for such an agreement. It is unusual to have an agreement for a longer period than two years unless you have things which are specially built in. I say that this implementation should have been put into operation before now. With the amount of money which is involved, it is not enough to be spread over such a long period. If you have $20 a month more to give to the teachers, the impact of the increase will not be felt by the teachers if you carry it over a period with an amount of £10 a year. When you give people an increase in salary, you should let them feel it because it will last with them for a long period. The psychological effect is greater than if you agree to the implementation of the equalisation plan, and if you make it for too long a period then you will make the amount too nibbling.

Mr. Chairman, what is not set out in the Addendum to the Resolution is some idea of what the implementation will mean to the teachers in a general way. If the differentiation was about 20% or 25% between the male and the female teachers, you are making up this differential of 20% or 25% by giving an increase which is 5% per annum. We should get some idea of the quantum and we will know what it is. When the implementation of a plan is too small, the impact is not felt except by those who come in afterwards. The Assistant Teachers or the Supernumerary Teachers who are entering the Service this year or next year will enter the Service at the point of implementation. Such teachers will get the advantage of this implementation in four years. Mr. Speaker there are other difficulties which are created, and I do not know if the Civil Service Association has agreed to this. If you agree that there should be equal pay for Teachers, what proviso will you write in in relation to persons who are retiring before the implementation point is reached? Although you agree that the salaries of these Teachers should be on an equal basis and that the implementation should be in four years instead of five years, how do you regard a Female Head Teacher who is retiring? We agree that a female teacher should get the same salary as a male teacher, but you are not giving her that today. This is a negotiating point, as I have already said; it is the business of the Civil Service Association and of the Whitley Council, but if you agree in principle that the female teacher should get the same salary as the male teacher, then the female teacher, through no fault of her own, would not be entitled to or would not receive the same benefits which would accrue to her if the plan had been implemented at this stage. Those are the points, Mr. Chairman, which would seem to me to be negotiating points. It looks to me that one is in favour of the female teachers.

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

1.15 p.m.

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

On the separate motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded in each case by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND IN ST. ANDREW

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 3 stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. John: to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of four parcels of land situate at Bawdens, St. Andrew.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking its indulgence to take charge of the Resolution standing in the name of the Hon. and Learned Premier, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the Hon. Leader of the House.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this is one of those Resolutions for the compulsory acquisition of land which fortunately can give rise to no controversy at all. The Government needs these four areas of land in the parish of St. Andrew in the district known as Bawdens for use firstly in connection with the soil conservation, and secondly to provide for the restoration of free access to certain lands. The land in the First and Second Schedules is for soil conservation purposes, and the land in the other two Schedules is for the restoration of free access to certain lands as a result of the utilisation of other lands for the purpose of constructing a new public road in the Bawdens/Sedgepond area in the parish of Saint Andrew.

The first two pieces are: the one piece of land abutting and bounding on lands of the Hill Plantation on other lands of Z. Thompson and on lands of C. L. Vaughan or however else the same may abut and bound, and the second piece is that abutting and bounding on lands of Sedgepond Plantation on lands of Z. Thompson and on other lands of C. L. Vaughan or however else the same may abut and bound. The two pieces for the proposed new road comprise of 2,117 square feet abutting and bounding on lands of C. N. Edwards on other lands of C. Watson and lands of W. Mayers and on a public road or however else the same may abut and bound, and 523 square feet abutting and bounding on lands of C. Watson on other lands of W. Mayers and on a public road or however else the same may abut and bound.

Hon. members have been made aware of the fact in the Addendum that agreement has been actually reached with the owners of the land for the acquisition of them all, but that the owners have been unable to produce what are known as good and marketable titles for the completion of the sale. We are resorting to the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, merely in order to permit acquisition by the Government, with the owners being compensated for the loss of the use of their land without undue delay by the compulsory acquisition which this Resolution seeks to provide.

I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the land which the Government will be purchasing will be for the improvement of roads leading to Sedgepond. People came to me some time ago and told me that the Government was going to purchase their land, but they did not know for what purpose. The Third Schedule sets out all that certain piece or parcel of land situate at Bawdens in the parish of St. Andrew in this Island containing by admeasurement 2,117 square feet or thereabouts abutting and bounding on lands of C. N. Edwards on other lands of C. Watson on lands of W. Mayers and on a public road or however else the same may abut and bound.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when the people heard that this land was being purchased by the Government for soil conservation purposes, they were bewildered; but since I understand that the Government has purchased Bawdens and Hill Estates, there are roads that have to be diverted in order to allow people to reap their crops, and therefore I have nothing against this Resolution at all, and would have to cooperate with this. I am the sole person in this Assembly who asks for roads for the various parts of St. Andrew and other northern districts, and I must say that wherever there are roads, people are relieved of their burden; but where there are no roads, the burdens are increased because they are unable to get in and out with their canes. 1.25 p.m.

Having these roads which would help the situation, I hope the people in the area would content themselves and would give the Government free access to the land which they want to cultivate.

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

STATEMENT *re* VISIT BY POLICE BAND TO BRITAIN

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave at this stage to make a statement in connection with the visit by the Police Band to Britain. I would like to apologise for the fact that it was not possible to do this earlier, but hon. members are aware that today is the first working day since members of the Police Band left this Island and, therefore, this Statement was not ready in time to present at the proper time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the Hon. Minister making apologies for himself?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: No; I am referring to the people who are employed in the Civil Establishment.

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

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

I have the honour to inform the Honourable House that the Police Band under the acting Director of Music, Mr. Bernard Morris, left Barbados on the evening of Saturday, 1st August, to participate in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo which will take place at Edinburgh Castle from 17th August until 5th September, 1964, as part of the 1964 Edinburgh International Festival. Captain W. A. Farmer, Deputy Commissioner of Police, accompanies the Band as Administrative Officer.

At the Tattoo the Band will contribute a solo item and will also take part in the Massed Band Item together with the Bands of the Royal Scots Greys, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), Queen's Own Highlanders and the Royal Air Force. It will also appear in the Grand Finale.

Other engagements for the Band include one at the Festival Garden Party and one at the Scottish Industries Exhibition in Glasgow.

The Band is expected to leave Scotland on 8th September for London, where engagements for it are being arranged. It is expected that the Band will leave London for Barbados on 18th September.

Fees earned by the Band during its visit will be applied towards the cost of the visit. The greater part of the cost is being met by the Edinburgh Tattoo Authorities, while the Barbados Tourist Board is meeting a part of the cost of the Band's visit to Scotland and the full cost of its visit to London.

THE JURORS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 6 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is appropriate in order to deal with Order No. 6, that the Hon. Leader of the House move the suspension of Standing Order No. 40 as I have some doubt as to whether this Bill has appeared in the *Official Gazette*.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, I, myself, was in doubt as to whether or not we could have proceeded with it today, as it was only given notice of last week.

As Your Honour has suggested, I beg to move that Standing Order No. 40 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting in order that this Bill be proceeded with.

