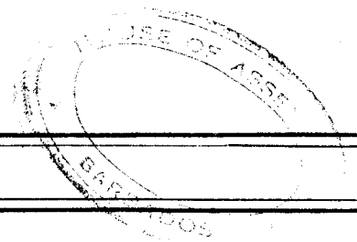
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



SECOND SESSION OF 1961—66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 22nd December, 1964.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., *(Speaker)*; Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, *(Minister of Development) Trade, Labour and Social Security)*; Mr. L. E. *SMITH*, J.P.; Mr. F. E. MILLER; Hon. C. E. TALMA, *(Minister of Communications and Works)*; Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., *(Minister of Education)*; Mr. J. W. CORBIN, Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, *(Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries)*; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P. *(Deputy Speaker)*; Mr. L. A. LYNCH, J.P.; Mr. G. V. BATSON, *(Chairman of Committees)*; Mr. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, *(Minister of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Development.)*.

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of meetings of 1st and 8th December have been circulated, and unless there is any objection, they will be confirmed.

There being no objection, I declare those Minutes to be confirmed.

There is, in respect of the 15th December, a record of the proceedings when there was no quorum. That record, I understand, has been circulated.

In the absence of any objection, I declare that record to be confirmed.

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a letter from His Excellency the Governor dated 22nd December, 1964, which reads as follows:-

"Dear Mr. Speaker,

As this will be the last occasion on which the House will meet before Christmas, I take this opportunity of wishing you and all members of the House of Assembly a very happy Christmas and, with God's guidance, may your deliberations be fruitful in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,
John Stow."

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received a copy of the Accounts and Statement for the month of June, 1964 prepared by the Accountant General.

I also have to mention to the Honourable House that I have received greetings which read as follows:-

"HEATH & COMPANY Ltd.,

The Barbados House of Assembly,
Public Buildings,
Trafalgar Square,
Bridgetown.

Honourable Sirs,

On the occasion of the last meeting of the current year of the Third Oldest Parliament in the British Commonwealth, it gives us great pleasure to present the Barbados House of Assembly with a case of Parliament Dry Gin — possibly the third youngest gin in the Commonwealth and certainly the newest in Barbados.

In spite of the great disparity in age of our respective institutions, we hope that this token will contribute in some small measure to the joy of this holiday season.

Merry Christmas Gentlemen,
Charles Heath,
Managing Director."

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House, I know that Your Honour would wish to reciprocate the warm and cordial wishes of His Excellency the Governor to the Members of the House, and I am confident that Your Honour will inform His Excellency that the House deeply appreciate this gesture of his remembrance, and extend its warmest greetings to both Lady Stow and himself for a very happy Christmas and all good health and prosperity during the coming year.
12.25 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall so convey to His Excellency the Governor the good wishes as requested by the Hon. Leader of the House.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: This is to be given also to the donor of the present which has been sent to the members of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall do so as far as I have been requested by the elected Parliament.

MESSAGE

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the folowing:

Message No. 13/1964 *re* the Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into all aspects of the Sugar Industry in Barbados.

PAPERS LAID

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

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for eight months ended 30th November, 1964;

The Customs Duties Harbour Equipment (Exemption) (Amendment) Order, 1964;

Statement showing the amounts advanced by the Government of Barbados and the amounts received from Her Majesty's Government in the U.K. under the provisions of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, for the period ended 30th June, 1964, in respect of Schemes sanctioned by the Legislature;

Statistical Service — Selected Monthly Indicators, July — August, 1964;

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 13) Order, 1964.

I wish to inform hon. members that it is my intention to deal with this Item in all its stages today.

Mr. Speaker, on my own behalf, I am commanded to lay The Natural Gas Corporation Thirteenth Annual Report and

Statement of Accounts for the period 1st April, 1963 to 31st March, 1964.

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

Dr. Helge Tullstrom's Report on the Water Supply of Barbados;

The Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Regulations, 1964;

The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 1964.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking for permission to deal with these items in all their stages today.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have they been circulated yet?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Yes, Sir.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 13) Order, 1964.

Sir, I have already intimated that I propose to deal with this Item in all its stages today.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On behalf of the Hon. Premier I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of $7,288 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65, Part I Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, No. 46 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to give notice of a Resolution to place the sum of $12,000 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65, Part I Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate, 1964-65 No. 47 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

I beg to give notice that it is the intention of the Government to deal with this Resolution in all its stages today.

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

Resolution to approve the Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Regulations, 1964;

Resolution to approve the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 1964.

Also,

A Bill to amend the Public Utilities Act, 1951;

A Bill to amend the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1940.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to deal with these matters in all their stages today.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of the Friendly Societies (Repeal of Special Acts) Act, 1964.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am taking objection to what I see going on today as regards some of these Orders to be dealt with in all their stages today. I do not think it is in the best interest of the public that these matters, some of which are very important in character such as the Resolution for the sum of $12,000 dealing with the Hospital, should be dealt with in such great hurry. I want to debate these things. Why should we be called on to debate them without further study? The Ministers have had the opportunity of dealing with these things thoroughly: but they have come today under the guise that this is the last day before the House goes into recess for the Christmas Season and ask that we deal with these things today. I think Parliament should deal with these things in a proper way and I am objecting to these things being dealt with in all their stages today.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, in the case of the two Resolutions of which I have asked leave for the House to deal with in all their stages today — Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment Order and the Resolution for the sum of $12,000 — one should appreciate the urgency of the Resolution for $12,000. If you read the Addendum to the Resolution, you will see the necessity for it. With respect to the one dealing with the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) Order, leave is asked to deal with that also because of the urgency of the matter and because of the fact that if this Resolution is not dealt with today, the Government will stand to lose the opportunity of recruiting the necessary staff.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir, we do not want to debate that on this empty statement of your telling us that you cannot recruit staff if this is not passed today. It leaves one to think that you are recruiting staff which is on some dump heap; and if you cannot get it done today, the storm will come and wash it away. Do not say that a Paediatrician would disappear if we do not get this passed today.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for St. Peter has made his point.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I was not quite clear whether the hon. senior member for St. Peter also included in his objection the matters for which I asked leave to deal with today; but, in any case, I would like to say that in so far as the matters standing my name are concerned, the hon. senior member for St. Peter will well remember that we have just brought into operation television service, and that means we have to make regulations to deal with the matter. This is the object of seeking permission to deal with these two matters today — both the Bill to amend the Wireless Telegraphy Act and the Bill to amend the Public Utilities Act.

12.35 p.m.

In so far as the other matters are concerned, one relates to an amendment to the Public Utilities Act, 1951, and this is a matter of regularising the Act by amending it so that the Public Utilities Board will in future control bus fares and matters appertaining to transportation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the hon. member has said enough at this stage.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

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

WHEREAS it is Government's intention to include St. Joseph, St. James and St. Andrew among the infirmaries to be closed in the northern section of Barbados next year,

BE IT RESOLVED that this House invite the Government to take cognisance of the inconvenience, financial commitments and general hardship that could be caused to the relatives and friends wishing to visit inmates transferred to amalgamated institutions; and that the Government be further invited to consider some means of assisting such visitors with transport during the visiting hours prescribed by the amalgamated institutions.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER: Question standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. John re "fall" potatoes.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Speaker.

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that several plantations in the Island have planted less "fall" potatoes this year than heretofore?

2. Is the Minister aware that such a reduction in the produce of such potatoes will lead to severe hardship to peasants and agricultural labourers during the forthcoming crop season, who look to such potatoes as a staple diet during the duration of the crop?

3. Will the Minister take steps to see that this unsatisfactory situation is remedied as soon as possible?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is also a question standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael. The hon. member is not now in his place, but he has intimated that he would crave the indulgence of the House that the question be put by the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, in the absence of the hon. senior member for St. Michael.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the hon. senior member for St. Michael:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that water mains have been laid throughout the St. Stephen's Hill – Clevedale Housing Area in the parish of St. Michael for nearly two years but no water service by way of public Standpipes or in private dwellings have yet been connected?

2. Is Government aware that, as a result the residents of the said district are put to great hardship and have to travel long distances in order to obtain water?

3. Will Government take immediate steps to have the said water service connected and the said hardship alleviated?

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Public Utilities Act, 1951, be now read a first time.

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

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

At this stage, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1940, be now read a first time.

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

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to give notice of my intention to move the House into Committee of Supply at this meeting in order to deal with the Resolution for the sum of $12,000, and at the next meeting to deal with the other money Resolution of which notice was given today.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the suspension of Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 for the remainder of today's sitting. I presume that hon. members would like to deal with Government Business as expeditiously as possible and that they would be grateful for this motion.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not objecting to the suspension of these Standing Orders, but I want to make it clear that, while I am agreeing to the Resolution for the sum of $12,000 – I raised objection when His Honour the Speaker was in the Chair, and a vote will have to be taken – I am opposed to dealing with the other matters in all of their stages today. I hope that the Standing Orders will be carried out in accordance with that objection.

The question that these Standing Orders be now suspended was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Committee of Supply 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.

12.45 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply, and that it be an instruction to the House while in Committee to deal with the Resolution for $12,000 of which notice was given today.

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1964-65 No. 47

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution seeks the approval of the House for the allocation of $12,000 to carry out the eradication campaign against poliomyelitis, in as much as there has been a recent outbreak of this disease in Jamaica. There are approximately 33,000 children in the qualifying age in this island; and while some of them would have had one shot of the vaccine in the control campaign carried out last year, this, I am

advised, does not give them immunity from the disease. There is a balance of $600 in the appropriate vote, but this cannot purchase all the vaccine which we will require.

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

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

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I want to congratulate the Minister to some extent for taking the advice of the Director of Medical Services. It seems that we are getting the vaccine in time to prevent another outbreak of poliomyelitis. You will remember what happened in 1963 with the then dedicated Director of Medical Services. There are a number of our nationals who are today and will forever remain permanently disabled as a result of failing to follow the advice of the then Director of Medical Services.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. George is absolutely misinformed when he accuses the Government of not accepting the advice of the Director of Medical Services. That is not so.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I take it that you are fully aware of all the Standing Orders. To say that it was not true or to deny the statement is a matter of little moment, and I do not know that the Minister would want to rise on a point of order when he has an opportunity to reply. There are a number of nationals who will remain permanently disabled as a result of the negligence of the Minister and what occurred in 1963. The Minister must certainly be aware of all these things and not interrupt unnecessarily, unless he is completely satisfied that it is a point of order. You can post him a copy of our Standing Orders. These things occured, and it is not the holly and the ivy or a question of the Three Wise Men. We are dealing with a number of souls who will be disabled forever, and we have lost a dedicated soul, a man who has done more for medical services in this country than any living soul in living memory, and this is indeed a tremendous thought. We are talking about the great Dr. Byer. We want to hasten the passage of this Resolution through Parliament, and not hold it up unnecessarily to add misery to the document which probably need not have been brought today. You are asking for the measly sum of $12,000 and we are told that there are 33,000 children involved.

There is urgency in passing this Resolution, Mr. Chairman, but are we satisfied that it will be passed by the Other Place before Christmas, which is another three days off? Is this going to be ushered in with Santa Claus as he comes down the chimney? We want to congratulate and sing Christmas Carols with the Minister, but these things can be aggravating if we want to be critical. We want to say it is fortunate that it has come at this time because of the outbreak in Jamaica of a disease which can bring damnation to millions. We want to congratulate him that he did acquiesce in the advice of the Director of Medical Services, and I do not know why we need to be at cross purposes as to whether or not the information I received is true. We are aware that children have died, and even adults. You will find that adults have brought back children three times for these vaccinations. We remember Dr. Byer and a number of doctors on the last occasion recommending that this vaccine could be given on a loaf of sugar which so many children would be anxious to take and thus save so many lives, and the taxpayers would be anxious to pay the additional tax to bring relief to the children who would suffer.

We know what is expected in modern, civilised communities, but you are asking a child to be exposed three times to vaccination over a period of three months, when he would rather be given in a series on a little sugar. I am asking the Minister, if he needs more than $12,000, to come for it rather than use the syringe which would make the children recoil; otherwise we will have to continue to provide money for the institutions to support these disabled folk. I am only hoping that he will persuade the Senate to bring about a meeting as soon as possible in order that a ratification of the House's decision can take place. I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I hope the Minister understands the point of view on this side of the Table.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. George has accused the Government of not accepting the advice of the former Director of Medical Services *re* the question of a vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis. It will be remembered that on 17th January, a question was asked in this Chamber by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas which reads as follows:-

"Is the Government aware that poliomyelitis is very rampant in British Guiana?

