

# THE

## House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION OF 1961-66

### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Tuesday, 1st December, 1964.*

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

#### PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (*Speaker*); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, (*Minister of Communications and Works*); Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (*Minister of Education*); Mr. S. E. SEALEY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (*Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries*); Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P., Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (*Minister of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Development*).

*Prayers were read.*

#### MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meetings of Saturday 14th, Tuesday 17th and Tuesday 24th November, 1964, have all been circulated, and unless there is any objection, I will declare them to be confirmed.

There being no objection, I declare the Minutes of each of these three meetings duly to be confirmed.

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from His Excellency the Governor in which he writes to congratulate the House on the extremely efficient arrangements made for the Joint Session of the Legislature on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness, Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, and in which His Excellency observes that "the whole proceedings were conducted with efficiency and dignity, and this reflects great credit on you and your staff. I am most grateful for your co-operation on this important occasion."

I have replied to His Excellency acknowledging the receipt of his letter and assuring him that His Excellency's congratulations are greatly appreciated.

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from the Librarian and Secretary of the House which reads as follows:-

"His Honour the Speaker, and Honourable Members, of the General Assembly.

Gentlemen:

I have the honour to ask for six months' leave of absence from my post of Librarian and Secretary of the House, beginning from the 1st January, 1965. It is my desire to have a holiday in the United Kingdom. My last official leave from the House, with permission to leave the island, was in 1952.

2. Inasmuch as I would like to take advantage of the cheaper system of air travel to the United Kingdom, may I also ask permission to leave in December while the House is on Christmas recess?

I am,  
Sirs,  
Your obedient servant,  
Lionel C. C. Hutchinson  
Librarian & Secretary."

I have to point out to hon. members that I explained to the Librarian and Secretary that I have received no intimation that we will be closing for a Christmas recess.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on the point of the Christmas recess, I regret not to have enlightened Your Honour. This matter has not been discussed, but perhaps we should proceed with regard to the request of the letter by way of the appointment of a small Committee rather than leaving this matter to the entire House to resolve.

I therefore suggest that a small Committee be appointed to go into the matter and arrive at a conclusion. Would you like me to appoint the Committee now?

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it it will be an all-Party Committee.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to appoint the following to serve on the Committee:-

The hon. senior member for Bridgetown; the hon. junior member for St. Joseph; the hon. senior member for St. Peter and the hon. junior member for St. Thomas.

Mr. SPEAKER: That will be four hon. members.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Naturally, Sir, I was under the presumption that Your Honour would be associated with the Committee.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, if I am in order, a servant of this House has asked for leave, and he goes even further and states the circumstances under which he would like to leave; and as we are already informed as to when this officer would like to leave, taking advantage of the cheaper air rates, if this matter goes to Committee, it is going to take some time before the Report of the Committee comes back to this Chamber.  
2.55 p.m.

This is already December, today being the first day of December. We are not absolutely sure yet at this stage when the House will go into recess. I would like to know from the Hon. Leader of the House as to how long he may go on before the Christmas Festival.

Personally, I think, as this is December — and the month has already begun — if the Officer wants leave at this time and wants to take advantage of the tourist rates, with the appointment of a Select Committee and the waiting for a Report, so much time will elapse that the officer will be put in an embarrassing position.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the hon. junior member for St. Peter, not having said that he rose on a point of order, should indicate his position.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Sir, I prefaced my remarks by saying "if I am in order". The position is this. I want my point to be driven home. As soon as the motion is completed, I may speak again; but before I sit down, I just want to say that any dilly-dallying is likely to prejudice the chances of this officer from benefiting from our granting leave.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would not like hon. members to get up now and speak at a certain length and then say that they are not speaking on the motion, and therefore, they have the right to speak if the motion is seconded.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I do not know if the Hon. Leader of the House has made any motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House has not yet made a formal motion. There is no motion before the House. I trust hon. members will not rise except on a form of interruption according to the Rules until the motion is made.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, according to my suggestion just now, I rise to make a formal motion that a Committee of the House be appointed to enquire into this matter. In doing so, I want to say, firstly, that I do not know what the hon. junior member for St. Peter means by dilly-dallying. Another thing is this, I did not know anything about it but that it was indicated eight days ago, therefore, I do not know if I can be blamed for what I think to be the delay in view of the time limit involved.