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion has already been passed that Order No. 6 be the next Order of the Day and that stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Premier: Second reading of a Bill to amend the Jurors (Amendment) Act, 1957.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Bill.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to bring about a change in the Jurors Act of 1957, in order to empower a Judge to take certain steps during a trial of indictment in order to separate a member of the jury from the other members of the jury in order that he may receive urgent medical attention.

In other words, after people have been empanelled as a jury and one juror is in need of medical attention, the judge will have the right under this amendment to the Act to authorise the separation of this ailing juror from the rest of the panel when the Court is adjourned over night

during the trial of murder or treason. I think that that amendment might still cause a delay in the trial of the person involved and the judge will have to adjourn the case until such time as the ailing juror should regain his health.
1.35 p.m.

This Amendment, simple as it may appear, can be of inestimable assistance in the trial of somebody who has been charged on an indictment including a trial for murder or treason. Hon. members will appreciate the reason for placing this authority legally in the hands of the presiding Judge, and will therefore readily support this amendment to the existing Act. I am not aware as to whether or not there has been any instance of recent date which would have made this legislation necessary; but whether that is the case or not, the decision to anticipate such an occurence will be appreciated by all hon. members and they will accord their ready support to this amendment. I therefore beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to find out when we are going to amend the Jurors Act so as to make room for women to serve as jurors. I feel that the time has come when, just as we have done something for women not so long ago, putting them on an equal basis with men, women should be given the opportunity to perform this civic function. We should rationalise the system here. Some men would like to be relieved from jury service; some of them are losing their day's work. I do not refer to people who are self-employed, but there are those who are carpenters and masons, and it would not be anything wrong to have women serving in this part of our civic life. I therefore look forward to the time when the Government will accord women the privileges of serving alongside of men as jurors in this island.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that the hon. senior member for St. Peter can sing any solo in this matter. I think he will remember many years ago when he came into this House, that I spear-headed the idea of amending the Jurors Act so that women could also serve on the Jury. I hope that the Government will not allow such a suggestion to fall on deaf ears. This amendment seeks to give the Learned Judge certain powers, and I think hon. members will appreciate the reasons for so doing. When jurors are summoned, some of them are exempted and for one reason or another they complain that they are not paid. Mr. Speaker, with your extensive practice at the Bar, you can well realise what could happen when a person serves on the jury. He has to pay his bus fare and he has to spend. *(ASIDES).* Mr. Speaker, this is an amendment to the Jurors Act and I am entitled to speak on it and say something....

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know if the hon. member is referring to what is an omission in this amendment or in the Act, but I do not think that he should go into any details.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the House knows me very well. I am only taking a leaf out of his book. I hope that the hon. member will pay attention to this matter. Sometimes you find people using billings-gate when they feel that they should be compensated. The Hon. Leader of the House should see that something is done about that, as he is aware of what takes place. I did not intend to allow the hon. senior member for St. Peter to sing any solo in this matter. I know that he has added his support to me in this matter and nothing was done about it. In the United States of America and other places women are called upon to serve along with men even in times of War.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to hear the two hon. members speak on this matter because Your Honour will remember that some time during the early part of last year I asked a question which suggested that women should be included to serve as jurors. The answer was in the affirmative and I was really wondering what was the reason for the delay in implementing that suggestion. I am glad, Sir, that those two hon. members have referred to this matter and I hope that in the not too distant future women will have the privilege of being included to serve as jurors.

Mr. SPEAKER: As it appears that no other hon. member wants to enter this debate, the hon. introducer of the Bill may exercise his right of final reply.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for St. Thomas has denied me the necessity for having to make a reply to the question which has been raised, because he has drawn to the attention of hon. members that in reply to a question which he had asked about this matter, the Government had pledged itself within the near future to include women to serve as jurors in this island. I should only like to add what I have said, that I am sure that women could not or would not create any greater hardship where verdicts are concerned, as we see from time to time created by jurors in this island.
1.45 p.m.

There have been one or two outstanding cases in which the verdict was completely not in accordance with the evidence supplied at the trial, and one only hopes that the inclusion of women as jurors will help to re-establish the tradition in Barbados at which the public felt fairly assured that the verdict returned at the trial would not do violence to the evidence given during the same trial.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, now that we have disposed of all the matters on the Order Paper under Government Business, I would like to ask leave to say that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 15/1964 standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is ready, and ask for leave to present the Reply now, since we have a few minutes more before the stipulated suspension.

I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's Sitting.

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

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

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.

REPLY TO ORAL QUESTION

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 15/1964, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is ready.

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

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:-

Will the Minister state how many Firearms were Licensed during the past year?

2. Will the Minister also say how many persons were turned down?

3. Will the Minister also state, if any such persons were refused, the grounds of refusal?

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

"2,516 firearms were licensed during 1963.

2. 66 persons were refused firearm licences.

3. The grounds for refusal were either that the applicants were not considered to be suitable to possess firearms, or that they did not have the need for firearms."

PETITION

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to give notice of a Petition.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Michael is asking leave to give notice of a Petition, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. member.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, this is a Petition from the Right Reverend Edward Lewis Evans, Lord Bishop of the Island of Barbados, the very Reverend Gordon Vivian Elton Hazlewood, Rector of the parish of Saint Michael in the Island of Barbados and Canon Basil Christopher Ullyett, Vicar of Saint Stephens Chapel in the parish of Saint Michael in the Island of Barbados, praying the House to authorise them to sell 82,752 square feet of land and a house called "Wilton" situate at St. Stephens and invest the proceeds of sale therefrom in the erection or purchase of a building to be used as a residence for the Vicar of St. Stephens. The Petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill intituled "The Saint Stephens Chapel (Vicar's Residence) Act, 1964."

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Mr. SEALEY, seconded by Mr. LYNCH, a Bill intituled "The Saint Stephens Chapel (Vicar's Residence) Act, 1964", was read a first time.

1.55 p.m.

END OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, as Your Honour is aware, the Order Paper, in so far as Government Business is concerned, has been concluded and if hon. members so desire, we can adjourn until next Tuesday.

I beg to move that....

MR. WALCOTT GRANTED SIX WEEKS' LEAVE

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, before the adjournment is moved, I would like to ask for leave of absence as from next Tuesday, the 11th August, for six weeks.

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 11th August, 1964, at 2.30 p.m.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 11th August, 1964 at 2.30 p.m. Hon. members in favour will please say "Aye" and those against will please say "No".

I hear voices saying "No". I, therefore, ask that the vote be taken.

AYES: Mr. BATSON, HON'BLES W. A. CRAWFORD, C. E. TALMA, G. G. FERGUSSON, A. DaC. EDWARDS, Messrs. BOXILL, CORBIN, LOWE, YEARWOOD, MOTTLEY, HOLDER, SMITH, SEALEY and LYNCH - 15

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been reported that fifteen members have voted "Aye" and no hon. member voted "No."

I required that the vote be taken because I distinctly heard some hon. members saying "No".