2. Would Government embark immediately on a mass polio vaccination campaign in all schools and Health Centres throughout the Island?"
12.55 p.m.

The hon. junior member for St. George has clearly pointed out that all questions would have to be referred to the Director of Medical Services. The hon. member is aware of that. This question was referred to the Director of Medical Services and these are his comments:-

"There has been no change in the outlook since the Minute was sent in to the Ministry earlier in the year."

In that Minute, the Director of Medical Services said that he was not in any way disturbed by the spread of poliomyelitis and the incidence of poliomyelitis over the last ten years. He then pointed out that there was no necessity for a mass vaccination campaign since the Ministry had taken it upon itself to take care of the vaccinating of children at the rate of 1,000 a year at the Health Centres during the years 1960-62. They were the comments which he made. It was also stated that the British Guiana outbreak had just passed its peak, and our period of the highest risk was also passed. When that question was asked, the then Director of Medical Services had advised the Government not to carry out a mass vaccination campaign.

Sir, you get people getting up to talk only just to air off their mouths. The Director of Medical Services continued by saying that the last case notified in Barbados was on 30th July, 1962. This was in reply to the question asked by the hon. senior member for St. James. He continued by saying:

"It is however important that this Department has given every protection to all who wish to have it in the under-two-year age group for the past three and a half years at all Health Centres. This method of protecting the population is far superior to hysterical mass immunation campaigns which, very unfortunately, we were sometimes forced to undertake." In respect to that question, the reply which they got from the then Director of Medical Services was that the Government was aware that there was an outbreak of poliomyelitis in British Guiana but that it had passed its peak. With all that, the hon. junior member for St. George says that we did not fully take the advice of the Director of Medical Services. The advice was this:-

"Research has disclosed that young children in Barbados are in the greatest need of protection against poliomyelitis. For the past 3 1/2 years, therefore, the Department of Medical Services has concentrated on the vaccination of children under two years old with the result that by the end of 1962 a fair proportion of children between seven months and five years old had been vaccinated. It is considered that this is a more satisfactory method of protection in our circumstances than embarking on a mass vaccination campaign. This service will continue to be offered free by all Health Centres."

How in the name of all that is good can the hon. junior member for St. George come in here today with this idiocy that the Government did not accept the advice of the Director of Medical Services? This is a case where the Government accepted the advice of the Director of Medical Services. From what the hon. member has said, it appears

that the hon. junior member for St. George and his Government was in the habit of not accepting the advice of their experts.

Mr. MILLER: Sir, in a document by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, dated January, 1963, we got all this which the Hon. Minister read. The Hon. Minister then goes further to read the release by the then Director of Medical Services asking the people not to panic. Here the Director of Medical Services is asking the people of the country not to panic, but this is not what the Hon. Minister is saying.

What the Hon. Minister has failed to read is the letter by the Director of Medical Services asking him to agree to the bringing down of a Resolution for $12,000 to get this oral medicine. Let the Hon. Minister read the further comment by the then Director of Medical Services which states that he could get this free from the W.H.O., but that what he was getting was not the oral vaccine. Let the Hon. Minister read the data from the Director of Medical Services asking for money which was denied him because it was felt by the then Cabinet that you could get a cheaper type of vaccine from the W.H.O. The Hon. Minister gets up and recalls that old talk which adds up exactly to nothing. All of this occurred after the outbreak of poliomyelitis. Why were we without this oral vaccine, knowing that the children and even the adult population could be swept away by this outbreak? It was Government's first responsibility. We know what had taken place and what was likely to take place. Were you thinking of bringing in specialists to look after the crippled? You get all this old talk by the Hon. Minister. Because of it, we lost Dr. Byer. The Hon. Minister did not even defend this expert, but left him exposed when he could have taken the chance to defend him. We lost Dr. Byer to Jamaica. He could have gone there two years ago, but preferred to stay with us then. Look at his record in St. Lucia!
1.05 p.m.

I am not saying that the present Director of Medical Services is not as great a person, but we have had a man who has spent the best years of his life and given his knowledge and experience for bread and butter. Who was going to lead this vaccine campaign? The Minister? You would still have had to wait on the Minister. Why are we having all of this talk when this matter could have been got through? We went on and we stepped ahead of the development which has been brought to Jamaica. Let the Hon. Minister read Dr. Byer's request for funds for the purpose of bringing in the oral vaccine but it was not given because you were given something else free from the World Health Organization. Very often, Sir, the best things which come to us are those which come to us free, but it is not everything which comes to us free. Let the Hon. Minister tell us more about this matter today. Let us sing 'the Holly and the Ivy' and all the rest of it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, it is a pity that those who would sing 'the Holly and the Ivy' cannot appreciate it. The hon. member said that the Government wanted to bring in the offer of the free vaccine from the World Health Organization and it was opposed by the Director of Medical Services. The hon. member had some idea of what went on, but he was not correct. When this offer was made to the Government, it was referred to the Director of Medical Services who sought the advice of three Medical Officers of Health who said that it would be a retrograde step since we had already placed an order for oral vaccine, and the machinery was set up for administering the oral vaccine. The Government was aware beforehand that the oral vaccine was a quicker method, and we therefore decided to provide the money in the Estimates for the purpose of obtaining this vaccine. The hon. member further pointed out that there was a struggle between the Ministry and the then Director of Medical Services in respect of this oral vaccine, but there was no such struggle. The hon. member does not even know that there was a lot of discussion in this matter and the order for the vaccine was actually placed by me before the matter got to this House of Assembly. I did that at the risk of paying this $12,000, but the hon. member does not know that. The Director of Medical Services did not even give the order for this vaccine; I took the risk of ordering it and then came to the House and asked for the money. If the hon. member does not know what he is saying, then let him sit down.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering if I should think of the hon. member as a single person having regard to the amount of folly which has just come from his lips. He must be a twin! He is saying that this vaccine was really ordered and he took the risk of ordering it. He knows that that is not true; he knows that that could only be ordered through the Crown Agents. You can order these things through an organization. It is not a question of the Hon. Minister ordering this vaccine; this is something which would have to be ordered by the Director of Medical Services. Having regard to what the Hon. Minister has said, he should be asked to leave the House now. Is the hon. member going to take the responsibility of ordering something before he comes to the House and asks for the money for it? What are we coming to? We have a Parliament which has to decide on all expenditure. This Parliament must agree to this expenditure, and now the Hon. Minister has told us that he took the risk of ordering this vaccine.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: He did not take the risk of spending the money; he took the risk of ordering the vaccine.

Mr. MILLER: When you order anything as a Minister you are responsible for it; *(ASIDES)* and if you order anything, somebody must pay for it. Mr. Chairman, I do not want the roof and the ceiling to come in. I do not want to crucify you in Parliament today.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am appealing to the hon. member to stick to the Resolution.

Mr. MILLER: You do not want to join in the debate because as soon as you do that, you are no longer Chairman. As soon as you join in the debate, you surrender your right and it leaves me with the right to cut your throat. However, Sir, I think we are wasting time. If the hon. member would just take up the file which I left in the Ministry, he would see what is there. It is untrue, undemocratic and unchristian for the Minister to say that he ordered this vaccine before coming to the House for permission to do so. Although he will have to get his hair cut and his dark shades.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the hon. member to stick to the Resolution. I do not see anything about any hair cut in this Resolution.

Mr. MILLER: You have not been reading the Resolution yourself. You will forgive me, Mr. Chairman, but it may be a question of singing "The Holly and the Ivy" and "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen". Thank you again, Mr. Chairman.
1.15 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member was in the Ministry and he knows that the vaccine for poliomyelitis is tendered for. The people who supply it at the most reasonable rates are Collins Limited, and the order for this $12,000 in poliomyelitis oral vaccine for the campaign was actually placed in my Ministry with Mr. Bourne from Collins coming in and making arrangements for us to have it at the cheapest rate. It was ordered then, and then we came to the Legislature asking the Legislature to pay for it after it was ordered. That is all I said. It was not done by any Crown Agents. He knows that these things are tendered for, and the Tenders Committee awards the contract to such-and-such a person or such-and-such a firm to supply such commodity. In this case, we have had to order more than the contract was made for. We called in the representatives from these people who had the contract at the time and the order was placed then.

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

On motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply, and Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, in each case by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1964

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 9 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.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill seeks to make such amendments to the Local Government Act, 1958, as are necessary as set out here:-

(a) to make it clear that the Port of Bridgetown as defined in the Second Schedule to the Barbados Harbours Act, 1960 together with the enclosed wharf area and waterfront of the Deep Water Harbour and the area of land reclaimed from the sea during the construction of the harbour falls within the boundaries of the City of Bridgetown as set out in the First Schedule to the Local Government Act, 1958;

(b) to provide that with effect from the financial year beginning on the 1st April, 1965, all trade tax payable by traders operating only in the enclosed wharf area and waterfront of the Deep Water Harbour, will be paid to the Port Department instead of the Bridgetown City Council; and

(c) to provide for the payment into the Harbour Fund of all sums of money collected by the Port Department by way of trade tax.

As hon. members will remember, since the construction of the Deep Water Harbour, the City limits have not been clearly defined in so far as that particular area is concerned. The object of this Bill is to extend the City limits and place responsibility for cleaning of the reclaimed area of the Port and make a distinction between the Port area proper and the other areas outside the Port Department, so that the boundaries of the Port Department proper will be separate and distinct from the boundaries to which the City limits will now extend.

In future the City Council will of necessity be taking over the cleaning and other functions which they do at present in the City area. The amendment to this Local Government Act, therefore, is to regularise this position.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1 to 5 inclusive were called and passed.

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

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

THE INTERIM TRADERS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1964

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 8 be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Order is merely a corollary of what has taken place before here today, in that this Bill seeks to amend the Interim Traders Act, 1909 to provide that any interim trader intending to carry on any business in the enclosed Wharf area of the Deep Water Harbour must, with effect from 1st day of April, 1965, obtain the required licence from the Port Department, and not from the Bridgetown City Council.
1.25 p.m.

The Bill also provides for the payment into the Harbour Fund of all sums of money collected by the Port Department in respect of the grant of licences.

As I have said, this merely is a corollary of the amendment to the Local Government Act which we made just now so as to regularise the entire position so far as the City Council is concerned.

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

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

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

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

Clauses 1, 2, and 3, were called separately and passed.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE SURVEYORS (LAND) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 3 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.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Bill which stands in the name of the Hon. Premier.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Order, which now stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Philip, is the second reading of a Bill to amend the Surveyors (Land) Act, 1890.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, this Bill seeks to amend the Surveyors (Land) Act, 1890, 1890-10. It has been felt for some time that there were certain provisions in the Act which were completely outdated; therefore, certain

amendments should be made to it in order to bring it more in line with similar legislation elsewhere.

The Act is therefore amended for reference to "colony" and "colonies" in the Act to be substituted to "territory" and "territories" respectively.

The Bill also seeks to increase the maximum examination fee payable by a candidate for licence as a land surveyor from $10.08 to $40.00. That fee of $10.08 was fixed 24 years ago, and this fee of $40.00 to be charged now is considered more appropriate and in keeping with the fee of $10.00 when it was instituted. At that time, people could buy land for $25.00.

It also provides that any expense for the examination exceeding $40.00, but not in excess of $200, should be paid out of the Public Treasury.