Mr. SPEAKER: This was due to the fact that it was not placed on the Speaker's file.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: When we appoint a Committee, our idea of its functioning is not a delaying process. In this case, immediately after receiving notification, — that is to say within five minutes — I rose and appointed a Committee to go into the matter. If the hon. junior member for St. Peter says that the appointing of a Committee would cause a delay, let us say that he is talking from the extent of his knowledge of Committees when he was in the Chair; my intention is different.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am going to second the motion provided that the Committee considers this matter this evening. I was not in the House earlier, but I read the letter.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition seconds the motion, he is perfectly in order to do so and he may urge hon. members to meet and consider it this evening; but I cannot accept the proviso.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, if an employee has not had leave since 1952, he is entitled to leave now. I have no objection to this matter being sent to a Select Committee, but I am urging that the Committee meet this evening, in view of the fact that today's Order Paper seems to be very little, and under the circumstances that this young man recently lost his father and therefore he may be in a very depressed condition, and also that he should be given the opportunity to take advantage of the cheap fare, I think his leave should be granted now that he has asked for it.

I am seconding the motion for the matter to go before a Select Committee. Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will agree, as guardian and protector of this Chamber, that nothing should stand in the way of an employee who has not had leave since 1952 — which is twelve years ago. I am sure that you will agree that immediately after this Session ends that we meet and decide if this young man should have leave.

I therefore have much pleasure in seconding this motion.

I would just say, do not let us waste time with this matter. Let the Committee meet this evening immediately as this Session ends. I accept the *bona fides* of the Hon. Leader of the House that he is doing this with the best of intentions. I am sure the Hon. Leader would not object to our meeting this evening.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the thing which is worrying me is this. Why appoint a Select Committee at all? That is what I would like to know. The question should be is this officer entitled to leave; and if he is entitled to leave, why should we go in a Select Committee on this? I was a member of this Chamber for the last twenty years — and it is getting near the time for me to go out — and I have never yet heard a motion made that we should go into a Select Committee to give an officer leave. Not long ago, the Clerk of this House had leave and it was granted him without the matter being sent to a Committee. The gentleman said that he is entitled to leave and he would like it now so that he may be able to travel at a little cheaper fare. In order to travel at a cheaper rate, he will have to go before the 29th December.  
3.05 p.m.

That would be the only boat which, I presume, he would be able to catch and he is trying to catch that boat; but in sending this matter to a Select Committee, I am wondering if it is the intention of whoever is responsible for suggesting the setting up of this Committee just to mark time so that the boat would have sailed. The Hon. Leader of the House should tell us his reasons for sending this matter to a Select Committee because I have never yet heard such a motion being made for the purpose of giving an officer leave. The only way, as an hon. member has said, that I would agree to that is if we were going to meet today. I would go further and say that I am wondering if we could adjourn for five minutes and sit in Committee so that we could report to the House before the ordinary adjournment. As you will see, Sir, there is very little work on the Order Paper to be done and I feel that if the Hon. Leader of the House really means to help this Officer and to meet him with his requirements, he would move the adjournment of this House for five minutes in order that this Committee could sit. (ASIDES). Well, if that cannot be done, I will have to leave the matter to the Speaker for his ruling; But surely the Hon. Leader of the House should allow us to know his reasons for sending this matter to a Select Committee.

Mr. COWARD and Mr. HUSBANDS rose to speak.