In accordance with Standing Order No. 37, (7), when a member's name is called by the Clerk at a division, the Member shall answer either by voting for the "Ayes" or for the "Noes". A Member shall not answer in a manner inconsistent with any opinion which he may have expressed when the voices were taken collectively.

As I am unable to determine whose voices they were, I declare that the "Ayes" have it.

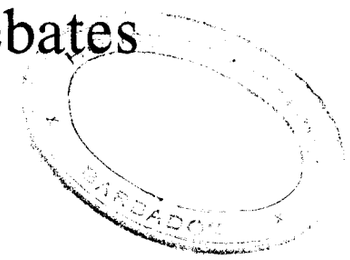
Accordingly, this House now stands adjourned until Tuesday, 11th August, 1964, at 2.30 p.m.

2.05 p.m.

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



SECOND SESSION OF 1961—66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 11th August, 1964

Pursuant to the adiournment, 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, Labour and Social Security);* Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. F. C. GODDARD; Mr. E. St. A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, *(Minister of Communications and Works);* Mr. J. W. COBBIN; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, *(Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries);* Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. G. V. BATSON, *(Chairman of Committees);* and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, *(Minister of Health, Housing, and Community Development).*

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of last week's meeting have not been ready; hence they have not been circulated.

DOCUMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received from the Auditor General his report on the accounts of the Island for the year 1962-63.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Customs Duties (Canadian Technical Assistance) Order, 1964;

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No.7) Order, 1964;

The Civil Establishment (Part-Time Officers) (Amendment) Order; and

The Civil Establishment (General Amendment) (No.8) Order, 1964.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:-

Report of the Transport Board for the year ended 30th September, 1963; with the audited statement attached thereto; and the

Barbados Harbours (Amendment) Regulations, 1964.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following:

The Annual Report of the Department of Labour for the year 1962;

The Annual Report of the Public Assistance Board for the period April, 1963 — March, 1964.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On behalf of the Hon. Premier:

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 7) Order, 1964;

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (Part-Time Officers) (Amendment) Order, 1964;

Resolution to increase the number of non-established posts at the General Hospital as set out in the Schedule to the Resolution;

Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 8) Order, 1964.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Resolution to place the sum of $1,373 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65, Part 1 — Current as shown in the supplementary Estimate 1964-65 No. 23 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 14 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph is now ready.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No 9, asked by the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is now ready.

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 Resolution of which notice was given today.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what is the desire of hon. members; but the Government is prepared to proceed with the Standing Orders as they are, if hon. members want to proceed with Private Members' Business.

If there is no such desire, I would go on with the Orders of the Day under Government Business.

I beg your pardon, Sir. If there is no such desire, we will proceed as usual.

Mr. SPEAKER: If hon. members so wish, they can avail themselves of the opportunity to discuss Private Members' Business. Actually, this is Question Time and replies have been laid to two Oral Questions. One is Question No. 14 which stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

CLOCK

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Before the hon. junior member for St. Joseph rises, I would just like some information from Your Honour. Up to the time when the House last met, the clock which stood at the entrance to this House was there, but I think that Your Honour would have also noticed that it is not there now. I do not know whether we have suffered with some visitation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Did you say the Clerk or the clock?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Your question is well timed. Both the Clerk and the clock are missing, but I rose to state that the clock is missing. I do not know if the Clerk is absent with Your Honour's permission.

Mr. SPEAKER: I can give the information to the House about the clock. It has failed to operate because it was not agreeing with the time by the Public Buildings' clock; so it is now in the hands of the persons from whom we purchased it and we hope to have it restored in good working order and in its place this afternoon.

As it stands now, I can make no statement about the Clerk.

2.55 p.m.

OPERATION OF PAN AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS LIMITED

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

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

Is the Government the owner of the land on Fairchild Street where the Pan American Amusements Limited, are now operating?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, what are the details of Government's transactions with this firm for the use of the land; and if the land has been leased, why was not the approval of the Legislature sought?

3. Can the Minister say if the proceeds accruing from the games of chance, especially Bingo, are in aid of charity, as provided under the Gaming Act?

4. Is the Minister making a careful check of the number of people entering this amusement park, of the amount of money collected, and of what money should come to the Government by way of Entertainment Tax and Income Tax?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to give the reply on behalf of the Hon. Minister in whose name the question was asked.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the query was directed to the appropriate Minister, I would take it for granted that the Hon. Minister would be the appropriate Minister.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, I beg to decline the honour, but the Reply is as follows:-

"No, Sir,

2. Does not arise.

3. Yes, Sir; the proceeds are in aid of charity as provided under the Gambling Act, 1917.

4. A careful check was made as to the amounts due to the Government for entertainment tax, and income tax is payable by the Company, which is a registered limited liability Company, in the usual manner."

HAZARDOUS CONDITION OF TWO POINTS IN THE SUGAR HILL ROAD

Mr. SPEAKER: The next question stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Joseph:-

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

Is Government aware of the very hazardous condition of two points in the Sugar Hill road as follows:- (a) from Todds Corner through Chimborazo, and (b) on the Sugar Hill near Heath's residence?

2. If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will Government with a view of reducing the risk of accidents take the necessary steps to have the said corners widened?

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

"Government is aware that the corner on the road from Todds Corner through Chimborazo and another on Sugar Hill Road near Heath's residence could be improved by widening.

Consideration will be given to the inclusion of funds for this work in the draft Estimates 1965-66."

Mr. SPEAKER: There are no other replies laid to questions. Will the Hon. Leader of the House indicate what he desires to proceed with next?

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: 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.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House will first have to move that Order No. 2 be taken as the first Order of the Day.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: As Your Honour pleases, I beg to move that Order No. 2 be taken as the first Order of the Day.

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 of the Day therefore stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House:- To move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

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

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1964-65 No. 22

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the first Resolution with which we are dealing is a Resolution to place the sum of $38,468 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65 Part 1 — Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1964-65 No. 22 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. Chairman, hon. members will remember that in 1962 provision was made for two additional pre-registration doctors for the General Hospital. With the provision of a new Hospital and with a more up-to-date health service in the making, it has been considered necessary to add to the non-established staff of the Hospital two additional posts of pre-registration doctors, which will bring the number up to six. This has been made necessary inasmuch as there is a great demand for doctors in this country and because of the services which will be available at the new Hospital.
3.05 p.m.

Hon. members are also aware of the fact that the new Hospital will be a teaching hospital, and it may even be necessary to create further posts of pre-registration doctors if we are to satisfy the demand. The provision of $8,592 is to pay the additional two pre-registration doctors for the financial year.

Next we come to Item 22 — Part-time Dental Surgeon. In 1956 there was a salaries revision and at that time the then part-time Dental Surgeon was paid on a sessional basis — two sessions at approximately $30 a session. He had also been paid a retainer fee of $960 per annum. Now this retainer fee made it imperative on him to be on call day or night in case he was needed at the Hospital to deal with emergencies, and the sessional fee was paid for the work which was done in the Casualty and Out-patients Department. In 1961 when there was a salaries revision, the Part-time Dental Surgeon's was not revised for some reason or other, and it is considered necessary to revise this salary or these fees, retrospective from 1961. The greatest contention of the Dental Surgeon (Part-time) was that being paid on a sessional basis, he was entitled to no vacation leave on the salary which he received for doing sessional work. He was only allowed vacation on the salary of $960 a year. This was grossly inadequate since the Part-Time Dental Surgeon was on call and performed his duties every week — two session a week — and quite ably did he do so.