These are the two amendments to this Act and no lengthy information is necessary. I, therefore, beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

Clauses 1, 2, 3, and 4 were called separately and passed.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

1.35 p.m.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 5 be taken as 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. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day therefore stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House:- To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Public Employees Pensions Act, 1961.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Bill which deals with the Pensions of Public Employees, is an amendment to the Public Employees Pensions Act of 1961. Hon. members will see that the two provisions in the Bill are as follows:- (a) to extend the definition of the term "Scheduled Office" in Section 2 to include offices held by wholetime employees of the authority set out in the First Schedule to the Act. If hon. members were to refer to the First Schedule of the old Act, they will see what these employees are. The second provision is to bring the provisions of Section 3 into line with Section 3 of the Pensions Act, 1947, as regards the laying of regulations before the Houses of the Legislature and the making of regulations with retrospective effect. What has happened, Sir, is that the old Public Employees Pensions Act of 1961 in Section 2 made provision to protect the pensions of officers transferred from the Local Government Service to the Public Service of the country. Regulation 5 (4) (a) of the Local Government Pensions Regulations, 1961, makes provision whereby the Council responsible for the payment of any pension or gratuity which may be granted to an officer who has been transfered from a pensionable office in the Public Service to the Local Government Service shall be entitled to demand from the Central Government a contribution in respect of such pension or gratuity based on the proportion which the Officer's public service bears to his total public and Local Government Service. There was no reciprocity on the part of the Local Government Authority and the Central Government. The Central Government cannot demand a contribution from a Local Government Council although the Officer may be transferred from the authority of the Central Government. It is considered, therefore, that the Pensions Act, 1947, should be amended in order to reciprocate the provision of proportionate pension contributions. Those are the amendments which this Bill proposes to make in the first instance.

The next proposal is to make regulations in order to bring the provisions of Section 3 into line with Section 3 of the Pensions Act, 1947 as regards the laying of regulations before the Legislature and the making of regulations with retrospective effect, as has already been mentioned. It is therefore proposed that these Pensions Amendment Regulations, 1964, should be made by the Governor with the approval of the Legislature and with the provisions set out in this Bill. I do not think, Sir, that anything more can be usefully said about this Bill except that it will facilitate the transfer of Local Government employees to the Central Government, and I am sure that people who are employed by the municipal authorities will welcome the introduction of this piece of legislation.

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

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

Mr. WALCOTT: I have to ask the Hon. Minister a question and I have to make a comment as well. The comment which I will make will also apply to Order No. 6 - The Causal Employees Pension Bill - whenever that comes up for consideration. What I would like to ask the Hon. Minister is this; has the Government yet made its decision to recognise the Barbados Workers' Union as the representative of workers of this kind? These workers have indicated in no uncertain terms that they are not satisfied with the past representation, nor are they satisfied with the bureaucratic attitude of the Government in dealing with these matters. These matters are dependent upon the Government until whenever the Government feels like dealing with them, whereas these workers want to accelerate the pace of their own industrial representation. They want to deal with these matters straight from the horse's mouth and not with the channels of rhetoric and red tape which have been bogging down these people for many years.

The second point is this; we have made this comment in here already and we will make it again today, that we are not satisfied with making these workers wait for their pensions and then tell them that you cannot find these files because they are somewhere at the Drill Hall. I do not think that the Government should allow these workers to wait for so long after they have retired before you can put these pensions in their hands. That is unfair to these people because their wages are not far from their pensions, and when they are on pensions these are really reduced pensions.

1.45 p.m.

I feel that the time has come that no casual employee or public employee should be asked to retire from the Public Service when the Public Service is not in a position to pay his pension within a reasonable time. When we get the answer, I am sure that our Union will make it crystal clear that that will be a condition of employment, and will insist that no public employee should be retired unless he can be paid his pension within a given time. We feel industrially that these matters should be dealt with at the horse's mouth, and not wait for the long and tedious process of Parliamentary measures in dealing with them.

Secondly, I have made this comment already; but I will repeat that the Government must get out of this medieval system of paying pensions unrelated to the present and changing circumstances. I consider that pensions should be paid to people working in the public service as a whole based on an escalator basis, in that in any changes made to the post which the incumbent held during his life time, his pension should be calculated on the changes because he is still alive. We do not make a special provision for a pension; it is calculated on an actuarial and mathematical basis to the date of retirement. That should be the method of pension to any pensioner until he dies; and whenever you change the rates in relation to that post which the man held, his pension should be accordingly adjusted, so that you would not have to wait until somebody comes to the Assembly with a Resolution asking what you are going to do about pensioners now, as if they were some bit of material that you had forgotten for some time, and you are wondering whether you should paint it up or leave it there with the rust on it. I consider that pensioners should be paid on an escalator basis, whether it be the Chief Justice or a street cleaner. If it reaches the stage that the street cleaners' salary has been changed and they are no longer drawing X dollars, but Y dollars as a pension, the pension should be based on Y dollars because he is still alive, and not on X dollars when he retired. If you cannot accept that, then you are not accepting ordinary commonsense that is as patent as the maxim that one and one are two. I feel that that would remove a lot of hardships that exist with pensioners, remove a lot of the perennial discussions, and it would remove even cheap politics, because when the political campaign comes around, some people use pensioners although there are not so many to vote, but they have families; and I find that any vote from the pensioners is always a vote from the non-pensioners, because the families always feel that if you support the pensioners, automatically you are supporting them.

I should like the Minister to answer if it is the intention of the Government to recognise the Barbados Workers' Union, because they had a letter from the Barbados Workers' Union since 20th October, and I do not think I am asking too much if I say that a period of two months is long enough time to know what is the Government's intention. They should let us know whether they intend to recognise the Barbados Workers' Union or not, so that we would be able to know what to do. If they are going to recognise the Union, we would know what to put forward; but if they are not going to recognise the Union, we would know what action to take.

In connection with the Bill, I hope the Minister will see to it that an administrative order is given that casual employees like these should not be sent home until they can get their pensions, but should be kept on in non-pensionable jobs until they can get their pensions. They are sent home without any money: they have no earnings: and therefore are suffering grave hardships; and there is no point in telling a man without any income whatsoever that whenever he gets his pension it is going to be for the full period, because I do not think a man can postpone eating for a couple of months amd make up for it when he gets his money. By that time he would be dead. I think it is necessary, therefore, that we should analyse these things in relation to the persons with whom we are dealing. Many of them are extremely poor men and women and cannot afford the hardships that are incurred by these unduly long delays.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have to associate myself with every word the hon. member has said. Now, Sir, this is really a very sore question. Every time a Bill or Resolution of this nature comes before us, we ask about these casual employees and their pensions, and the Minister in charge makes some very nice promises that he would see to this and see to that, making us believe that within the next few days these poor people would receive their pittance.

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

As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, there are men in these Departments who are called upon at a day's or two days' notice to quit, and they are sent home without one penny. They are told after that they have to make out affidavits which they have done and sworn to, and then these people are continually going to the Highways and Transport Department to the Personnel Officer to be turned around all the time, as members in this House are turned around by the Ministers, and up to now they cannot get one penny. These people ask the Heads of Department to re-employ them until they can see their way to give them a pension, but they are refused on the grounds that the Pensions Act does not allow them to be re-employed.
1.55 p.m.

Now, you have a Pensions Act to prevent employers from re-employing these people, and there is no Pension Act to make the people pension these people. Other people have resigned and got their gratuities, and they have bought land and so on with the money; but with respect to these poor people who have resigned, only because they are labourers, they are being kicked about. On the last occasion, the Hon. Minister told me that they could not find the pay sheets with these people's names on them. The last time that three men retired from the Highways and Transport Department, they were told that a Bill would have to be passed to pay them. I sincerely hope that this Bill which we are going to pass now will carry a provision to pay them.

Sir, I think that this Government is waiting until these men die to compute their pensions. As a matter of fact, I know quite a few of them who have died. I know that all I am going to say now may be termed as cheap politics, but I do know that if you can buy a thing cheap you will not buy it dear; so if this is cheap politics, I am buying a little bit of it now.

Plantation owners cannot employ these workers now because the expenses of the plantation at this time of the year must be limited. Because of that, these plantation owners have to employ the people who were working with them for years; therefore, it means that these people who were employed by the Government cannot get anything to do now. They are not professional men; therefore, there is nothing for them to do. They can only work in the Highways and Transport Department or on plantations.

Sir, I am a member of a Public Assistance Board, and I know that many of these people have to go to that Board and apply for a small pittance. They do not get more than fifty cents a week. How much can that do? It means that these people must walk the streets and beg. This is the example which this Government is setting when it keeps back the pension from these people. If the Departments of Government cannot find books or anything to show how long these persons were working, as I have often said, you should find some pay sheets. You have drivers and supervisors who are still working with you and they have signed an affidavit proving that these people were working with them. You have signatures to that effect. Do something to help these poor people whom you have retired. Do not keep them there starving.

I am going to blame the Government for it and nobody else, because if they had any interest in these people, the Ministers would pass on a directive to re-employ these poor people. They are quite willing to work. If you cannot get their pensions computed yet, try and get an advance for them; do not let them walk the streets and beg. You have these Ministers with fat bellies walking....

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD rose.

Mr. SPEAKER: What has the hon. member risen on?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On a point of....

Mr. SPEAKER: Would you ask the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to give way?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: What I want to say is this.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me ask the hon. junior member for St. Joseph first if he has concluded his speech.

Mr. SMITH: No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Therefore, I take it that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has given way.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: What I want to say is this. Hon. members have been here from mid-day and I am saying this, not because I want to interrupt the speech of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, but I think the time has come when we should have a short adjournment.

I therefore beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for three quarters of an hour.

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

The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting of the House accordingly.

2.05 p.m.

On re-assembling,

Mr. SPEAKER: When this sitting was suspended, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was addressing the House.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, when the Hon. Leader of the House interrupted me, I was trying to make this point. Somehow or other the hon. Leader of the House is always rising on a point of interruption and calling it a point of order. He should realise, by now, that that does not interfere with me or with what I have to say. The hon. member only tries to get me off my stride. The Hon. Minister should know by now, because he has been in this House long enough to know it, that any Government can do most things. They can do things hurriedly, they can do them slowly, and they are not supposed to do them at all. These people who are pensioners through no fault of their own, were called upon to retire, and they were called upon to do so with two or three days' notice. They were called upon to go home without one penny. Now it is a period of some years since that has happened, and time and time again people have been going to the Department of Highways and Transport and to the Government Headquarters asking when they are going to receive their little pittance.

It is a fact that there are some of these people who are practically starved to death, because when you send home a man who has no pension, he is literally starved to death. This Government is responsible for that. In the same way that the Government can come in here and ask us to pass Resolutions at the shortest notice — sometimes when they are passing things, I cannot even find what they are passing. Quite recently I was searching for a particular Resolution on which to hit them, but when I did find it, the Resolution had already been passed. If the law prescribes that these people cannot be re-employed, I think that the law should be amended in order that these people could be given a chance so that they could work for as much as would buy them food. When the Government does not pay these people anything at all, it is true that they want them to be starved to death. There are three of these people who have gone down the line, and this Government is responsible for that. I can call the names of these people if you want me to do so.

The Hon. Leader of the House says that what I am saying is nothing. I am pointing out to him that the people are walking about and are begging their bread, and the Police are running them down; they cannot even catch a berry. And this is a Government which is going all out to do things! Are they going to help these people or are they going to sit down at Government Headquarters and make things right for their friends? What are they going to do for the poor people? You cannot convince any hon. member who is sitting on this side of the House, that you are doing anything for these people now, because these things have been going on for too long. They say that a Bill is to be brought down now, but I believe that is is going to be a chopper! *(Laughter).* Let the Hon. Minister who is responsible do what the Hon. Minister of Communications has done; that is, when people were laid off, the Hon. Minister of Communications gave instructions that they be re-employed. Well, Sir, that Minister saw the light.

I want to see that something is done for these people. These people are poor, they are unable to work; but some of them are going to be alive whenever the General Elections come off. Do not let us think that all of these people will die before the General Election comes off, although they are dying slowly. I am asking the Hon. Minister to do something so as to help these people with the little gratuity or pension, or allow those who are able to work to be re-employed. If you refuse to re-employ these people, that means that you do not want to help them. The Minister says that I am not doing anything, but I am saying something which will help the poor people. These people are being held back, they are being prevented from working, and the Minister says that that is nothing. Well, there will be something doing some day.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, while hon. members were debating this question, I was thinking. There seems to be some difficulty being placed in the way of the re-employment of these people who may be considered to have passed the age-limit. Hon. members must remember that officers who are of a very high grade in the Civil Service are presently receiving pensions and very often there are people who work long after they have reached the pensionable age and are receiving pensions.

3.05 p.m.