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

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Speaker, as I see it, I do not think it is necessary for us to waste the time of this House relative to talking about sending this matter to a Select Committee. The question is that this officer is entitled to leave,

and if the Committee will sit this afternoon I feel that they will have sufficient time to report to the House, because this officer wants his leave by the 28th December. This whole matter hinges on the Select Committee and they can sit in after this meeting and report to the House by the next meeting.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have been advised by the Clerk that the Librarian is seeking leave as from the 29th December, 1964.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in the manner in which he has seconded this motion, but, like the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, I see no reason for the setting up of a Select Committee at all. An officer of this Assembly, who has not had leave for 12 years, humbly and respectfully approaches his employer for leave and what does the Committee has to do? You are not giving this officer travelling allowance, you are not paying him any plane fare or boat fare and therefore why do we want a Committee to go into this matter? There is absolutely no necessity for that; there is nothing this officer is asking for but leave. The manner in which the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has seconded this motion and the insistence of the members who have spoken since him on this side, have made it clear and plain to this House that they hope that this Committee will meet this day — and not even tomorrow — on this question.

This is a very dangerous precedent, and if it begins today, no hon. member knows when it will end. Not very long ago an officer of this House was granted leave and no Committee was appointed to deal with that. Mr. Speaker, the Chaplain of this House had leave and no Committee was appointed to deal with the matter. This is absolutely childish, to put the best construction on it. Any other epithet I should attempt to use would seem invidious and unsavoury and I would not be doing that at this Table. I hope that I will not see any hon. member get up in here again to make a motion of this sort, whether it be the Premier or otherwise, when the conditions of the leave of an officer are set out in a letter which has been approved by His Honour the Speaker. What is this Committee to unearth? What information? What value can be set on the efforts of this Committee? The hon. senior member for St. Joseph has said that he is not wasting any time, but this Committee will waste time. I would not like to eavesdrop, but it would be most amusing if a report were made to the Press; it would be undignified. They will be making a mockery of themselves. Somebody employs somebody else and that employer sets up a Committee in order to find out if he can give that employee leave! We are now making a laughing-stock of ourselves and taking a joke a little too far. Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that the sentiments which have been expressed by the seconder of the motion and those who have spoken after him will bear fruit. That Committee will not have anything to do.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I also am a bit baffled in a matter of this sort, especially when taking into consideration that the Librarian and Secretary of this House has not had any leave for the last 12 years. What is beating me is this: I am wondering if sending this matter to a Select Committee is for the purpose of allowing it to die a natural death. Ever since the 4th August this year, a Bill which I brought before this House, has been placed before a Select Committee and up to today, the 1st December, 1964, we cannot get this Committee to meet. 3.15 p.m.

In a matter like this, and for a man with so many years' service and not having had leave for twelve years, I cannot see Government wasting its precious time sending a matter like this before a Select Committee; but if that is to be done, I agree that it should be done today so that the matter can be reported back to this House in due course.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, before the Hon. Minister replies, I should like to say a few words on this matter. Sometimes when one wants to be entertained, I think the theatre is not the place for it, but right here inside this Assembly. It is appalling how some of us can get up in this Chamber and make laughing stocks of ourselves. The Hon.

Leader of the Opposition, a member of this Chamber for some time, today made one of the greatest blunders I ever heard a member come into this Chamber and make. First he said he is going to support this Resolution, but he admonished members what they must do. Since when has the Leader of the Opposition had the authority to tell members on this side or even on that side how they must vote or when they should meet?

Mr. MOTTLEY: If this is a point of interruption or elucidation, I am on my feet and the hon. member must give way. The hon. member has accused me.....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what has the Hon. Leader of the Opposition risen?

