THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th January, 1964.

Pursuant to the adiournment, the House of Assembly met at 12.00 o'clock (noon) today.

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., *(Speaker)*; Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. E. St.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, *(Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries)*; Mr. S. E. SEALEY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, *(Minister of Communications, Works and Housing)*; Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; *His Honour* E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P., *(Deputy Speaker)*; Mr. G. V. BATSON, *(Chairman of Committees)*; Mr. N. W. BOXILL; Mr. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, *(Minister of Social Services)*.

Prayers were read.

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret to say that the Minutes of the previous meeting have not yet been printed and circulated. I trust that they will be available before our next meeting.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY *re* THE LATE HOWARD LISLE SMITH

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, before the meeting of this House is proceeded with this morning, in the absence of the Hon. Premier and the Hon. Leader of the House, it is my sad duty and privilege to move a Resolution of Sympathy in connection with one of its former members. I refer to the passing of the late Howard Lisle Smith.

Sir, the late Howard Lisle Smith, as Your Honour will recall, was a member of Your Honour's profession; that is to say he was a duly qualified Barrister-at-Law. He attended one of the colleges of Oxford and eventually followed the profession of his father and other members of his family. He never practised at his profession but was a very successful planter in the parish of St. Philip where the family owns many estates.

The late Mr. Smith served as a member of this Assembly from 1933 until 1939. He was appointed Chairman of Committees in 1938 and on the outbreak of hostilities — I refer to World War II — he joined the Armed Services and thereby retired from the House.

Now, Sir, in reality, this Resolution can be more ably moved by the Hon. Leader of the House who is the senior representative of the House for the parish of St. Philip and who has had more to do with the late Mr. Smith. However, it is my sad duty here this morning to move the vote of condolence on the passing of the former member of this House on behalf of the Government and members of this Assembly.

The late Mr. Howard Lisle Smith was a very able and genial man, far from being also well-informed and liberal in outlook. The community as a whole, therefore, is subjected to a great loss in the passing of the late Mr. Smith, and I beg on behalf of members of this House to move this Resolution of Sympathy on the passing of this outstanding member of the community to his bereaved wife and to his sister, Mrs. Florence Daysh, who is also an outstanding politician in this community and who was a former member of the Parliament of the West Indies which is now defunct, unfortunately. As I have said, Mrs. Florence Daysh was the sister of the deceased and she is a very outstanding personality, one who has done a great deal of charitable work in this Island.

I beg to move the passing of this Resolution of Sympathy which in due course will be forwarded to the relatives of the deceased.

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Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I cannot say on this occasion that it is a pleasure for me to second this Resolution because, as the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has said, it was a sad duty for him to move this Resolution.

Sir, we cannot refer to the learned and gallant ex-member of this House, Mr. Howard Lisle Smith, as an old man. Contrary, we refer to him as being taken away practically in the prime of his youth.

12.25 p.m.

It is true, as the hon. member has said, he served in this House with distinction and in a very short period he became Chairman of Committees; but he did not allow his duties in Parliament to prevent him from offering his services for the maintenance of democracy and the preservation of it. We, in this House, who have known his family, will characterise them not only as planters, landowners, proprietors and people of wealth, but I am certain that we are able to say that we can place them among the few philanthropists which we have had in Barbados. Through this family there will go down in history the gifts which have been made from time to time to the poor and the less fortunate people of this country.

It was indeed a shock to me when I heard of the passing of Mr. Lisle Smith last Saturday. It was unfortunate that I could not attend the funeral, but my colleague who represents my Party and my colleagues attended. Mr. Smith is what we could all describe in this House as a Progressive Conservative. He was a man who had the interest of Barbados and of Barbadians at heart. Not only he, but also his dear mother who passed on before and his sister who happened to be in the same political Party as I, and who has served us very courageously at times even if she stood out alone in the Legislature of this colony and in the Legislature of the now defunct Federation. They have had the in-

terest of Barbados at heart and it is therefore with deep regret that we have to move the passing of this Resolution today in respect of a man who had only reached, I believe, his fifty-third birthday and who has passedto the Great Beyond.

I believe that his family would be consoled with the injunction in the Holy Writ, that is to say, "The things which I do now, thou shalt not see now but hereafter." It is not a pleasure, Mr. Speaker, but it is a duty of mine to have to second the motion for the passing of this Resolution which has been so ably moved by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture — a Resolution of Condolence — and this will be of some great relief to the late Mr. Smith's dear wife, his sister and other relatives to know that those in this House who have succeeded him from time to time will appreciate the services which he rendered to this country, more especially the services which he gave to the Commonwealth as a whole.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the two hon. members who have spoken relative to the Resolution of sympathy with the family of the late Mr. Lisle Smith. I think of him first as a husband, then as Lawyer, Statesman and Planter. There is no mistake about it that his entire family has made a tremendous contribution to this country. Thinking of the late Mr. Lisle Smith, he served in this Parliament, and there was no doubt about his national interest and feelings. As a Planter he would be first concerned with the over-all and general economy of the country to which he belonged. It is for this very simple reason, to say nothing of his private life which you will no doubt agree with me must have left an example for us to follow, that we are paying this tribute. Nevertheless, Sir, we are unhappy about this matter because one never gets accustomed to the passing of people, and it was indeed a shock to us to hear of the passing of Mr. Lisle Smith when we think of a person who had this ability, energy and vitality which he gave to the country to which he belonged. With those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I join heartily with other hon. members in the passing of the Resolution which is to be sent to the family of the late Mr. Smith, especially to his sister who is making a great contribution in the national sphere of things, not only in Barbados but in the area as a whole. I thank you, Sir.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I feel that it is my duty as the hon. junior member for St. Philip, to express my sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr. Howard Lisle Smith. I had the privilege of serving with the late Mr. Smith as a Vestryman in the parish of St. Philip and I must admit that he rendered inestimable service to the people of St. Philip. Not only did Mr. Smith render yeoman service to the people of the parish, but his mother contributed a large sum of money towards the childrens' Home at the St. Philip Institution. That has done quite a lot of good for the poor children of the parish of St. Philip. It is a fact that when I served with Mr. Smith as a Vestryman in the parish, in some cases we could not see eye to eye, but I would still like to say that Mr. Smith did his utmost to contribute to the improvement of the people of St. Philip — and not only to the people of St. Philip, but to the people of the Island as a whole.