It has been pointed out that if there is difficulty in the way of discovering from the records what has been the length of service of certain employees in the Government, that until the records are complete, such lowly paid servants of the Government might be able to continue to work until the records can prove to what extent they are to be compensated. I was thinking that there were technical difficulties in the way of Government as far as the question of such lowly paid employees of the Government to continue to work are concerned; but on more and more reflection, I am of the opinion that those workers whose records are not yet found to be complete can be retained in the Government Service, and I may say that a proviso might be added to the terms of employment that for any period in excess of the number of years that ought to be considered pensionable, those servants can be told that they would not be pensionable after such dates. I think that would obviate any difficulty that stands in the way of Government in its policy.

Every one of us in this House knows, Mr. Speaker, that you can go to some Departments of Government where it seems to be more the practice there that pensioners are working in highly responsible positions. I do not know if it has been found out that such experience is necessary to carry on and supervise Government work in such Departments, but it seems as if they carry on very favourably. I do not see why, if a man is physically able to do work and the records are not up to date to prove how far he is pensionable, he should not be allowed to continue until the records are complete. I make that point because I like to look at both sides of a picture — and I cannot be deemed to be playing politics when I say that, because Government is a business, and its business has to be conducted in a business-like manner, and you cannot go on playing politics with these people, because some day it will come back to you. However, we do observe that the higher eschalons of the Service's pensionable officers retain jobs and continue to do work that is considered good work. Why then may not the lowlier paid Officers of Government be allowed to continue as long as they are physically fit, with the proviso that if and when the record completely prove that they have pensionable service in store for them, they can be told that as from such-and-such a date if they work in excess of this time, it will not be considered as pensionable? I believe it is possible to have a working formula for such a worker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless there is any other hon. member who desires to contribute to the debate, and there appears to be none, the Hon. Leader of the House may exercise his right of final reply.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, normally in your time and my time, I do not think we have ever met on a Tuesday just two days before Christmas. The trouble in meeting on a day like this is that there is normally so much

christmas spirit in the air that some hon. members might be tempted to talk on the basis not of logic, but on the basis of spirits. As a matter of fact, Sir, I doubt very much that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph would be his normal self today; otherwise we could not have heard the utter nonsense which we heard from him today.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter who was here from the earlier part of the day posed three questions. He asked whether the Government is prepared to recognise the Workers' Union as the valid agent for certain categories of Government employees. So far as I know, Sir, the matter is still under consideration. He himself said that the application for recognition was placed on October, 14th, and I doubt whether he would expect, from his experience in dealing with Government, that a matter like this could be resolved by now. After all, Sir, there are several Departments to be consulted, and there is the Legal Department to resolve the legal technicalities, but last but not least there is the Ministry of Finance which has to consider the financial implications, and my information is that this particular issue is before the Minister of Finance in consultation with the Minister of Communications and Works, and the matter is being gone into.

In so far as the question of employing people who have reached the retiring age is concerned in between the time that they should retire and the time that they actually receive their pension, that is really a question of law. The legislation governing retirement says that they must retire by a certain age, and it appears to me that it would be illegal to retain them after they have reached that age. If the law says a man has to retire at 55 years of age, when he reaches the age of 55 he has to go. If you keep him until he is 63 years, you are breaking the law. It is so arranged that by the time he is about to retire, you are ready to pay him his pension. If you know a man is 59 years old and he has to retire at 60 years, you do not wait until he reaches the age to start computing, but you do it some time before. In the case of casual employees, the situation is somewhat different.

We passed an Act in 1961, Mr. Speaker, which came into operation in 1962. I have said *ad nauseam*, Mr. Speaker, that there were no records kept previous to this Act in 1961, and we then had to begin to endeavour to compile employment figures, years of service, financial entitlement and all those things involved. Now the hon. junior member for St. Joseph comes in here every now and again singing this song about people who were employed not getting their pensions, but you never hear anything concrete. It is just like sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. At one time he said we were killing people, which is sheer nonsense; nor can he support with concrete figures any of the nonsensical statements he makes in here in this connection. About a year ago I made a statement with a record of the position then, and at that time we only had fourteen applicants for pension which had not been serviced according to the 1961 Act.

3.15 p.m.

I explained to him that which we had on record and that the Ministry of Finance was expecting more affidavits from two responsible persons stating that the individual worked for a number of days.

Fourteen qualified at the time and since then nearly all of those fourteen benefitted. Two, I think, are still in the Public Works Department and two with the Highways and Transport Department. Since the Act, was passed, something like ninety-five have applied for pensions and of that number, sixty-four received their pensions. This means that from the time the Act came into operation until the present date, 64 persons have benefitted; 31 were not entitled and the ironic thing is that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph still keeps on singing this song. Before he stops singing this song that the Government is killing people, as soon as we get this legislation through, more will benefit.

It does not sound well for the hon. member to be coming in here with the experience which he has in this House and talk the amount of nonsense which he talked today. He kept on saying that the Government is killing the people; the Government is starving people; the Government wants to see the people die. In his speech, he should be more precise. I have asked him before to give us the names categorically of those who have been suffering from these imaginary ills. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph comes in here and continues to repeat that like poetry. He said absolutely nothing new. When you get down to the cold, hard facts, the Government has done every possible thing it could and we have the record. All that the hon. member did was to delay the time of the House from half-past one to two o'clock. Sir, I want to assure hon. members that the Government is quite concerned with this question of ensuring them employment during their service and afterwards.

With regard to the point raised by the hon. senior member for St. Peter in connection with pensions being computed from time to time on an escalator basis, may I suggest, that this is introducing an entirely new conception into the basis of remuneration for employment for people in this country. Normally, a person retires after a certain length of service, and the basis on which his pension is computed is fixed by law. If he lives for ten years or longer than that, this basis remains. It does not change. I am not for a moment suggesting that the suggestion by the hon. senior member for St. Peter does not have credit. The pension of $60 given to a person in 1954 is worth him one-third of what he was getting when he retired.

What I am saying is that a new conception like this would require more attention. It is also a question of the financial status of the Government whether it can involve itself in a suggestion like this, and I am sure that the hon. senior member for St. Peter would not expect us to speak *ad hoc* on this today. This is a matter to which the Government would have to give careful consideration, and it might mean our getting additional means of revenue and an increase of taxation to meet the additional amount. It is expected that from time to time we will get these advanced theories coming up to us and we would have to give consideration to them. However, I think I am justified in saying that in the process of time the matter would be considered in the appropriate quarters. I do not want to assure hon. members that there is absolutely nothing to need worry about. As I have said, when this Bill is enacted, it means that every single category of employee when he retires from as far back as 1962 and who is entitled to pension would get one.

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

On 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.

3.25 p.m.

Clause 1 was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called. It reads as follows:—

2. The Public Employees Pensions Act, 1961 shall have effect and shall be deemed always to have had effect as if —

(a) the words "a scheduled authority or body" were substituted for the words "any authority or body specified from time to time in the First Schedule to this Act" where those words appear in paragraph (d) of the definition of "public employee" and in paragraph (b) of the definition of "public service" in section 2;

(b) the following definition were inserted immediately after the definition of "salary" in section 2 —

" "scheduled authority or body" means any authority or body specified from time to time in the First Schedule to this Act;";

(c) the following words were added immediately after the word "Act" in the definition of "scheduled office" in section 2 —

"and includes an office held by a wholetime employee of a scheduled authority or body";

(d) the words "and published in the *Official Gazette*" was substituted for the words "for their approval" appearing at the end of subsection (2) of section 3;

(e) the following new subsection numbered "(5)" were added immediately after subsection (4) of section 3 —

"(5) Whenever the Cabinet is satisfied that it is equitable for any regulations made under this section to have retrospective effect in order to confer a benefit upon or remove a disability attaching to any public employee, those regulations may be given retrospective effect for that purposes, but no such regulations shall be of any effect until they have been approved by a resolution of each House of the Legislature."

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I think that it would be ungracious of me if I did not thank the Hon. Minister for the replies which he gave me. As regards the first question about recognition, I quite agree with him. We did not expect an answer; we expected a responsible Minister to meet representatives to discuss the question of recognition, and I am saying that a period of two months is a long time to take in order to decide whether you will meet us or not. It is a question of recognition or of a meeting; you have to meet in order to discuss on what basis we would want recognition. I also agree with the hon. member on the point which I raised about the employment of people. It is within the power of the Minister to take action if he is satisfied that a hardship is created — there is nothing to prevent an amendment being inserted in the Act. The hon. member, in moving towards Ministerial Government and Independence, must bear in mind that we cannot allow Colonial Legislative Regulations to be passed which are no longer meaningful, and we must relate these things to what is modern.

The question of the weekly pension is a financial one. I quite agree with that. A man's pension or a person's pension is computed on what his last salary was. If the Government were to change salaries tomorrow, then automatically they would have increases in the Pension Bill; but what I am saying is that instead of the Government having to face a pension issue which can be settled in itself — that is to say, the Government is now being requested periodically to deal with pensioners, and that need not be so. My view is that this matter of the payment of pensions should not be subject to political changes from time to time. It is purely dependent upon how long a pensioner lives between a revision of the salary scale and the amendment to the Act. If the salary scale has not been changed, a pensioner has no chance of getting an increased pension. The pension can only be changed when the salary changes and it is only a financial adjustment which can be made for the pensioner, and the pensioners do not live long enough to make the pensions a financial burden. I do not think that the financial implications would be as great as what they would appear to be. I think it is a question of settling this thing once and for all, and nobody would ask you again what you are doing with the pensioners. It is a new theory: but it is one which is based on soundness, and if it is once implemented, then that is the end of the matter. In order to forearm the Government in this matter, I think it is necessary for me to introduce a Resolution in this Chamber and have a debate on it so that the House will know how we feel about it. However, I wanted an answer by the 1st December on this question of recognition. We cannot go on waiting; we have the membership and therefore we must have recognition. We do not want to oppose the idea as did the City Council, of recognising somebody because you are recognising the Civil Service Association. We can put the matter to the test tomorrow, many of the workers were asked for their views, and if you were to ask them by a plebiscite whom they want to represent them, whether the Barbados Workers' Union or the Civil Service Association, there is no doubt as to what the answer would be.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would not have spoken on this matter at all if the hon. member had not referred to the Bridgetown City Council. I am the Leader of the Party which has a majority of seats on the Bridgetown City Council, and I would like to say that at no time have we refused to recognise a properly organized Trade Union. The hon. member, who has just sat down, can testify to that. Within fifteen minutes the Bridgetown City Council had a committee to recognise the Barbados Workers' Union, of which the hon. member is the General Secretary, to deal with matters in which the workers asked to be represented. I want to say that where people would try to dictate policy, abuse people and use anything to get me to fix big salaries for certain people and neglect the others, I say that there is another thought coming. I called upon Mr. Matthews, the Local Government Commissioner and I called upon Mr. Welch, the Acting Labour Commissioner on no fewer than four times to make representations: to satisfy themselves: if they had definite proof of certain things, to come out with them: and a year has nearly gone and they have not yet come out with them. I say that we have at no time refused to recognise a properly organized Trade Union; as a matter of fact, the Barbados Workers' Union has been requested by the majority of workers to make representation for them.

3.35 p.m.

I do not believe in allowing certain hon. gentlemen who have not done their homework to make *so to voce* remarks.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There are no hon. gentlemen in here; there are all hon. members.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, it should be drawn to the attention of my hon. friend the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, the Minister's Under-Secretary that this deals with every public employee. The hon. member is a Trade Unionist, and founder of the Trade Union for seamen, and now he gets in here and says he is not dealing with them. I will tell him what he told my friend, the member for St. Peter. He is getting too small for his shoes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow this cross talk.

Mr. MOTTLEY: This is Christmas time and I am only displaying the spirit of goodwill that exists between all of us. There can be no animosity towards the member to whom I am talking; he always reminds me of the Biblical injunction. He does not bemoan the fact that he is small, Jesus said "Zaccheus, come down!" He realises that he is short in stature and other things, and therefore he must be heard at times. He has to go on to a tree to show that he is tall.

Mr. BOXILL: Before you put the question, Sir, it is true that Zaccheus did go up in a tree because he was short, but he might also have been in the tree because Christ was short and he wanted to see Christ. I will tell the hon. Leader of the Opposition that height has never been an indication of sense; otherwise "Eddie" would have been a Ph.D.

The question that Clause 2 stand part was put and resolved in the affimative without division.