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I take it it will be a point of order.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I do not know whether the hon. member misrepresented what I said, but he said that I told members how to vote on that side of the Table. There is absolutely no such thing.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point is made.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I do not think he would have sense enough to understand how to vote if I told him how to vote.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member distinctly said that he is going to vote for this with the proviso that the Committee meet this evening. I am on this Committee and he cannot tell me when I should meet. He has not got that privilege yet. Quite a few members on the opposite side fail to realise the facts. They must first ask themselves whether this officer is entitled to six months, six weeks or six years. This officer has asked the House to grant him six months' leave because he has not had leave since 1952. Whether or not that is so, I am nothing to do with that. I used to believe that all the workers of the House and other members got leave, and there would be nothing to stop this officer from getting leave, maybe six months or more; but when members get in here and try to mislead the House by saying that this is an act to keep back somebody, it shows that these gentlemen did not read this thing. The officer is asking for leave from 29th December; this is 1st December. There is nothing in the world — and the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is the only hon. member and gentleman over there in my opinion....

Mr. HUSBANDS: On a point of order, I object to that. When a member can say 'an hon. member and gentleman', he is making reference to the other members of this House, and I strenuously object and ask that it be withdrawn. It is very serious, Your Honour. The integrity of every other hon. member is at stake if that remark is not withdrawn. I await Your Honour's ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: Exception has been taken to the words "the only gentleman" on that side of the House. Irrespective of whether the word "gentleman" was meant with a capital or small "G", I suggest that the hon. junior member for St. Thomas substitute something which would be more in keeping.

Mr. BOXILL: No, Mr. Speaker. I do not intend to substitute a word for that. The hon. junior member for St. Peter rose before I finished my sentence. I said that the hon. member is the only member for St. Joseph, and I was going on to say the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and gentlemen who are the only gentlemen who saw what took place, but he did not give me a chance to finish; he anticipated what I was going to say.

Mr. HUSBANDS: On a point of order, I think I heard not only what the hon. member said, but what he was prompted to say and did say. The hon. member said "the only gentleman". As soon as Your Honour intervened, he said "hon. member": and somebody prompted him to say "gentleman" and he added "gentleman", and if the record is read back, I think that would be found. I am asking Your Honour, since

the hon. member has refused to bow to your ruling to substitute a word, to ask him to withdraw it.  
3.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: What the Official Reporter has taken down reads as follows:- "This is the 1st December. There is nothing in the world — and the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is the only hon. member and gentleman over there in my opinion....."

The hon. junior member for St. Peter then rose on a point of order. That is all that has been handed me by the Official Reporter.

Mr. HUSBANDS: "Is" is the word.

Mr. SPEAKER: Immediately after the hon. junior member for St. Thomas said "and the hon. senior member for St. Joseph, is the only hon. member and gentleman over there in my opinion" according to the official record, the hon. junior member for St. Peter rose on a point of order. In other words, according to the official record as has been handed me, it is an incomplete sentence.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I did not say "on a point of order" and sat down. Your Honour knows that I am sure.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope no hon. member will have to use a hearing aid when I am ruling.

Mr. HUSBANDS: I heard you.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. junior member for St. Peter feels he needs a hearing aid, he is perfectly entitled to use such.

So far as the objection is concerned, having been supplied with the official record which will appear in Hansard, which has been taken by the Official Reporter, it discloses an incomplete sentence. The last words which the hon. member used were: "the hon. senior member for St. Joseph is the only hon. member and gentleman over there in my opinion." I will now ask the hon. junior member for St. Thomas to complete the sentence.

Mr. BOXILL: When I said so, I intended to go on and say that he was the only hon. member who had the foresight of seeing what took place. I intended to say that he was the only gentleman who saw what was taking place.

Mr. Speaker, I was saying that I do not know for sure how much leave the Librarian is entitled to. That is why this Select Committee is being set up. The Librarian is a personal friend of mine from childhood and I do not see how any hon. member can induce me to deny him anything which he is entitled to. Why hon. members should try to inject that it was some sinister plot and also stated that this is a precedent? I am sure that from the things which took place just a few minutes ago hon. members must realise when they come in here that they come in here to do work and it is about time they stop this petty insularity. The hon. member said that he would do something from his conscience. That would not necessarily mean that everybody is alike.