I think that it is necessary and hon. members will join me in paying our due respect to him, now departed, for the able work which he did not only for the Barbados General Hospital, but also for the community. He concerned himself with proper professional standards. He was one of the most ardent workers of the B.M.A. and he always endeavoured to see that the Medical Profession in Barbados was respected. If there was one member of the B.M.A. who stood up for the ethics of the profession, it was the late Eric Winston Storey. His conduct, I should say, was an advertisement for his profession.

Getting back to the Resolution, as I said, the fees for the Part Time Dental Surgeon were revised in 1956, but there was no revision in 1961, whereas for the other visiting Surgeons at the Barbados General Hospital their fees were revised. As a matter of fact, the retainer fee which they received was increased by 100 per cent, and there was no increase in the Dental Surgeon's. One may say that these people have private practice, but they do make a great contribution to this country. It is true that they are permitted to have certain beds in the Pay Wards which they can use for their patients, but when we consider the thousands of people that they treat in the public wards without pay, we can see what a contribution they have made and are still making to our community.

Now the amount of money asked for in this Resolution for the Dental Surgeon is $1,920, and this, as I pointed out earlier, is for the four years from 1961 to the end of the financial year, 1964-65.

Next, Mr. Chairman, is the abolition of six posts of Servant at the Hospital. These are servants that were provided under the unestablished staff to look after the homes of people like the Matron and some of the Sisters and Doctors, but there has been a change and presently only two are employed. We are now abolishing these six posts of Servant and creating two posts on a temporary basis.

On the question of the Supervisor of Gardens, he is paid by the Civic Circle, and the Hospital and Public Works Department make a contribution to his salary for the work done for the Public Works and the Hospital. The present annual pay which he receives from the Hospital is $216, and in as much as there will be additional extensive grounds at the new Hospital for gardens, and in as much as the old Hospital buildings will still be used for Government purposes, and the gardens at the old Hospital should be cared for, it has been decided to double the pay which he receives from the Ministry of Health of $216 making it $432.

With regard to the question of a lorry driver, there is a truck which was used with the construction of the new Hospital which is going to be retained by the Hospital to transport stores, hospital equipment, groceries and the moving of food to the old Hospital site, because the T.B. buildings will still be used and the food will have to be transferred from the new Hospital in good containers, and this truck will have to do the work.
3.15 p.m.

The lorry also has to be going to the Deep Water Harbour for provisions for the General Hospital; hence it is necessary to have a lorry driver.

As regards the twelve cleaners at 45 1/2 cents an hour, they will be responsible for cleaning the floors, the glass windows, and so on, of the Hospital. I may point out here that the floor area of the new Hospital is six acres, and this floor area will have to be looked after by these cleaners. They also will have to clean the glass windows.

Then there are twenty porters at 45 1/2 cents an hour. These porters will be used in the kitchen and stock rooms and also for loading and off loading from the trucks of the supplies which will be brought to the Hospital. These porters are not to be confused with the gate keepers and the attendants. These porters are on the Unestablished Staff, whereas the Attendants and the Orderlies are on the Established Staff.

Hon. members will remember that some time earlier this year certain posts have been created for the staff at the Hospital and amongst these posts were three artisans, Grade A (electricians) in the salary scale 70-74 cents an hour and three electricians Mates in the salary scale 46 1/2-50 1/2 cents an hour. There were no applicants for these posts because the salaries offered were not attractive, and it has been considered necessary to revise these salaries as mentioned in the Addendum.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution has been found necessary because of the new Hospital which will be in many ways an asset to the country. It is for $38,468 and the Hon. Minister in his usual style pointed out the things in this Resolution.

Sir, it might sound like a discordant note, but I am sure the Hon. Minister will appreciate what I am going to say because it is not the first time that I am sounding this note. Now, let us take first of all, the House Officers. I am not mincing any matters on what I have to say as regards this Resolution. According to the Addendum to the Resolution:

"At present provision is made for four pre-registration House Officers to do their internship at the Hospital under the supervision of experienced practitioners. In view

of the proposed extended scope of the new Hospital it is proposed that provision should be made for two additional House Officers. The sum of $8,592 will be required to meet the salaries of these officers."

In other words, in common parlance, these gentlemen after receiving their graduation and their certificates must put in their internship. This is the usual standard of practice all over the world for medical men. But what I am worried about, from the time that this practice came about — and the Hon. Minister was not in here at that – I offered criticism about it. I felt that they should not be paid so handsomely. When I say this, you can tell it anywhere at all; you can tell it to any doctor. Only a few weeks ago I discussed this matter with a young practitioner of the United States. If you think like some who slavishly think that only in the United States and England you have such places for these young practitioners, may I tell you that these people will be very glad to get places in the United States, and when they go there, they have to work 18 hours and 20 hours a day without any salary. The same thing happens in England. I will go further and say that it is some times very difficult to get in a Hospital there, and I will go further and say that sometimes these young men will go out of their way to get into certain Hospitals because of the capacity and the opportunity to be gained. I am sure the Hon. Minister knows about this.

Sir, I have never been in favour — and I say this quite frankly — of any graduate coming here to put in an internship being paid the salary which we pay to an intern. I have said so already, and I still say so. It is not anything personal that I have said so, but it is because I wish to follow the usual practice which is followed in the United Kingdom, France and the United States. If this is an idea of what we must pay for, then I say it is a legacy which we have inherited; but I still voice my opinion that I have never agreed with it.

Sir, I remember when this thing first came to the House to be discussed, we discussed it and I discussed it with medical men who realise that this opportunity which the young practitioner gets over here is certainly one which anyone would grasp at. However, I will say that some of these gentlemen who put in their internship here do not reflect any credit to the medical profession.

Mr. Chairman, there is a feeling that if you criticise a medical man you are in for a fall. I dare suppose when I say what I am going to say it might be put against me. One professor of the U.W.I., speaking to undergraduates of what was taking place in Barbados, said that some youngsters putting in their internship there were not living up to the ethics of the medical profession.

Mr. Chairman, you remember that one of these upstarts in the course of his duties walked across and kicked a domestic servant. Some of them think because they are doctors, they must walk into a ward and do not take example from anybody. Another thing that has happened is this. Patients come in and wait and you will find that the nurses would not even call the doctor. The patients would wait from 3.00 o'clock or 4.00 o'clock in the evening until 11.00 o'clock at night before they can see a doctor. I do not say that the Minister would encourage this.
3.25 p.m.