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

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

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, before you call the next Order of the Day, I should like to ask leave to give

notice that a Bill to amend the Friendly Societies (Repeal of Special Acts) Act, 1964, be read a first time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Michael is craving the indulgence of the House at this stage of its proceedings to move the first reading of a Bill to amend the Friendly Societies Act, and if there is no objection, the hon. member may so proceed.

There being no objection, the hon. member may proceed.

May I warn the hon. member that this spirit of Christmas may not always manifest itself?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Friendly Societies (Repeal of Special Acts) Act, 1964, be now read a first time.

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

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

THE CASUAL EMPLOYEES PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1964

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 6 stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned senior member for St. John.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is seeking its leave to proceed with this Bill in the absence of the Hon. and Learned member for St. John, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted and the Hon. Leader of the House may proceed.
3.45 p.m.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this Bill is really another attempt by the Government so to improve the legislation under which its employees retire that if and when they do retire they will receive the pensions to which they are entitled with the minimum of delay and trouble.

This Bill seeks to amend the Casual Employees Pensions Act, 1961 (Act 1961-44) to —

(a) make the casual employees of the Agricultural Credit Bank and the Housing Authority eligible for pensions and gratuities;

(b) permit the service of casual employees who are transferred from local government service to be taken into ac ount as pensionable service;

(c) require contributions to be paid into the Public Treasury in aid of the pensions of the casual employees referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) above;

(d) define the expression "continuous service" for the purposes of section 11 in order to clarify the meaning of that expression in view of the fact that the service of most casual employees is not really continuous.

I think I have said enough on the other Bill as to make it unnecessary for me to speak at length on this Bill.

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

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

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

On 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 separately and passed.

Clause 3 was called. It reads as follows:—

Section 4 of the principal Act is amended as follows —

(a) by renumbering the section as subsection (1);

(b) by adding immediately after subsection (1) (as renumbered) the following subsection as subsection (2) —

"(2) Every scheduled authority or body shall, in respect of the financial year 1964-65 and every financial year thereafter, on the demand of the Accountant General, pay out of its funds into the Public Treasury in aid of the pensions of its casual employees a sum equal to one quarter of the amount paid as wages in each financial year to such employees in respect of employment for two hundred and twenty days."

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to move that Clause 3 stand part.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I always wanted to ask the Government what is the logic of putting in a Clause like this in these Bills. This is what is stated in this sub-section:

"(2) Every scheduled authority or body shall, in respect of the financial year 1964-65 and every financial year thereafter, on the demand of the Accountant General, pay out of its funds into the Public Treasury in aid of the pensions of its casual employees a sum equal to one quarter of the amount paid as wages in each financial year to such employees in respect of employment for two hundred and twenty days."

What I do not understand is this. All the money which the Housing Authority receives comes from the Public Treasury because the rents which they receive have to be paid into the Public Treasury. What I really do not understand is what is this sort of financial connundrum you have that you are paying out money from the Public Treasury to the Housing Authority and then you are telling the Housing Authority to pay back some of the money towards employees' pension.

Sir, I never have been able to understand this classic arithmetic. Although you give them $1 million to do housing, out of that they have to give you back $30,000 for pension. I never could understand that. What I really want to know is, if the Government is responsible for granting pensions to the employees of the Housing Authority, why do you have to go in for this sort of financial juggling? It creates confusion to me. I cannot see how it is necessary.

Sir, I would like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Labour that I think the time has come when the Housing Authority should have a Committee set up to deal with its funds and the money which it gets from the Labour Fund. Like all the other territories in the West Indies, we think the time has come when this should be administered by a Committee and not by the Cabinet, because you are administering money and the Cabinet should not be in that. I am only saying this in passing.

As I was saying, I would like to understand why we have to undertake this expensive arrangement of doing it like this. I can quite understand why you should do it in this manner as regards the Councils because a Council is an independent body. As regards the Housing Authority, that body can only get money when the Government gives it annually. I cannot understand why you would have to pass

this kind of legislation to regularise a pension being paid to its employees. May be, the legal experts may say that this is for some good reason. I am not against it. This is the only point I want to raise. The Government is really paying the pensioners, and not the Housing Authority *per se*.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, while I do understand it being done as regards Local Councils, I do not see why you should have it with respect to such Departments or Boards which come entirely under Government; therefore, I agree with the hon. senior member for St. Peter who has just sat down. The Hon. Leader of the House knows pretty well that there were the days when we had people who turned from the Government to take jobs in the Local Government Service, and the system was worked out whereby you took the service which they had put in in the Government Service with that which they had put in in the Local Government Service to compute their pensions. There were the days when you had the Road Board, and you had people who went straight from the Road Board into the Department of Highways and Transport, and the service which they had put in with the Road Board was taken into consideration so as to arrive at the number of years which they had put in, and their pensions were computed on that. The Hon. Leader of the House would recall that you had people who started their service with the Government of this country, may be at the Hospital, and then ended up their service in the Local Government and then what actually happened was that they took that person's services in the Local Government and the Central Government and added them together and computed a pension on that, and the person stood to lose nothing.
3.55 p.m.

I am sure that the Hon. Leader of the House and the Hon. Minister of Communications know about this matter, because it has happened with somebody in St. Philip; it has happened with an organist. Like the hon. member who has just sat down, I say that there might be some method of accounting, some method of doing it; but I do not understand it. As to the question of the Local Government Authorities paying a contribution to the Central Government, if you work for the Central Government or for the Local Government and then come over to Central Government, I can see what they are driving at. For instance, there may be inspectors who were working for the Local Government and they were promoted to the Central Government, and if their last ten years were put in with the Central Government, it was easy to compute that and pay it proportionately. If this amount is paid by the Local Government with the pension which is given today, people who have ability can do a lot better if they were to take jobs outside.

Mr. Chairman, what is the position going to be? I am not in a position today to offer any objection to this proposal, but I must confess that the reasons for which the Government has brought down this Bill are not clear to me. It has been said that the Central Government and the Local Government must make their contributions, and that principle applies where people work with Boards. I do not know if the Hon. Minister will explain the matter more carefully than he has done during the course of his outline of the Bill. When we had a sort of metamorphosis in the 1920's, all these pensions were paid, I want to say, Sir, that you had some very vindictive and malicious people in the Government at the time, and I remember that when members of the Government now were in the Opposition, they refused to take a bet in relation to a woman who had given service to the Empire and had gone into the Local Government Service. You went from the Local Government Service to the Central Government Service, and when the time came, some malicious people refused to take into consideration the services of a person which he had given to the Government. I say that that man has used his experience and ability quite recently. Hon. members will know to whom I am referring. I do hope that this Bill will set the matters I have mentioned right. What I am worried about in this Bill is this: when these people die, what will happen to their gratuities and so on?

The question that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Clauses 4 to 6 inclusive were called and passed.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report the passing of one Bill 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 Bill was read a third time and passed.

MARKETS AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries:- To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Markets and Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to amend the Markets and Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, for the following purposes:-

(a) to extend from three to five miles the limits of the areas within which no slaughtering may be done except in a public or licensed slaughterhouse;

(b) to transfer from the Cabinet to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (who is charged with responsibility for the subject of Marketing) the power to hear appeals under sections 20 (5) and 23A (5) from decisions of the Chief Supervisor of Markets;

(c) to allow permits to be issued for any period not exceeding a year instead of only for a fixed period of one year as is now required by subsection (2) of section 23A; and

(d) to require the Chief Supervisor of Markets merely to consult the Commissioner of Police before issuing a permit under section 23A. At present the Chief Supervisor is required by subsection (3) of section 23A to obtain the approval of the Commissioner of Police for the issue of a permit in respect of the particular part of the public place to which it is proposed that a permit shall relate.

Certain minor consequential amendments have also been made to sections 2, 5 (1) and 25 (2).
4.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the amendment to this Bill would be for a higher standard of sanitation and health in this island, and the Government would also be in a better position to keep records of the amount of animals slaughtered in the island, and thereby know the requirements in case the Government did have to issue licences for importation. It is in accordance with this that we are in a position now to state the amount of pigs killed over the last six months, and if we had a greater control within the City limits, we would be able to calculate on a closer basis the amount of animals killed in the Island, and therefore know the amount that would be required in case the normal rearing in the Island decreased.

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

Hon. A. Da.C. EDWARDS: I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, we all agree that a Bill of this nature is in the interest of the health of the people in this country for the simple reason that there are certain diseases in animals, which, if not slaughtered

under the eye of a professionally trained man, can be very injurious to the human body. Be that as it may, there has always been a difference of opinion among the veterinary surgeons of the world as to whether such diseases that exist among animals, though not slaughtered in the properly organised slaughter-houses and under the eye of a qualified man, if boiled or taken through a certain process of heat still remain injurious or infectious to the human system. That is, however, not the point I am taking in this matter today. I mentioned that in passing to allow the Hon. Minister and his Government to realise that there are people who see this through the same eye as I do, not merely laymen, but scientifically trained men.

This Bill seeks to extend from three to five miles the limits of the areas within which no slaughtering may be done except in a public or licensed slaughterhouse. From my experience in public health matters, I would be the last to offer opposition to anything that meant the good health of the people of this colony; but as I have always said, whenever you are doing things in a community, you must take into consideration the economic situation surrounding the circumstances. At present, as long as you are outside the three-mile limit, you may kill a sheep, a pig, a goat or any other animal and sell it, but now you must be outside the five mile limit. No matter what the legal phraseology is here, in simple parlance you must be five miles outside the City to kill anything and sell it at your butcher's shop. I am wondering if the Government has taken into consideration that within the Municipality where there are some 92,000 people living in approximately 28,500 houses, there is one slaughterhouse as such, and if the law is not to be observed in the breach when this Bill is passed, it means that that slaughterhouse must be used for slaughtering all the animals to be slaughtered and sold. I am perfectly willing to give in to the Minister if I make a mistake.

The next most important point is whether Government has taken into consideration that there is no other point in St. Michael that is five miles outside the Municipality except where St. Michael touches St. Thomas, and that is at the Exchange point. As soon as you step over the five mile limit at places like Lears, Bibby Lane and outer St. James, you can kill, and you can also bring it inside the five mile limit and sell. I believe the Government means well in doing this, but you must have slaughterhouses at such points with trained men, not necessarily veterinary surgeons, because long have gone the days when only veterinary surgeons examined meat. There are Inspectors who have gained certificates from the Royal Sanitary Institute for the purpose of inspecting meat. In this Bill you are enacting legislation which will be nothing but a farce for the simple reason that as soon as you pass the five mile stone in St. James, all the people running the luxury hotels can buy meat that was not slaughtered in a slaughterhouse under the eye of certain men; therefore you are enacting legislation before you are ready. If you think of such places like Wanstead to the Leprosarium, Rendezvous, or Little Simmons by Charles Rowe Bridge, there is only one point that you can stretch to five miles, and that is between Lears and Exchange.
4.15 p.m.

If you took it to the point to where it goes, like to a place called Little Simmons, out of all of these, there is only one point which you can get up to five miles and, therefore, that is the only point. Are you fooling yourself now that in every one of these villages, people are going to slaughter all the animals in a public or licensed slaughterhouse in another few days? Those of us who are living outside the City will be hearing pigs crying all up by Waterford, Hothersal Turning and all up as far as Green Hill.

The point I am making is that you have restrictions up to the five mile limit and as soon as you step over the five mile limit you can kill without any licence. You can kill pigs after you get to that limit, sell pork and do everything.

I am saying that what you are doing is a good thing. This is something which is done in all big countries; but in doing this, you must study the economics. Within two days from now, every other person in the village would be killing his pig and offering his two pounds or four pounds of pork for sale.

Where is your slaughterhouse in Speightstown. That is a town too. I wonder what the hon. senior member for St. Peter is going to say about this. The hon. member knows that as regards the Northern District, although a certain amount of meat is imported for the luxury hotels, in actual fact a lot of it is got from people who slaughter in the villages, although in actual fact according to the regulations, this meat must be inspected before it is sold. There are regulations stating that before any is sold you should get in touch with the Local authorities and get it inspected. These regulations are of great benefit to the health standards. It is all right to put this on paper and it is all right to say that a Veterinary Surgeon has to see it, but there are other people trained to do it.

I want to ask the Hon. Minister how many places besides the slaughter house which you have in Bridgetown are licensed slaughtering houses? If there are more than that, where are they? If you were to put down a slaughtering house in the various villages, then they can be taken over by the Local Government authorities.