Another thing is this, Mr. Speaker, I have been noticing for some time since this Government came into power that hon. members are always talking about the poor and desolate. It is only now that we are getting these remarks from the other side of the Chamber. When hon. members from the other side were members of the then Government and some of them were in the Chair, they did not talk of poor people; so apparently, poor people are a new innovation in Barbados.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. junior member for St. Thomas actually sticking to the Resolution.

Mr. BOXILL: I am sticking to it and deviating just a bit.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will accept no more latitude.

Mr. BOXILL: I am expecting that would be carried out in the fullest sense. I would like to admonish members on the other side.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: How can you admonish members on the other side? (Shame! Shame!)

Mr. BOXILL: I can admonish them. You can do it too.

Mr. SPEAKER: The word is quite parliamentary.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Speaker, I realise that some hon. members seem to think that I am speaking too long. Before I sit down, I would like hon. members on that side of the Chamber to realise that the Librarian of the House does not work with any individual member of the House as such, but that he is a servant of the Chamber; and if hon. members of that side can feel one way towards him, hon. members on this side can feel the same way.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, what shocks me is this. As far as I have seen, some hon. members think that they are the only hon. members inside here. For me, from the Premier back down to me have the same privileges. We are here to pass our opinions towards any Resolution which comes before the House.  
3.35 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a word concerning this motion. I want to ask this question: Is the Librarian and Secretary in the category of those who can accumulate their vacation leave until it amounts to a certain period? If that is his privilege, and it comes to the time when he is asking for that privilege, then he must have it. We have not decided not to give the Librarian that leave, but we want to go into Committee in order to finalise what can be done. If the Librarian has the privilege of accumulating his vacation period from 1952 until now and it is the law that he can do that, then he should have his leave. I do not think that any one should try to deprive this officer of this leave. The Government is trying its best to see what action it can take in granting this leave. That is all.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before the Hon. Leader of the House replies, does any other hon. member want to take part in this debate? (After a pause). Apparently, no other hon. member wants to take part in this debate, and so the Hon. Leader of the House may exercise his right of final reply.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this whole debate may be characterised as (Mr. MOTTLEY: A storm in a teapot.) "much ado about nothing". It seems to me that when hon. members come in here with nothing much to do.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is not suggesting that we have nothing to do in general. I presume that he means when the Agenda is light.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I cannot presume to change what I have said because I do not know. What I am saying is this: when we have a very short Agenda hon. members like to find something to talk about, and one has to listen to so much drivel when they manufacture speeches about nothing. It is precisely because I did not want to have any unseemly wrangling about this application, that I proposed its going to a Committee. I have never said anything about any Select Committee; I mentioned sending the matter to a Committee. But at least three hon. members including the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, who likes hurricanes in a debate, mentioned a Select Committee. We received this letter today, and five minutes after we got notice of it, I proposed to set up a Committee. It was because I thought that that was the most expeditious and satisfactory manner of handling this matter. First and foremost the applicant has had leave within twelve years. It is not true to say, as many hon. members have said that this applicant has not had leave within twelve years. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Vacation leave?) It is not true to say that this applicant has not had leave within 12 years; what has happened is that this is the first time he is asking for permission to leave the island on leave within twelve years.

(ASIDES). He is now applying for permission to leave the island for the first time within 12 years.

The position of the Librarian of this House was made analogous in the Godsall Report to that of a Long Grade Clerk in the Public Service. A Long Grade Clerk in the Public Service is not allowed to accumulate his leave and he is only entitled to 21 days' leave annually. Of course, this House of Assembly is entitled to treat any of its employees in any manner it thinks fit. If we want to give the Librarian 12 years' leave, we can do so; nobody can stop us; but knowing the position of the Librarian as I do, I thought that rather than having an unseemly long debate in this House and mentioning all of these factors in the Assembly, the best way for us to proceed would be to appoint a small Committee to deal with the matter and not allow what is now taking place in the Chamber. Of course, there are hon. members who like to talk about nothing, and when they have nothing to talk about, the more they will talk; when they talk most is when they have nothing to talk about. My motion still stands, Sir, and I submit that this motion was, in my considered opinion, the most satisfactory manner of dealing with this matter, and one which the applicant himself, in his own judgment, should regard as the most satisfactory.