We have to ask questions so as to get satisfactory explanations and also to get matters remedied. As a school master at one time, the Minister himself knows that if a school master is seen doing certain things, they would reflect upon the credit of his school. Much more is that so in the case of a doctor. This is something which somebody must say so as to bring these youngsters to their senses. Whatever your qualifications may be, you are not expected to take them as a criterion that you can do things which you should not do in normal circumstances. The Hospital will require a sum of money, and I may say that this is not a question of saying that you are advertising for doctors; this is a question of putting in for an internship. When a doctor graduates from the University, registration demands that he must put in an internship. I am quite sure that if I had made any misstatement, the Hon. Minister would rise on a point of order and correct me. The salaries which we offered at that particular time I objected to, and I still object to them now.

As to Item 22 — Dental Out-Patients Service — I regret that I did not hear the hon. member in the introduction of the Resolution, but I would expect that he would have been very thorough in introducing it. The Note to this Item says this:- "The Dental Surgeon at the General Hospital receives, in addition to a retainer fee, a fee of $3,160 per annum for two sessions of two hours each week in the Out-Patients Department....." It has been stated that it is thought that the least you put in the introductory note, the less trouble you will have, but that is not so.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I would like to remind the hon. member that the retainer fee is $960 a year.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I know that, Sir, but I do not think it should be left for the hon. member to say that. Besides the retainer fee, there is an amount of $3,160 per annum and you want to carry that amount to an additional $480, to a total of $3,640. I have no objection at all to that, but the Minister must answer some questions. The note says that it is proposed that the Dental Surgeon should be paid a fee of $3,640 per annum for two sessions of two hours each per week, that is, for four hours a week. In relation to retainer fee, may I ask the Minister what is done for the retainer fee of $80 a month? The Hon. Minister has the right to reply, but if he wants to rise on a point of order, I am quite willing to give way to him. I am asking what is being done for this retainer fee. Now you are giving this Officer more money for four hours a week service. I do not want to reduce the status of a Dentist to that of a yard-boy, but, as a member of this House, I am entitled to know something, as well as the general public want to know it. Is this retainer fee for doing extractions only? I was not here when the hon. member introduced the Resolution.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point or order. I did not get the hon. member's point. I want to be clear as to whether the hon. member means or is referring to the retainer fee or the other emoluments.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I am dealing with everything. If you take $80 a month as a retainer fee plus $3,640 per annum which you now intend to give, that is $380 a month. The retainer fee is for making sure that you have someone who is qualified to do the work. I see that there is the nodding of the head, and therefore I anticipate that the question I ask is wrong. Does the retainer fee mean that you must make sure that you have somebody who is qualified to do the work or that you must have somebody who is qualified to do the work and no more? Then you will see that we are giving the remaining amount of money for working two sessions of two hours a week each, which is four hours a week. I do not ridicule any professional man, but I am entitled to know as well as the other hon. members are entitled to know, about this matter and the Hon. Minister must tell us.

I will ask the next question; is the money being paid for performing extractions only? Is this for fixing cavities, light operations and so on?
3.35 p.m.

I want to ask further whether this office carries emoluments which an officer can charge for making extractions. If you have a Dental Surgeon, and he can perform operations on the jawbones, chiselling out and so on, can he charge set fees for this? These are things we must know, because we are paying a retainer fee of $960, and $3,640 a year for sessional work. This is not an intern; this is a professional man whom it is right to have at the Hospital for the purpose of making extractions.

Mr. Chairman, although there is no competition, we in the municipality have had people referred from the Hospital since they did not qualify for extractions at the

hospital, and were told that they must come to the municipality where they get free extractions. I do not know what are the orders at the Hospital and by what standards people are assessed for getting free extractions, and that is why I want to know if the money is paid for free extractions or other dental work which a professional man of the status of the late Dr. Eric Storey performed very successfully in this country. I hope the hon. member will take note of these questions and not regard them as any criticism, not that I make any apology to people when I have to criticise.

On the question of the appointment of servants to the Sisters and so on, I am mixing no matters about this. The public heard the Hon. Minister replying to questions which I raised during the Premier's Budgetary Statement, and it caused some discussion among people as to whether I was right to ask these questions, whether the suggestions were right, whether the hon. member's suggestions were right or whether the standard in England was lower than that in Barbados; but it does show that both of us are interested in the Hospital and not in ourselves. I should like to say that it is common knowledge that the whole business at the Hospital is because a lot of men and women are getting on like people belonging to the lowest walk of life; so what else do you expect? You have come here to vote money to pay the servants for Sisters and so on; but if anybody has to pass a message she has to write it on paper. What respect is that to the people at the bottom? I hope the Minister will not begin to defend these things, because it is unparliamentary to refer to a member of this House as a hypocrite, but I may be tempted to do so because these things are true and are known to be true. I support the idea of giving servants to the Sisters and Matrons and the like; but for God's sake the demagogues, the people in politics in this country, the soap box orators including myself fought for years until we could have people of the type that we now have occupying these positions. Gone are the days when you brought in people from the United Kingdom and expatriates to hold these positions, but we do sincerely hope that these people who have been put in these positions through the fighting which we have done from whatever Party we may have belonged, will maintain a high standard, and will not let the public at large by saying that now that they are placed in these positions, this is the attitude and the way they are acting. This is not merely a criticism but an appeal which I think the Minister should try and make to these people. Fortunately some of these people have great ability, but ability is not all; there must be public relationship and human relationship. Regardless of the academic or whatever other ability you have, you must of necessity know how to get on with your fellowman, and I counsel the hon. member that unless that happens, the Hospital will always be a target of criticism in this country.

With respect to the Caretaker of Gardens at the Hospital, I envisage, Sir, what the Minister will have to do here, and I am wondering whether or not the Gardener should not be given some proper training, because you have a lovely site for doing gardening and so on. Item 100 says that in view of the size of the new Hospital it is necessary that the following additional unestablished staff be provided: Lorry drivers, cleaners, porters and labourers. The Trade Union Leader is not here at the moment, and it is not my role to challenge any of these salaries or wages; but they look as though they are the ones offered presently by the Government. You know, Sir, if you will forgive me, although this is not in the Resolution, I would never have passed on from Item 93A without letting the Hon. Minister know that all this hogus-bogus talk about Ward 9 at the Hospital and who was responsible is something, which I must draw to his attention, he has got to put his foot down on. I will tell you something about the Hospital. Every week in my capacity in the municipality as Mayor and as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, I have got to settle a row, because it seems as though the Ministry cannot settle it. When anyone is found dead, whether pauper or otherwise, postmortems must be performed, and after performing these postmortems the relatives must be called in and it must be decided whether they would bury or whether it would be a pauper's funeral. Without being unduly harsh, here again I must say that for months and years something has gone wrong if two or three days after the postmortem is performed people are kept, and then I am told by people at the Cemetery, because they are lowly people burying the dead, that they must face this great ordeal of burying these people without an extra cent. When you complain and get in touch with the Director of Medical Services, he knows nothing about it, the Police Commissioner knows nothing about it, and the Superintendent of the Hospital knows nothing about it. I throw out as a warning that one day the people at the Cemetery will tell the Minister to send the doctors, police and Director of Medical Services to bury them or let them stay there and stink on the ground. Somebody performed a postmortem on Saturday and the corpse was buried on Monday or Tuesday evening. That is not good enough. I believe I have spoken to the Minister on this matter already and I believe he has gone into it, and I have also spoken to the Director of Medical Services.