I would like to tell the Hon. Minister, and he is well aware of it, you have made provision for Sanitary Inspectors to go to Jamaica to be trained as Health Inspectors and there are many inspectors who are trained; therefore, if we put a slaughteringhouse in each area, we can send one of these inspectors to examine this meat. Let us be frank about it. Where is the five mile stone on the route going up Hastings way? Are you going to kill everything in Oistins? Where is the slaughterhouse up there?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The law does not refer to selling; it refers to slaughtering within the five mile limit.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If the hon. member was not an old, true and trusted friend of mine, I would really take him up on that. Do you sell pigs by cutting off their legs? How are you going to sell them? Let us be factual; let us be realists. Are you really asking the man just outside the five-mile limit to take out a licence when the one slaughteringhouse which you have in Barbados is in Bridgetown and he would have to go down there to kill a hog and then go back to where he lives and sell it?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: According to the Objects and Reasons of this Bill, any person outside the five-mile limit who wants to kill would still be issued with a licence.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Sir, now that the hon. member has made that point, and the hon. member is one who has always seen the wisdom, I would say now that we are only interested in the health of those who come within the five-mile limit. If the hon. member was listening to me he would have seen the point which I was making. The hon. member said that you are now extending it to five miles. What I am saying is this. You are using the people's money to train inspectors in the inspection of food. Set up points where the inspectors can go to inspect the meat. You have licences issued, but you can still have a pig killed without being inspected, and with the untrained eye there goes unnoticed any disease which the pig might have had. The hon. member knows what I am talking about.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The hon. senior member for the City said that certain villages are still within the limits of three miles, and you would hear pigs being killed in those districts. I will say that even now that we have extended it you will still be hearing them.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have admitted all of that already. Why make ourselves look stupid by passing a law which we know is not easy to apply? You are saying that everybody within five miles must come to the slaughter house. I am saying that if you live at Bibby's Lane, if you live at

Hothersal Turning, it means that you must bring every pig you want to kill to the slaughterhouse down there. That is absolutely unadulterated nonsense. I do not mean that it is nonsense to protect the health of the people.
4.25 p.m.

You should make use of such men as you have trained. In all three of the Councils now, you have trained persons, and if you have Fish Inspectors at these various points you should also put Meat Inspectors at these points. Unless you do that you are not doing anything. You are saying in this Bill that you are extending from three miles to five miles the limits of the areas within which no slaughtering must be done except in a public or licensed slaughterhouse. You are saying that this slaughtering must be done in the market or otherwise there is a penalty. I do not think that the Hon. Minister was quite serious when he spoke about this slaughtering. This is one of the opinions of one of the very highly trained men who feel that this should be done, but I think it is a waste of time to pass this Bill unless you are going to have inspections made at certain points. I think that the Hon. Minister knows me well enough, because I would get up in here and ask what is the number of licensed butchers you have and things like that; but I do not want to be in any way facetious.

I could ask what is the number of licences which we have issued down here and in the island. It is known, Sir, that the agricultural labourers are people who use fresh meat once a week because of the economic position of these people. However, Sir, as I say, I do not propose to ask all of these questions today, but my commonsense tells me that, in the absence of providing slaughterhouses, the proposals in this Bill cannot be so easily carried out. You could have your trained inspector carrying out meat inspections and that could be done, but not by merely having this five-mile limit.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I quite agree with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in some of the things which he has said. I do not think that the Government expects that this Bill will work; it will not work in Barbados in the true sense of the word. It is a part of the basic characteristic of an agricultural community where people are in the rural areas; that is to say, people in the rural areas are not heavy meat-eating people, and therefore the slaughtering of animals is not an organized thing in the country. The slaughtering in the country districts usually takes place on Wednesdays and on Saturdays and sometimes it takes place only on Saturdays. Sometimes it is a question of habit. Even in Barbados there is a heavy eating of carbohydrates because it is a question of habit. What I regard as being important is that we should encourage people to know that slaughtering under supervision is better than slaughtering without supervision. I do not think that the Government feels that it is eliminating the illicit slaughtering which is going on, because the illicit slaughtering is encouraged. The plantation philosophy is to kill a pig and divide it among the people; but no Sergeant of Police would prosecute the manager of any plantation for slaughtering a pig and giving the people on the plantation meat to eat. The people would say that the manager was kind to them and things of that nature.

In Barbados the people believe in the self-service basis of killing. They say that instead of selling the pig to the butcher, they can kill it too. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition is in an excellent position in the City of Bridgetown where he will admit that the Vestry in the old days, took a step in this direction, and it was a question of keeping pigs within certain City limits; and there was the same objection about people keeping pigs within the City. Barbadians have to live in a modern society. Some people believe that they can keep animals which do not allow people to sleep at night. I feel that it is a good thing to encourage people to realise that the slaughtering of animals with supervision is better than slaughtering animals without supervision, and that is in the interest of health. I remember listening to the radio during the week, and I heard that it was only a little error in England — and that error arose from slaughtering — when the authorities found that some corned beef was infectious; that corned beef hospitalised some 1,500 people in England with the complaint of typhoid fever.
4.35 p.m.

The hon. member knows that some people in trade or business feel that they cannot throw away half a million dollars in commodities, but they can throw away half a million lives, and sometimes a man may kill a pig or a cow and maybe sweep out the whole of his family through eating infectious meat, but may put the blame on having caught a cold, not knowing that it is the infectious meat which they had eaten that caused these things. I do not think that in one breath you can spend $12,000 on poliomyelitis, something you cannot see, and then in another breath you do not think of protecting these basic things. I would say that in Barbados we are a little lax on Public Health matters, and I think we should tighten up. The hon. member says that you should have more slaughterhouses, but that may not be appropriate as you very well know the attitude of people. I know a butcher in Speightstown who under the law has to satisfy the authorities that he has a proper place to kill his animals, but I believe that in these rural areas, the tendency is for people to converge in Bridgetown, and those who want to purchase meat are going to do so at the Market in Bridgetown. With as good a bus service as we have in Barbados, that is going to happen. (A VOICE: Not now.) The hon. member says "not now", but let him put a slaughterhouse at Pie Corner and see what would happen. We had the example of having put a market with refrigerators in St. Philip to sell meat, green peas and eddoes, but the people started to play dominoes, and the market turned out to be a domino market; so I would say to the hon. member that I do not think we can test buying habits and behaviour theoretically. You have to work by the drift and what you see taking place. If there are butchers in these areas and a lot of killing is going on on a systematic basis, you will have to examine it.

I believe, Sir, that there may be a need for additional slaughterhouses, but you will have to examine that very carefully, because the hon. member must bear in mind that the Government now grants a man a licence to kill meat under inspections outside the five mile limit. The hon. member knows that there was a time when the Vestries did not have any person capable of inspecting meat unless they used meat inspectors from the General Board of Health; so I would say in a general way that anything which has a tendency to tighten up on your Public Health affairs is a good thing. I would say that the characteristics of the Barbadian are such that they have been killing on plantations and in villages, and there is going to be a slow process of getting people to adhere to this; so you should extend the limit gradually. And if it is a question of providing slaugherhouses, let your experts examine it to see whether you need a slaugherhouse at a particular area which would be used under proper supervision. I do not like this after-the-event business, of waiting until we get an epidemic. I am no scientist or doctor, but even they do not always know the basic reason for many an epidemic. Often there is a terrifying epidemic, but they do not know whether it comes from this, or whether it started at this point as a result of that; so they are still in the dark. Sometimes it starts from something we know, but are not aware of. I feel, therefore, that anything in Public Health is in the best interest of the public.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for St. Peter has stated that outside the five mile range more small animals are slaughtered, but that would be merely once and in some instances twice a week, which would pinpoint that the majority of animals are slaughtered within the City area. It is not only from the point of view of health conditions, but this process is going to be recorded and it would therefore be prcatically useless to maintain slaughterhouses at the five mile limit when the present slaughterhouse is not used to capacity. Besides that, there is always the possibility of keeping a good check on the amount of animals slaughtered and the weight of them if you want to develop the standard and the amount of animals reared in the country for statistical purposes.

Records show that within the last six months a large amount of pigs were killed, and it took practically twice that amount of animals in two or three months to give the same weight. It is these facts and statistics which would enable the Government to know when to issue licences when the required amount of a commodity such as pork was dropping in this Island through the rearing of less pigs. Since it took nearly twice the amount of animals to give the weight of the animals slaughtered for the three months previously, that was a clear indication that your biggest animals were being slaughtered, and that is one of the reasons that the Ministry of Trade was able to grant permission to issue licences for the importation of pork for this season.

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

On the motion of Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, 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.

4.45 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 9 inclusive were called separately and passed.

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

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

THE WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking for leave to take the Bill to amend the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1940.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for Christ Church is seeking the leave of the House to proceed now with the Bill to amend the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1940 (1940-22).

If there is no objection, leave will be granted the Hon. Minister. *(A Pause).*

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, according to a statement made by the Hon. Premier in his Budget Speech on 30th June last, he said that the Government proposes to remove the licence fee on wireless sets. This Bill therefore seeks to amend the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1940, 1940-22 in order to remove the requirement for licences in respect of wireless broadcast receivers and to provide for consequential amendments to the Act. The amendments, as made, would also make such provision as appears necessary or desirable in view of the introduction of television.

As hon. members know, these licences, were observed in the breach. Licences for Wireless Broadcasting receivers, as I have said, expired on 31st July, 1964. Certain provisions of this Bill would therefore be made retrospective from the first week of August, 1964.

The Bill also seeks to provide for the repeal of the definition of "Inspector" in the Act and the construction of references to the Inspector as references to the Electrical Engineer – Part 11 of the Schedule. It is desirable that these changes should become operative at the same time as similar changes intended to be made in the Electricity Act, 1936, 1936-2 and therefore provision is made for them to be brought into operation by proclamation.

In short, in so far as radio sets are concerned, these licences would not be collected now, but the other legislation would be rigidly adhered to.

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

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

Mr. WALCOTT: I have no objection to the removal because I always felt that Barbados had no justification in making you pay a radio licence. Now, the hon. member said that these regulations would be rigidly adhered to. What I would like to know is the idea of your making one pay a licence; is it because the operation of the service is not paying? I do not believe in your making on e pay a licence just for so. What I would really like to know is if the Carribbean Broadcasting Corporation is a self-supporting enity because this licence fee is not going to the Broadcasting Corporation; it is going to the Government as Government revenue. I do know that in the process of time I would know approximately the position.

4.55 p.m.

Sir, I do not feel that when you buy a television set, you should pay duty on it. It is something which is at a high price, and when the ad valorem duty is added to it, you make your contribution when you buy it by being the owner of it. By taxing a television set, that will not mean that that is additional revenue. I do not believe that you should tax a man because he has a television set because the next thing you will hear is that they will tax you because you have a refrigerator. I want to say, Sir, that when you have a television set, your electricity expenses will go up. If the Company is right, if they are making a profit that they can amortise their debt and make the users of T.V. pay a fee – I say that television is something which you have to purchase. That being so, I would like to know what are the reasons behind this licence fee. I would be very glad to hear what those reasons are.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the points raised by the hon. senior member for St. Peter are, of course, of great interest and I think that the position with respect to the matter should be made quite clear. The hon. member is, of course, aware that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has vested in it the power and authority to establish and maintain a Television Service as it has with respect to a Radio Service. Those two services are composite operations run by this statutory Body. When the Cabinet was considering certain financial implications arising out of the joint operations of radio and television, it reached certain conclusions, financial and fiscal, the most important of which were these: in so far as the importation of television sets is concerned, or the component parts, we would not lay any consumption tax, at least for a period of five years from June, 1964. We further concluded that the profit margin on the sale of television sets should not exceed 25% of the cost of the sets. The third conclusion in this respect is that an annual licence fee of $10 should be levied on each television set sold or erected, and an amount equivalent to the amount of revenue derived from such fees should accrue to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. In fact, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation will receive, as part of its revenue what is collected from the licence fee. That is a part of the sundry financial arrangements which we have drawn up, it seems to me that there should be no short fall of revenue to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, and we have decided in this respect that the licence fee for radio sets should go to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. If there is any cavilling at this arrangement, it must be borne in mind that while we are imposing a licence fee of $10 on each set which is sold, we are not imposing any consumption tax.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I think that the Hon. Minister of Education who is also responsible for broadcasting, has explained the position very adequately. However, Sir, I will simply add that there should be no parallel drawn between the licence fee for ordinary radio and that for a television set. In the case of the ordinary radio, that is a separate and distinct operation. It is an independent operation not relying on any capital expenditure of the Government, whereas in the case of T.V. sets, you can only function provided that there is an arrangement for television made by some company and, in this case, by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation which is not very expensive. In the case of the Television set, the licence fee for that depends upon the service which obtains at the present time.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that you do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Bill.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: 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 on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

Clause 3 was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I must thank the Hon. Minister of Education and the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works for the replies which they have given me, but I must take this opportunity to make this comment. The Hon. Minister of Education has said, and I am glad to hear him state it, that they went into all the financial implications of TV; but in the United States of America, the people there do not pay any licence fee in order to get television and they have programmes going all day. 5.05 p.m.