*The question that a Committee be appointed was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.*

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, am I right in saying that, as the Hon. Leader of the House has said, there is no question of appointing a Select Committee to deal with this matter and therefore we can go into Committee on the matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: A motion has been made, and it has been carried, that a Committee be appointed. In view of that decision of the House, I now invite the following hon. members to be associated with me on this Committee, as I have been invited to be associated with it:- The Hon. Leader of the House, (Hon. W. A. Crawford); the hon. Leader of the Opposition, (Mr. E. D. Mottley); the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, (Mr. L. E. Smith); the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, (Mr. N. W. Boxill); the hon. senior member for St. Peter, (Mr. F. L. Walcott) and the hon. senior member for St. James, (Mr. E. L. Carmichael).

Mr. MOTTLEY: May I suggest that the hon. senior member for St. Michael be allowed to serve on that Committee?  
3.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: At the request of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I will add the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael to that Committee which now comprises eight members.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, if I am in order, I should like to say that the hon. senior member for St. Peter is out of the island, and if it is expected that this Committee will soon be meeting, would I be in place to do the same as the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, and ask that a member be appointed in his place?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised that the hon. senior member for St. Peter is not on leave from his duties as a member of this House. I checked that with the Clerks at the Table, and I have no information as to that in my capacity as Speaker.

Mr. SMITH: But he is out of the island, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the hon. junior member for St. Joseph be in a position to tell this House that the hon. senior member for St. Peter is not back now and may not be back this afternoon?

Mr. SMITH: As far as that is concerned, he will not be back by this afternoon.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask those hon. members to be associated with me on this Committee, and I will give in-

structions for them to meet as expeditiously as possible, bearing in mind the date of 29th December. If the leave is granted, we will think of that. There can be no guarantee that this meeting will be over this afternoon or this evening.

#### PAPERS LAID

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Shops Order (No. 2) 1964.

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice of the following:-

Resolution to place the sum of \$250,000 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1964-65, Part II Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1964-65, No. 40 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Resolution to place the sum of \$1 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1964-65, Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1964-65 No. 42 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

On my own behalf, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Shops Order (No. 2) 1964.

In this connection, I should like to inform Your Honour of my intention to ask permission to deal with this Order in all its stages today. The Order will be effective from Friday this week, and therefore it is necessary to seek the approval of the Assembly to deal with it in all its stages today. The appropriate copies have been circulated to hon. members so that if they read the Resolution, they will be apprised of all that is involved.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

Resolution to place the sum of \$9,912 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates, 1964-65, Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1964-65 No. 41 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice of a Bill to amend the Surveyors (Land) Act, 1890.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Bill to amend the Highways Act, 1900.

A Bill to amend the Post Office Act, 1911.

#### COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

#### BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

*On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to amend the Surveyors (Land) Act, 1890, was read a first time.*

*On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, a Bill to amend the Highways Act, 1900, was read a first time.*

*On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, a Bill to amend the Post Office Act, 1911, was read a first time.*

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Order Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 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.*

#### GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

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

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

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 3 be the first Order of the Day under Government Business.

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

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

3.55 p.m.

#### COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

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

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

#### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 1964-65, No. 39

##### HEAD 6 - LEGAL

*Head 6 - Legal - was called.*

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Head 6 stand part.

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

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

##### HEAD 9 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

*Head 9 - Ministry of Finance - was called.*

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Head 9 stand part.