3.45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, is there anybody to say, can the Minister tell us if this stomach contents were lost by design? Can he say if somebody was paid to do this by the person who poisoned the person who died? What would Sir Bernard Pillsbury, the world's greatest pathologist, say about this? The contents of the stomach was lost; therefore there is no solution. The person is buried. Must not there be suspicion? Could it not be my child or my mother? How would I feel when doctors seem to disagree?

These are things which Ministers have to answer for. I hope the Hon. Minister of Health would accept my criticisms in good faith. This incident has been published in the Press and it has been the talk of the town. When you go into the barber shops, you hear it being talked about. I would not say that it is talked about in the clubs because I do not frequent clubs. As a matter of fact, they are too expensive for me.

Mr. Chairman, while I agree with the sum of $38,468 which is to be voted, the hon. Minister must pay attention to these matters. I know that he is painstaking, but he must not be thin-skinned. I can tell him that he has not yet seen me at my best in the House. I can take this House on an excursion on a matter of this sort. I am satisfied that he is trying his best. When I have an upstart Minister who does not want to give answers, I will show that a sleeping dog is not a dead dog.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister something with respect to Item 93A, (New). The Note says:-

There are at present six posts of Servant, Matron and Sisters quarters. For some time only two of these posts have been filled and on a temporary basis. It is proposed that these six posts should be abolished and be replaced by two posts of Servant (Temporary). The sum of $1,168 is required to pay the wages involved to the end of the current financial year.

I would like to find out from the Hon. Minister why these posts were not filled and why they are on a temporary basis.

As regards Item 94, Supervision of Gardens, the Note reads as follows:-

The care of gardens at the new Hospital will add considerably to the responsibility of the Supervisor of Gardens, General Hospital. It is proposed therefore that the salary of this part-time office should be increased to $432 per annum. The sum of $14 is required to pay salary at the increased rate to the end of the financial year.

I would like to find out from the Hon. Minister the amount which the Supervisor of Gardens is at present drawing. I would also like to know how many hours per day or per week that the Supervisor of Gardens works because this amount of $432 per annum seems to me very little for the Supervisor of Gardens. As I view it, in order to beautify the new Hospital with nice gardens around it,

the amount of $432 per annum seems very small to me. That works out at the rate of $9 per week. I would like to know how many days per week the Supervisor of Gardens would be on the job. I cannot say anything more now until the Hon. Minister lets me know how many days per week or how many days per month the Supervisor of Gardens has to work.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, under the Item, Unestablished Staff, I hope that I will be allowed to raise a matter. I regret that I was not present in the House when the Hon. Minister concerned was speaking on the unnecessary high standards imposed on nursing trainees in this country in contrast with the standards which are acceptable in some hospitals in England.

I think I have had considerable experience in this matter and I can state to the delectation of the Hon. Minister the names of the hospital and the degrees obtained by staff nurses who have had no more than the benefit of a seventh standard education in this Island. Only this morning before coming here, I received letters from some of them. Some were interested in returning here to be employed, if possible, at our new Hospital. I will also mention that there are Barbadian nurses who now occupy the position of Sister in Hospitals in England. One of them who occupies such a post at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham made application over three months ago for a post at our new Hospital and she has not been vouchsafed the courtesy of a reply. I draw these things to the notice of the Hon. Minister and I am willing to back them up with letters which I have received. I have no doubt that the Hon. Minister will see to it that the situation is looked into.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Sir, I will reply to the hon. junior member for the City first. As far as what he has said, I will investigate the matter; but I may point out that where applications are concerned for Staff Nurses, those applications are sent to the Chief Personnel Officer who is responsible for recruiting the Established Staff at the Hospital. However, I will have this matter investigated.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph asked what is the present salary paid to the Supervisor of Gardens. At present he receives $216 per annum from the Hospital. I was at pains to point out in my introduction of this Resolution that this is the contribution paid by the Hospital, but that the Supervisor of Gardens is responsible for all Government gardens whether they are at the Seawell Airport or at the Deep Water Harbour. Wherever these gardens are, the Supervisor of Gardens is responsible for their upkeep. He is paid by the Civic Circle.
3.55 p.m.

The hon. member will notice that there is an annual grant made to the Civic Circle which goes towards the salary of the Supervisor of Gardens. The salary paid to the Supervisor of Gardens who is a retired man is over $200 per annum; that is a contribution which the Hospital makes to the Supervisor of Gardens for his looking after the gardens at the Hospital. The salary was formerly $216 per annum and it is now being increased to $432 per annum. The amount which is set out here is required for the remainder of the financial year. Hon. members must remember that the Public Works Department, the Hospital and any other institution can make a contribution to the salary of the Supervisor of Gardens at the Hospital. If the hon. member were to look at this year's Estimates on page 142 and Item 42, he will see that there is a contribution made to the Civic Circle of $2,160 per annum. That grant goes towards the Supervisor of Government Grounds and Gardens.

The hon. member also asked for an explanation relative to the Matron's quarters. The policy has been, from time to time, to refuse to fill these posts because some of the officers do not like anyone to choose servants for them. Therefore these posts were never filled since they were established. That has been so for years. It is not the policy to push these servants, so to speak, on these officers, but to allow them to provide these servants for themselves. When the present holders of these posts vacate them, the new holders of these posts will not perhaps wish us to provide servants for them, but the policy is to abolish these posts. That is why we are abolishing these posts and establishing temporary ones. I do hope that that reply will satisfy the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. For some time, only two of these posts have been filled on a temporary basis.