Now you may say that in the United States of America, television is on a proper basis, but the hon. member must bear in mind that he is copying the English system here. The British Broadcasting Station started as a non-commercial broadcasting Corporation, and they made the licensing fee go to the Corporation; but you must bear in mind that C.B.C. radio and C.B.C. T.V. are commercial stations and they are getting revenue from the fact that you have a television to watch; and the greater the viewers in television and the more radios there are, the greater will be the cost to people, because if 2,000 television sets have now been sold, that means that the Corporation will get $20,000 a year, and you have to watch that.

The hon. member talks about a consumption tax, but there is no point in putting up a Broadcasting Station and then making a television set such a luxury that nobody wants to buy one; therefore it is a false thing. If you are putting up a Television and Broadcasting Station simultaneously, and it is for education and the like, I feel that $10 a year on a television set is too high and you have to reduce it. That is the tax which a person would pay on an acre of land. After all, this is a licensing fee and not the total cost of one's enjoyment. Any person who owns a television set has to have electricity and pay for other things. The next thing you will see is a tax put on a man owning a refrigerator, or if you own ten pairs of shoes, on the eleventh pair you must pay a tax.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that this will be reviewed, because although this fee is not a considerable portion of your income, it is high, though for the first year it is already included in the purchase tax and people do not feel it. To pay $400 for a commodity and then $10 each year after as a tax for ownership is a fairly high tax, and the programmes we are getting for the time being are programmes manufactured already. I hope therefore that as time goes on this will be modified and brought in line with a more reasonable figure, because it does seem to me that $10 as a licensing fee on a television set is high for an item such as that.

The question that Clause 3 stand part was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

The Schedule was called and passed.

On the motion of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, 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. C. E. TALMA, seconded in each case by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1964

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with the Resolution to approve the Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Regulations, 1964.

I understand, Sir, that copies have not yet been circulated.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1964

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with a Bill to amend the Public Utilities Act, 1951.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. senior member for Christ Church seeks the leave of the House to deal with a Bill to amend the Public Utilities Act, 1951, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the Objects and Reasons set out that this Bill seeks to amend the Public Utilities Act, 1951, 1951-31, in order to bring within the definition of "public utility" in Section 2 any person (or company) who owns or operates motor omnibuses (as defined), thereby placing responsibility for the fixing of motor omnibus fares on the Public Utilities Board. The Bill seeks to make consequential amendments to other provisions of the Act and to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937, 1937-16 and to provide for transitional matters.
5.15 p.m.

This is a Bill to amend the Public Utilities Act, 1951, (1951-31), so that the fixing of busfares should be done by the Public Utilities Board and not how it is done at present.

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

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir, I did not hear all the hon. member said, but from the Objects and Reasons, this Bill seeks to amend the Public Utilities Act, in order to bring within the definition of "public utility" any person who owns or operates motor omnibuses, thereby placing the responsibility for the fixing of bus fares on the Public Utilities Board.

What I really want to say, now that I am on this question, is that bringing this under the Public Utilities Board and operating as it is, in this loose and disconnected fashion is going to present a problem.

Why I say that is this: in a general way, the utilities which the Public Utilities Board now deals with happen to be composite companies such as the Telephone Company, the Light and Power Company or the Gas Company. Now that you are going to deal with seven bus concessionaires in a manner like this to determine what the fares should be, it is going to be a herculean task for the Public Utilities Board, because you will not be looking at one balance sheet, but at several. Because of that, you are going to find it an extremely difficult task to determine the fares which should operate. You may be asking someone to operate on a fare

structure when the revenue from his operation may differ from another.

This Government at one time was not dynamic about public ownership of transport, but they have found out that transport is so vital to the life of modern society that they cannot ignore it: so you have them choosing this situation of putting this in the hands of the Public Utilities Board.

Some time ago, the Hon. Minister of Communications said to me in reply to a question that we have made requests for wages for workers in the transport service to be reviewed on a two year basis when the Government's Budget is on a three-year basis. We did not negotiate with the Government *per se;* we negotiated with the statutory body.

Sir, I am not opposed to any system which you may choose, but the system must be sound. What seems sensible to me is that you should have a system which is responsible for all of the buses in Barbados, and that would be the only way in which you could record the total income which comes from the operation of public transport.

At present we have people in Barbados running transport some of whom are using Bedford buses, some Mercedes, some Leylands and so on. When you have your capital expended in many kinds of rolling stock, it cannot be economical because if you had a train service, some of which operated on a six-inch track, and some on a four-inch track, it could not be economical because you will have to think of rolling stock for two kinds of tracks. You therefore think of having the service on one kind of track. The position would be similar. If you have one type of bus you would not have to fly up to Germany to get something for the Mercedes and then go to England to get something for the Leylands. If you have one type of bus, you would be dealing with one person from whom you could get all your spare parts. You have a lot of rolling stock on the street for which parts are very expensive and you have to replace them from different sources. That is a cause for the high operational costs of the running of the service, and now you come and tell me that instead of your fixing the bus fares, you are turning that over to the Public Utilities Board.

What we need in the operation of public transport is managerial skill and managerial techniques and know-how at the highest level in order to minimise these sort of high costs which you are importing. Higher wages give a higher purchasing power to the people because higher wages go to people who have to eat food and to purchase the things which they need; but when you have to import things at a high cost, you are importing unemployment. I do not think the Public Utilities Board is the best body for dealing with this higgledy-piggledy method which you have for a bus service. If this Board is going to examine this thing expertly, it will mean that it is going to have to deal with eight companies with eight different balance sheets. You are asking this Board now to fix the norm for bus fares. I hope that I do not hear the ignorance again by some of the people who run transport that they cannot pay higher wages until the Government fixes the rate of bus fares. The Public Utilities Board has nothing to do with the wages.

I have seen the balance sheets of these people and have seen what money they make. I have seen that some of these people are making hundreds of dollars as profit, and then pay out a high dividend to their shareholders, and then they take the matter to the Public Utilities Board; therefore, I do not want to find ourselves in the same idiotic position where the employers say that they have to wait on the Public Utilities Board to find out what they can pay out for wages because the Public Utilities Board is not a wage-fixing body.

Sir, I believe that the Government is doing this as a matter of expedience because I cannot see the Public Utilities Board fixing bus fares when it has to deal with eight bodies which have differing financial balance sheets. Whenever you come to dump workers on the employment market, nobody seems to worry about that; but when it comes to anything pertaining to employers, somebody sees something operating against them. Now, there is all the pressure about your utilising everything to limit the workers although you do not have anywhere to put them.

We are not going to get any added benefit by putting this in the hands of the Public Utilities Board. You will get benefits from the Public Utilities Board if you were to have one motor omnibus corporation running all your transport so that when this Board examines this corporation, you will have it dealing with the examining of the whole situation.

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

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

5.25 p.m.

Clauses 1 to 8 inclusive were called and passed.

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

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

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

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

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

ORDER POSTPONED

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with a Resolution to approve the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 1964.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that this Resolution cannot be proceeded with today since I have been instructed that the Regulations have not been circulated.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) ORDER

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, earlier today I asked permission to deal with a Resolution to approve "The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 13 Order, 1964 of which notice was given today. I am now asking leave therefore to deal with this Resolution at this stage.

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I am further asking leave, Mr. Speaker, to deal with this Order on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Health:- To move the passing of the following Resolution:- Resolution to approve the Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) No. 13 Order, 1964. The Hon. Minister may proceed.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, this Order makes provision for the following increases in the Establishment of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital:- One post of Specialist Paediatrician, one post of Specialist Obstetrician

and Gynaecologist, and the provision of fees for Registrars with Specialist qualifications. In the early proposals by the Ministry as to the administration of the Hospital which was then administered by the Medical Superintendent, proposals were brought forward for the establishment of two posts of Specialist Paediatrician. At that time, considering the financial implications, it was thought that we should provide one of these posts instead of two. Subsequently, strong representation was made not only by the management of the Hospital but also by the Consultants who came down here to advise on the proper running of the Hospital and also by the representatives from the University of the West Indies who proposed to use this Hospital, that there should be these additional posts established. In the original proposals there were to be two posts of Specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and only one of these posts was provided. The duties of the Specialist Obstetrician and Gynaecologist are greater than those of dealing with cases at the Obstetric Department. There will be an Outpatients Department or Clinic which was formerly carried on at "Enmore" Health Centre. That Clinic will now be operated at the Hospital and in the proposed District Hospitals which cater chiefly to midwivery cases, the Obstetrician at the General Hospital will be responsible for the proper conduct of affairs and the proper services at these District Hospitals. Added to that, the Maternity Hospital or the services at the Maternity Hospital, which used to be carried on at "Verona" have been transferred to the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and this arrangement will give us a number of 80 beds for Obstetric and Gynaecology cases which this Specialist will have to look after. With a population of 240,000 persons, it is considered necessary that a minimum of two Specialist Obstetricians and Gynaecologists should be adequate for running the services at the Hospital for the benefit of the island.

I may point out, Sir, that there are also 80 beds provided at the new Hospital for Paediatric cases and it is considered that a minimum of two Paediatricians should be provided in order to keep these services going.
5.35 p.m.

On the surgical side, there are 144 beds, and on the medical side, there are 144 beds. Provision is made for three Specialist Physicians. When the last Civil Establishment Order was dealt with, it was stated that only two of these posts of Specialist Physician would be filled, but steps have been taken to have all three of the posts filled so that the services at the Hospital in medicine would be satisfactorily provided. In the Surgery we still have the Visiting Surgeons, and we have made provision for two Surgeon Specialists besides the other Registrars which make up the Department. There are still three Visiting Surgeons who come in to take care of some of these 144 beds.

In the Eye Department, there are 47 beds. There is a full time Opthalmologist and a part-time one; so you can see that the ratio of doctors to a bed is reasonable when we think of the visiting and part time people who come in to assist. Earlier today I mentioned that there are 33,000 children in the age group of one to five years. Now if we have fewer than two Paediatricians to look after the care of these 33,000 children and over, what are we doing? If we are having two Paediatric Departments, they should be well staffed, and the children of this age group should have adequate attention; so we could not do it satisfactorily with fewer than two Paediatricians.

Now on the question of Registrars, Mr. Speaker, we have been experiencing difficulty in recruiting. Right now, of the 13 or 14 posts of Registrar which we have on the Staff at the Hospital, there are eight not filled. One of the reasons is that those people who are of Registrar grade and who do not have Specialist qualifications find it more attractive to get their qualifications before they work as Registrars, and it is difficult to recruit them. The other thing is that when those who have Specialist qualifications are offered jobs as Registrars, they prefer to accept jobs where they will have Consultant status. In Barbados there was no provision for people with those Specialist qualifications other than the senior posts in the various Departments at the Hospital to receive fees, and in order to recruit and retain our staff in this Grade, we considered it necessary to make provision for those Registrars with Specialist qualifications to receive fees.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I objected earlier today to dealing with this Resolution in all its stages, but during the luncheon interval I had a talk with the Minister and he said he would explain it and I promised to stay a while. I should like to say that I do not want to hold things up, but I have always said that you want to go in a Hospital that is well staffed. I do not believe in pushing around people. Now, all is not well at the Hospital, and if you are going to start, you had better start on a good foot. I will say to the Minister that we have in this Island a man on the Hospital staff as a Senior Physician who had given this country good service, and is recognised internationally for his ability. Somehow or other, there are some people in Barbados who expect a highly qualified man to get on like a yard-fowl, to come and beg people and bow and scrape to people in order to get what is his due. There are some people who are 'lip-spittle' people even though they are professionals; others are not. We have a Senior Physician at the Hospital who came back to this island when hundreds of people had to leave Barbados and go to the United Kingdom or America to get treatment, and he has been able to save money in people's pockets in this country by remaining in Barbados and by his putting them back on their feet. I find that he is one of the officers at this Hospital who seems to be subjected, if not to humiliation, to treatment as if he is some person who is knocking at the door for a job. I make particular reference to Dr. Forde. This has been going on for some time, and the treatment meted out to certain people at this Hospital is not good enough. People in position that should be consulted are not consulted, and then there is a lot of round robin business being done.