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

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

##### HEAD 10 - ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

*Head 10 - Accountant General - was called.*

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Head 10 stand part.

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

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

##### HEAD 13 - CUSTOMS

*Head 13 - Customs was called.*

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Head 13 stand part.

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

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

#### HEAD 22 - PREMIER - CABINET AND GENERAL

*Head 22 - Premier - Cabinet and General - was called.*

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Head 22 stand part.

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

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

#### HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (5) SCHOOLS

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Head 36 stand part.

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

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution for the sum of \$17,854 do now pass.

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

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

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

*Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.*

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

#### RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SHOPS ORDER (No. 2) 1964

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the next item to be taken is the Resolution to amend the Shops Act of which notice was given today and in respect of which I said that we would be dealing with it in all its stages. Copies of the Resolution have already been circulated and are in the hands of all hon. members.

I am asking leave to take it as the next Order of the Day.

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, this Resolution arises out of the Report of a Committee which was appointed some time last year to review the Shops Act and the Bank Holidays Act. The proposals contained in the Resolution comply with a portion of the Committee's Report. The Committee was under the Chairmanship of the Hon. E. R. L. Ward who is now Minister without Portfolio and comprised of members of the Barbados Workers' Union in the person of the hon. senior member for St. Peter and another member. There were also representatives of the commercial community and the Labour Commissioner was also on it.

With respect to the closing of shops during the month of December the Committee made this recommendation which is now before the House:-

Subject to the provisions of this Order urban shops of the following categories, namely retail provision, bakers, butchers, fishmongers, green grocers, ice vendors and druggists may remain open for the transaction of business until the hour of 7.30 p.m. on all Fridays (except Christmas Day) during the month of December, 1964:

Provided that —

(i) all shops which remain open during the hours in respect of which an extension of the opening hours is permitted under this paragraph shall close not later than 1 p.m. on Saturdays during the month of December, 1964; and

In other words, if a shop opens on a Friday evening from 4.00 until 7.30 p.m. it must close on Saturday at 1.00 p.m.  
4.05 p.m.

Then, Sir, the employees have to be paid overtime. Overtime must be paid to all employees and shop assistants of such shops in respect of the extended hours at the rate of one and a half times the ordinary rate of pay. Subject to the provisions of this Order, the hours of opening for all shops on Monday, December 21st, Tuesday, December 22nd and Wednesday, December 23rd, may be extended to 6 o'clock p.m., provided that overtime pay is paid to all employees and shop assistants by the proprietors of these shops in respect of the extended hours at the rate of one and a half times the ordinary rate of pay.

Hon. members will see from the Addendum to the Resolution that these steps have been taken as recommended by this Committee to facilitate the shopping public during the month of December when the normal shopping is at an abnormally high peak. While we are attempting to facilitate the public in this manner, we are making it compulsory for all employees and shop assistants to be paid at the rate of one and a half times the ordinary rate of pay during these extended hours. Every proprietor or manager or occupier of a shop who contravenes any of the provisions of this Order shall be guilty of an offence against the Shops Act, 1945. This step, Sir, will bring Barbados more or less into

line with the advanced countries of the world in which, as Your Honour is aware, similar facilities are provided at this time of the year for the public in order to assist them in their shopping. The Government is, of course, very concerned to ensure that any employees or shop assistants who work during these extended hours are paid the remuneration to which they are entitled. Naturally, we will take all proper steps to ensure that the provisions of this Order are being carried out once it becomes the law of the country.

Under the Shops Act, 1945, a number of provisions have been made for the comfort of employees in order to ensure satisfactory working conditions for the employees; and now this amending Order providing that extended hours of employment will be compensated for at the rate proposed, has been made. I am sure that this proposal will receive the support of all hon. members of this Chamber. I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think we have come to the end of the Business on the Order Paper for the day. I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 8th December, 1964, at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

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

*The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 8th December, 1964, at 2.30 p.m. o'clock was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.*  
4.10 p.m.