The hon. senior member for the City has criticised the salaries paid to the House Officers who are doing their internship. The hon. member says that the salary of $35 a month paid to these Officers is higher than what is paid by anybody else. I should like to inform the hon. member that that has had to be done because difficulty was experienced in recruiting, not only pre-registration doctors, but Medical Officers on the whole. It is therefore absolutely necessary to pay these officers a higher salary than would be paid in Trinidad or in any other Caribbean. *(ASIDES).* I would like the hon. member to listen to the explanation which I am giving. I am not saying that the salary is too small nor am I saying that it is too great. What I am saying is that it has become necessary to pay these salaries to these Officers because they have to perfrom duties at the Hospital which are the duties of the Medical Officers who have been already registered. These Officers are responsible for the Wards just as any other Medical Officer is responsible for Wards at the Hospital. They may not have similar responsibilities in Trinidad or in England as they have here, but inasmuch as we have been experiencing difficulty in recruiting Medical Officers here, we have been getting the House Officers to do the work of the Medical Officers. These House Officers are on call for twenty-four hours a day.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. Mr. Chairman, I have been following the hon. member quite all right. He has been referring to these House Officers, but he means the interns. That is to say, that they are doing everything with the exception of signing Death Certificates which they cannot do.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am referring to the usual routine work which is done by the Medical Officers who have already been placed on the Register. I was saying, Sir, that these Officers are on call for twenty-four hours a day, and therefore it would be unreasonable to ask these men to shoulder such responsibilities and not remunerate them for carrying out these responsibilities. With the opening of the New Hospital, there will hardly be any difficulty in recruiting these Officers, but in the past we have experienced great difficulty in recruiting them. I remember that in 1961 we had two posts of House Officers. When we took over the reins of Government we experienced great difficulty in recruiting these Officers. We were able to get two pre-registration doctors from the University of the West Indies, and we had to go along with them and then ask for permission to have these two posts placed on the Establishment so that they could do the work of the Medical Officers. This was a case which was put up to the Salaries Commissioner, to increase the salaries of these House Officers because we were experiencing difficulty in recruiting medical officers. We found that difficulty because the remuneration for Medical Officers was more attractive in other islands than it was here. As soon as a Medical Officer came out here on contract and he saw the opportunity of studying for membership whether it is a matter of surgery or one of medicine, he would grasp that opportunity. Usually, when these House Officers come to us, they come to us in the hope of remaining for an additional two or three years. They will do their internship and they will agree to work on contract for two or three years or on a permanent basis. After they have finished that two or three years, they look to go to England for the purpose of furthering their studies. I hope, Sir, that the hon. senior member for the City understands why it is necessary for us to pay this salary.
4.05 p.m.

The hon. member referred to nurses having to take orders from some of the interns, but I cannot say that I am aware of that. No official representation has been made to me, but I will promise the hon. member to have it investigated.

On the question of the retainer fee for the Dental Surgeon, I tried to explain this in my introduction, but I do not think the hon. member followed me. The retainer fee is $960, and this is what the Dental Surgeon is paid for being on call. If it is midnight and someone comes into the Hospital with a fractured jaw, the Dental Surgeon is called to that patient. This $960 as retainer fee is for the services rendered in the wards of the Hospital just as the visiting surgeon is paid. He is paid a sessional fee for the work done in the Casualty and Outpatients' Department, and this includes prophylactic and extractions. I hope that these replies satisfy the hon. member.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of $38,468 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1964-65 No. 21

Head 18 – Police – was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution which we now have before us is for the sum of $34,069 to cover clothing and equipment for the Police Band - the extension of which has been approved by the Government - Fire Appliances and also an increase in the subvention which we make to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

The notes are explanatory, and I beg to move that Head 18 - Police - stand part.

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

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

Head 19 – Fire Service – was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 19 stand part.

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

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Head 19, I have no reason to question the amount of money we are asked to vote in connection with replacing one, two or more fire units for the one which was supposed to be damaged during the course of a fire in this year's crop, but there are certain observations I certainly should like to bring to the attention of Government with regard to the Fire Service and the well being and well running of our Fire Service. I think that every Barbadian is very proud indeed of the yeoman service rendered, especially during crop time. Last year they had a very busy time, and therefore there is no criticism of the service rendered by this unit. But there is every reason for me to draw to the attention of this Honourable Committee certain representations that have been made to me, and I think, when I get through, hon. members will realise that there is a serious state of affairs obtaining as regards this Fire Service.

Now I understand that the Fire Unit was destroyed at a Fire. I also understand that an N.C.O. who was driving the unit has been demoted as a result of some inquiry made into the circumstances surrounding the destruction by fire of this unit. I have been made further to understand that through a mechanical fault this fire unit could not get out of the course of the fire. Now the Minister in charge will be able to investigate and find out if what I have been told is true, because it is a very serious matter indeed to have an officer or an N.C.O. or any member of a Fire Unit Service demoted through something occurring which is no fault of his own. It cannot be expected, if something mechanical goes wrong when a fire unit is in attendance at a fire, that the Officer can save this unit unless he has mechanical knowledge that can start the unit running and allow him to get from the fire area. Now if it is true that that unit stuck in gear as has been represented to me, and the driver himself has no mechanical knowledge, and the unit was consequently burnt, I do not believe that anyone can say that that particular N.C.O. was demoted fairly.

Now it has been pointed out to me that there is a state of fear pervading the entire Fire Service of Barbados. As a matter of fact, I understand that the firemen cannot talk to anybody looking like me, because I am a politician, as they are very sure of being transferred to another area where a unit of the Fire Service is established, and consequently they are in a disadvantageous position. Now I am among several Barbadians who know that discipline in a service must be maintained, and I do not accuse any member of this House for being a party to the disruption of disciplinary conditions in this Service.

4.15 p.m.

I am among those who suffered. I do not accuse any member of this House for being a party to the destruction of disciplinary conditions in this Service, but I must point out that I will ever find myself among the formation of those who will represent such workers, Government or otherwise, who are not in a position to defend or represent themselves.

But, mark you, Sir, we know the usual way which Government servants are charged. They are asked to furnish a statement to say whether or not they should be dismissed. In other words, they are told: you stand condemned already; make out a statement to prove that you are not to be penalised. I think that is the French method of rendering justice. You are supposed to be condemned and you are asked to say why you should not be condemned. I have never approved of that form of justice. I was a Civil Servant up to the time I resigned as a school teacher in 1946. I was one of those people who championed the right of elementary teachers. I had many reasons why I did that. I know that Government servants in subordinate positions find it very difficult to have justice meted out to them. Whenever they forward reports to their superior officers, they stand in very disadvantageous positions.

I would like the responsible Minister to pay attention to what I am saying. Members of the Fire Service are deprived of the privilege of having an acknowledged Association to represent them like the Police Force. Members of the Police Force can have redress to their grievances. For some reason or the other, I understand for a long time now, regulations have been written down and they have had meetings, yet the Fire Service has no Association. Is there anyone to blame? I do not blame any member of the Government for this. I blame no Minister for this; but they may be blamed for it by people who do not know enough. If you deny people the right to self-expression, you know that dissatisfaction when it crops up, having no vent, will result in something which might become disastrous.

The Fire Service needs an Association. It should be encouraged. Every member of this House, whether he is a backbencher on the Government benches or on the Opposition benches should see to it that there is no seething discontent running through the Fire Service of this colony. Members should see to it that there is that machinery by which complaints can be redressed. You should see to it that those men who do yeoman service should have an Association which is functioning well and one which is approved.

I have heard that there is nothing but fear permeating the ranks of the Fire Service. Somebody should examine it. I cannot. Members of the Fire Service tell you that if you pay a visit to any station, the next thing that happens is that some of them would be transferred to another station. The name of a certain member of the Government who paid a visit has been used - not a Minister. They said that they had hoped they would have good results from his visit. Apparently, that hon. member was acquainted with certain complaints and certain things which went wrong and which need being put right. However, that is not good enough. Especially is it so if it is true that a fire unit has been burnt because it could not get away from a fire owing to a mechanical fault and as a result an officer was demoted. That officer has made no comment to me and as far as I understand, he would make no comment to anyone because he fears further demotion, even expulsion. He is a timid soul.