I am coming out in the open, Mr. Speaker, because I do not like any hush-hush policy. I understand that there are some shoes being sold in Bridgetown called "Hush-Puppies", but I am no "Hush Puppy". The reason why I want this to be publicly known is that you have to stop things at the root; if not, they begin to grow and they may grow awkardly. Since Dr. Forde has not been Superintendent, changes have been taking place up there. You do not have any qualified Hospital Administrator and you find that people who might have been doing a job for some time, clerical people and people who have been acting as Secretaries are being pushed around, because some people have the idea that the Hospital is something they built out of their own pockets, not realising that it is the taxpayers' money.

Now I will say to the Minister that there are certain members of the Staff at the Hospital whom my Union is going to take over, and I want to serve notice that our attitude is different from that of the Civil Service Association. Some of your little Nabobs want to tell people that when the new Hospital opens, they may not get a job there, whether it be in the kitchen, laundry or elsewhere. They may have their own friends to bring on to work, but that is not happening with us. Any person who worked at the old General Hospital and is still fit enough to work will go over there. We are not going to allow people to be pushed around because it is a new Hospital, and because you bring in new beds, therefore you must push off the old people. I want the Minister to understand that I have been quiet on these matters because I do not want to interfere with administrative matters.
5.45 p.m.

I do like to see things go smoothly; but if it is going to reach the stage where it is likely to break down, if it is one person who would be unfairly treated, these things should be exposed. That is why I did not want these things to go through all their stages today. It is all right for a Minister to come here and read out that we have 35,000 children from one year to five years - and we want so many doctors. I can

bring an I.L.O. chart to show that it varies. When an important measure like this is taking place, it should be dealt with gradually. Do you know what is taking place at the Hospital? It is a debt which you owe to parliamentarians: we must know some of these things. The Profumo case was nothing which the British parliamentarians heard in Parliament, but it came out in Parliament. It was heard first outside. A nurse says something to you or your friends may talk to you. We want to know.

When it comes to the new Hospital, I am not making any plea for anybody. I want to make it clear that when it comes to the Hospital Board, the Workers' Organisation have as much interest in the people there as to be on that Board. We do not see how you can have all of these Boards functioning without a workers' representative on them, and when it comes to the Hospital Board, a Workers' representative has a right to be there. You want people to sit on Boards who have a vital interest not only in the patients, but the people who work there.

I would say that in these things I am pleased to see your getting additional specialists. All of these things are right. You say that you are going to have two posts of Chief Specialist. I am not making any plea for anyone, but I want to go into all of these things which we are rushing through in this manner. Remember, all is not always well in Denmark. I hope that all is well in Denmark. I do not want to hear subsequently that all was not well at the Hospital.

Let me remind the Hon. Minister that this is a big administration for him. The Hospital alone is a big administration. I cannot see how one Minister can run the Hospital when all of these things are added to it. Some of the things are going to be left undone. I said it to a Minister some years ago. A former Premier was Minister of Education and nothing was done about that. They then had to get one Minister for Education alone. I say now that Health in itself is an important Ministry, because it not only deals with the Hospital but with the health of the community, whether it is Local Government or Central Government.

Sir, I am not suggesting that anything is wrong, but I have some misgivings about these things. I have mentioned a few because I have been receiving some complaints. I do not want to have any inquisition on these things, but I would like to be able to have some assurance. As was pointed out to me, there are certain important matters which the Government said that they would like to put through this afternoon: so I said, "O.K., I will accommodate the Ministers and do them." Sometimes the Ministers do not reply to you; but, Mr. Speaker, if I were a spiteful man, and I wanted to defeat them in their purpose, and to hold the Minister up for an answer now, they could not carry on without my presence; I could have left. I could have done that. I know all the tricks of the trade too. When you gave notice that you wanted to do this, you could not count twelve members and if I had said "no" then, you could not have done it today. I say that because there was no personal motivation by me; but I consider, in our passing legislation, more so legislation for an important institution like the Hospital, that I should know certain things.

Some people do not feel comfortable about this institution because they have been subjected to certain treatment by other people there; therefore, the Government must not take all the information from certain people.

I do not go by rumour, but rumour has it that a refrigerator was missing - or some big item like that - from the new Hospital. Say what you like, I cannot see how you can sweep out such a large item. Somebody asked me if I did not hear that they missed a refrigerator there. I do not pay much attention to these things, but I hope that they have not missed a refrigerator at the Hospital. It is becoming fashionable at big functions such as when they opened the new Hospital that somebody must feel that he was there by carrying away something and then saying that this is a souvenir which I got. Somebody might have thought that carrying away a refrigerator or some other item is a souvenir. You get people when they go to receptions at big places just taking up valuable pieces of silver as a means of a souvenir and telling other people "Look what I got from there!
5.55 p.m.

If you go to Denmark, you will get very expensive silver. I am sorry that when I was in Denmark I was not in that affluent position that I could bring back something by way of a relic so that I would have something in the way of a permanent relic or memorial of my visit to that country. However, Sir, I am not prone to these things. I want hon. members to be aware of my objections. I have my reservations about the Hospital, and that is why I said at the beginning of this sitting today that I was not prepared to go through with all of these matters today. I have not told the Hon. Minister all of this. I have no objection to any structural arrangement at the Hospital, but I am making these comments because I feel that all professional people and all workers at the Hospital should be accorded the treatment which befits their position and office, and nobody in any office should be treated other than the treatment that the office deserves.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. senior member for St. Peter has pointed out that one of the senior officers at the Hospital in the person of Dr. Forde has been humiliated, and there has not been any consultation with him since the abolition of the post of Medical Superintendent. With the abolition of the post of Medical Superintendent, consultations on matters appertaining to the Hospital are carried on with the various Heads of the Sections in the Hospital; that is to say, if the matter on which consultation is required affects a particular section, consultation is carried on with the Head of that Section. If, for instance, we are discussing Surgery, we will discuss it with a senior Surgeon Specialist; if we are discussing Gynaecology, we discuss that with the Gynaecologist; and if it is a general matter dealing with the medical side of the Hospital, we will consult the Medical Staff Committee of the Hospital of which Committee Dr. Forde and all the Medical Practitioners at the Hospital are members. That is the official body which speaks for the medical staff of the Hospital. I, therefore, cannot see how an officer could say that there is no consultation with him, because if he is the appropriate person in a particular section of the Hospital to be consulted, he will be consulted on matters which directly affect that particular section of the Hospital.

On the question of the workers who are presently employed at the Hospital going over to the new Hospital, what has been said could only be a rumour without any foundation in fact. I say that because all the people who are on the staff, the permanent members of the staff of the Hospital, are Civil Servants. Mr. Speaker, it has to be appreciated that a Civil Servant cannot be "fired" without any just and proper cause. A Civil Servant cannot be turned off from his work if he is a Civil Servant on the permanent Establishment without a lot of investigation being made. We have had posts which our last Civil Establishment Order had abolished, and there were posts even before the Civil Establishment Order had been proclaimed. That was done by the Personnel Branch of the Government. These people who were in abolished posts were offered alternative jobs, and some of the jobs which they were offered might have been changed in their nomenclature. However, Sir, they were offered alternative jobs. We have increased the number of jobs at the Hospital from 672 to 1,075. It is true that we will have people who are acting in posts for people who have gone on maternity or on vacation leave. These people are not on the permanent Establishment, and nobody could promise them jobs just like that. When the time comes for filling posts, these people are interviewed and if they were on the acting Staff of the Hospital they would be given jobs, as long as they have the necessary qualifications. If the Board has the authority to appoint staff, well, then the Staff will be appointed through the Board; but if the Board has not got the authority to appoint or discipline the staff, it means the appointments must pass through the usual channel.

Appointments to the Civil Service are not political appointments, as the hon. senior member for St. Peter well knows. No Minister has anything to do with appoint-

ments to posts in the Public Service; nobody can create any job for his friend. I should like to say, Sir, that I see some new faces at the Hospital and sometimes the people responsible do not have the courtesy to tell me that Dr. So-and-So has been appointed to the Staff of the Hospital. It is only a short time ago that I asked to have the courtesy exercised to be told that such-and-such imported persons were appointed to the Staff. Recently there was a post filled at the Hospital and when I knew that that post was filled was when there was some row about the filling of the post. It is my duty to see that posts are created and that the administration is carried out satisfactorily; but where the recruitment of staff is concerned and where personnel matters are concerned, these are matters for the Personnel Officer, and not for the Minister.
6.05 p.m.

The employment of people on the Staff at the Hospital as it stands is a matter for the Chief Personnel Officer, and not for a Minister of Government. I hope that satisfies the hon. senior member for St. Peter.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, I never accused the Minister or suggested that the appointment was a political appointment. I said that there are some people working at the Hospital now, and I have been informed that they are not permanent people on the Establishment, because they are cooks and maids. You do not have 670 established posts; so you have some people whom anybody can "fire" any morning with the excuse that they do not want so many of them. There are those in the kitchen scraping pots and rubbing off the mess, and there are those working in the launtry, and it would be below the dignity of any Minister to reach down to the level of going to the laundry or kitchen which is for the maid or washer. All I am saying is that I have been informed that as a matter of Hospital administration they want to bring in new people rather than retain the old ones who have been working there, and now that you are going to establish some posts, they say that they are going to bring in somebody else.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. senior member for St. Peter has made his point very fully.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I only wanted to get the record straight, and I explained what the position was, because it is not only what the hon. senior member for St. Peter says, but it is what will be recorded and what will be published in certain papers. I think the hon. member is a bit misinformed when it comes to the washers and cooks. All these posts are either on the Established staff which is pensionable, or the non-Established staff of the Hospital. We came in here during the Estimates for funds to pay so many people, and as long as they are permanently employed, they are on the Established staff and eligible for pensions and so on. Where you find a washer or cook being employed at the Hospital who is not on the permanent or Established staff of the Hospital, she is acting for two or three weeks for someone who is out on maternity leave, sick leave or vacation. She may be fortunate that at the end of those two or three weeks someone else has to go out, and she may go on acting like that for a year; but it does not mean that there is a job open for her. I hope that is enough to satisfy the hon. member.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I think we have come to the end of the Government's programme for today, and I should like on behalf of hon. members to extend to Your Honour and the Staff of the House our warmest wishes for a very festive Christmas Season, and good health and prosperity during the coming year.

I propose to move the Adjournment until 12th January, 1965 and I trust that this short recess will enable us to come back refreshed and invigorated for the task ahead during the coming year.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday 12th January, 1965, at 2.30 p.m.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, there is no one over on this side, and I think it would be ungracious of me if I did not, like the Hon. Leader of the House, extend to you the Seasons' Greetings. I am sure you have had a very busy session indeed right up to the 22nd December, and I hope that the Leader of the House and the Government as a whole will at some time consider having sessions of this Chamber instead of the mediaeval and ancient practice of having the House in session every week of the year, so that members can regulate some of their private affairs, and you, Mr. Speaker, who have to be in your office more than we do, can be relieved of this burden and have a well earned holiday. I wish you all the best for the season and a prosperous 1965.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that should I pass in your direction, I will not spurn your hospitality and I will be only too willing to accept anything you can offer.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am most grateful to the Hon. Leader of the House and the hon. senior member for St. Peter for the kind seasonal wishes to myself and members of the staff to whom I shall convey the good wishes, and I heartily reciprocate all the sentiments which have been expressed I trust that hon. members will spend their time as quietly and as soberly but as appropriately as I anticipate the staff and myself will spend our time during this all too brief recess.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 12th January, 1965, at 2.30 p.m., was put and resolved in the affimative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

6.15 p.m.