Sir, I hope nothing I say in here would redound to the embarrassment of any fireman and I hope that in the very near future the Hon. Minister whose responsibility it is would see to it that nothing is put in the way of forming an Association. I hope that no obstacle is allowed to remain in the way of firemen forming an Association.

It is a very unhealthy situation as was put to me. One person said to me that they could talk to me a whole month; he could write a book about the situation. He went as far as to say that nowadays it is difficult to find men to join the Service. He made mention of a certain instance that a man actually agreed to join the Service and then deliberately said he was involved in a set of incidents which were not true because he did not want to join after he understood the conditions which existed. You get the position where one man is afraid to express himself in a quite ordinary simple matter of voicing a complaint which is a normal complaint. He fears that he is going to be demoted or otherwise embarrassed. That is a very unhealthy situation.

I am saying to the Hon. Premier or whoever is responsible that I do not blame them for this. May be, they are unaware of this. It is a peculiar thing. There are very many people who believe that a politician knows everything without their coming to their representative and telling him about it. As a matter of fact, I had to tell one of my folks that what he was telling me was quite new to me.

However, as a former Civil Servant, I know what it is; I know how the person at the top can behave. I know what can happen and what does happen in the Government Service. I have pioneered an organisation to redress wrongs to Assistant Teachers; therefore, I, who did that, must be aware of the things that obtain. I can never forget them. I bring this to the attention of the Government and those who can investigate and can make certain wrongs right to free these men and provide them with an Association.
4.25 p.m.

They do not complain about everything; they are not complaining about certain conditions of work. I understand, Sir, that some time ago something appeared in the "Truth" which subsequently was literally proved to be the truth of what obtained at the Fire Service. There was an abuse of privilege. When it is thought that a fireman cannot attempt to go to a politician for fear of victimisation, then something is wrong. The Police Force has an Association and I feel that the Fire Service could afford to have one too. If things are allowed to remain as they are, then they will harm the great reputation which has already been established by our Fire Service all over the island.

I have nothing to say against the money which is required for the replacement of this unit. The unit must be replaced; but certainly do not let any officer think that he can ride roughshod over any other officer. If a Captain has rights, then a Private also has rights. That is what I mean. Until our Fire Service men are allowed to have an Association where they can freely express themselves, things are not going to go so well. A lot of what I have said might be absolutely new to the Minister, and while it is new it may be true. It is the Minister's responsibility to examine these things.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is.....

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I should like to say that I understand the strictures which the hon. junior member for St. Peter has levelled relative to this Resolution; but I do not necessarily consider what he has said as being germain to the Resolution. However, the hon. member has been given some latitude. I would have preferred the hon. member to have brought the matter to my attention or to have tabled a question so that both I, myself, and the Officers concerned would have had sufficient time to give a proper answer. The question of the discipline of the members of the Fire Service is not a matter which is within the jurisdiction of the Minister in charge of the department. There is a Fire Service Act in the same manner as there is a Police Act, and it would seem to me that if there has been any miscarriage of justice, the hon. member knows that I would be the first person to have it adjusted if it lay in my power to do so.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know the facts. If there is a mishap or accident, a report is usually submitted and the proper action is taken by the appropriate Commission or authority. If the hon. junior member for St. Peter would like to write a formal letter to the Chief Personnel Officer or to table a formal question, I would be glad if he would do either of those things so that we can have the matter investigated. When we come to the question of the formation of a Fire Service Association, I would tell the hon. member that he is preaching to the already converted. There is a Police Association which has certain statutory duties; it is representative of members of the Police Force and that Association can bring anything to the attention of the Government, through the Commissioner of Police, which relates to their conditions of service, discipline, promotion and matters of that kind. The Association, of course, is not allowed to make any representation in respect of the eligibility for promotion of any policeman or non-gazetted officer of the Police Force. By some peculiar irony of fate or some lack of omission on their part, a similar provision as obtains in the Police Act was not inserted in the Fire Service Act. I have asked the legal officer to rectify this defect, but owing to the other priorities which have had to be dealt with, the matter has not yet come before this House. However, Sir, I will try my best to see that this matter is brought before this House and before the Legislature.

The question that Head 19 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 47 — SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS

Head 47 — Subsidies and Grants — was called.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Head 47 stand part of the Schedule. As hon. members will see, the amount of $519 under this Head is required to supplement the amount voted in respect of Item 61 — Parliamentary Association. I beg to move that that Head stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, 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. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I now beg to move that you do now report the passing of two Resolutions in Committee.

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

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

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

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

4.35 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION No. 83/1961

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned senior member for St. John: to move the passing of a Resolution to amend the Schedule to Resolution No. 83/1961.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution deals with amendments to the salary scale of certain teachers in the teaching service of this island. I do not intend to go through these amendments in detail, but the purpose of the Resolution and the amendments is to overcome certain anomalies which now exist. I regret that it does not appear to be any Addendum or any explanatory notes to the Resolution, but I think the Resolution itself is self explanatory in that it sets out in detail the amendments which are being made to the teachers' salaries. Parts I and 11 of the Schedule fully set out the amendments which are being made.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

RESOLUTION *re* INCREASE OF ISSUE OF TREASURY BILLS

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned senior member for St. John: to move the passing of a Resolution to approve the increase in the amounts which may be borrowed by the issue of Treasury Bills by a further sum of $1 million.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, the Resolution which we now have before us is one to authorise the Government to increase the issue of Treasury Bills by a sum not exceeding $1 million. Now the institution of issuing Treasury Bills is of comparatively recent vintage, some perhaps three or four years. We have actually been issuing Treasury Bills as a sort of standard practice of Government financing, although there is an Act dealing with the issuing of Treasury Bills. Treasury Bills, as you know, Sir, form a short term security for the lender, and a means whereby the Government, pending the raising of taxes, may have revenue at its disposal which it borrows at rates normally below the existing market rate, and which are redeemable within 90 days. We usually advertise for tenders for Treasury Bills, and the person offering the lowest rate of interest rather than the highest of lending money would be the person or persons to whom the issues are normally made. The other fact, as you know, is that the Treasury Bills afford the lender the facility of choosing the rate of interest which he wants for his investment, and the short term aspect enables him to keep as a cash reserve ratio the amount of money which he has at his disposal to spend for emergency in a fairly liquid condition as against fixed bank deposits which could not normally be taken back out under a period of 24 months.

Our position is that unless we increase the amount of Treasury Bills which are on the market by something in the region of $1 million, we may be restricted from the present trend to something like $500,000 which at this time of the year would not be desirable, because the receipts from income tax only begin to reflect around the month of October when the bulk of these receipts begin to come in.
4.45 p.m.

The object of this Resolution, therefore, is to give the Cabinet the necessary authority to raise this money, which may be spent, so that the necessary revenue will be available between now and October to carry on the business of the Government.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ENDS

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I now beg to move that this House do now adjourn until next Tuesday, 18th August, 1964, at 2.30 p.m.

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.
4.48 p.m.