In conclusion, Sir, having come to the conclusion that the late Mr. Smith did his utmost for the people of this island, it makes me quote the words of Longfellow who said:

> "Lives of great men all remind us
> We can make our lives sublime;
> And departing leave behind us,
> Footprints on the sands of time."

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted in bringing this matter to a close in paying my own contribution to the late Mr. Smith, I should like to say, Sir, that both as a representative of the parish of St. Philip and someone who was personally acquainted with the deceased, I feel obligated to participate in the tribute which is being paid to his memory today. As has been recounted already, the late Mr. Smith was a Vestryman of the parish of St. Philip and he also served in this Chamber for a number of years during which time he filled the post of Chairman of Committees with distinction; and at the outbreak of World War II he resigned his seat in this Assembly in order to go and play his part in the fight for democracy and freedom. 12.35 p.m.

Incidentally, Sir, his sister, Mrs. Florence Daysh to whom reference has also been made in this debate, also joined the Armed Forces of the Allies for the greater part of the war. On his return to the island after the conclusion of hostilities, he offered his services to the electors of St. Philip, but there had been a swing in the tide of things; the Democratic tide was flowing more strongly; and although it was appreciated that a man of his sterling worth and ability had something to contribute to the Island, yet at this time the electors were in favour of returning people of more pronounced democratic, if not socialist, views; and so he was denied a chance again to serve the parish in the Assembly. Both as a Vestryman and as a politician in here, however, although his contributions were conditioned naturally by his own political convictions, yet still it can be safely said that in all things he set out to promote the good of the country, and that to him the preservation or protection of a particular class was secondary to the promotion of public welfare, generally speaking.

As a scholar, as a lawyer, as a politician, as a soldier, as a *bon vivant*, he quaffed the cup of life to the full, and I am sure that had he been spared longer, it is highly possible that in other spheres he may have made no less a contribution in the future than he had made in the past. He was a member of a distinguished family, distinguished not only for its material possessions, but distinguished for its philanthropic outlook and for his significant contribution to the welfare of the underprivileged in this country. The memorial home donated by his mother for poor children in the parish of St. Philip will forever constitute a monument to the liberal outlook of the family; and his sister herself noted for outstanding social welfare work is no less a politician of distinction; she served both in the Other Place as well as the Federal Parliament, and it is, I say, regrettable, Sir, that there are not more families among the plantocracy of this Island to have benefited by the lessons taught by this particular family. Both in the field of politics and the field of public service, their record stands second to none, and I deeply regret the necessity today for recording in my humble way my profound appreciation of the late Lisle Smith of this island, and tender to his family my deep regret at his passing.

It is not often in a single generation that so many members of a single family make so significant a contribution to the life and welfare of a country, and I am particularly proud today that on all sides of this Chamber members have expressed their appreciation of this contribution, since I feel that the expressions which have flowed from them here today must perhaps, to a small extent it is true, mitigate the deep sorrow which his family feels at his passing.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I gather from what has been said that this is a tribute being paid to a former member of this Assembly, Mr. Lisle Smith, who passed away last week. I can speak here on the grounds that not only in this Chamber where unfortunately I did not have the privilege of meeting him — I came to this Chamber after he had retired — but in the field of industrial relations I can say that he set a very notable example, an example that I wish more people, not only planters, but people in other walks of life would follow. I would say he was a man of impeccable integrity which we so sadly need today, and the passing of people with high integrity is a sad loss in an age like this when integrity is not given the highest priority in public life. I would say that in the field in which I have had to deal with that family, in industrial matters, they have shown a foresight, knowledge and sympathy that sometimes surpassed those from whom you would expect that sympathy to come, and I do regret very much that we are losing the services of such persons in this community at a time when more men of integrity are needed as well as men with sincerity. He was a sincere man, and I found that in all walks of life and in whatever I had to deal with him, he was not a man afraid of his convictions. I hope that his example of sincerity and integrity will not only be an opportunity for platitudes made by people, but examples for other people in this community to follow.

I have the greatest pleasure in supporting the tributes that have been made to a person such as the late Howard Lisle Smith.

Mr. SPEAKER: I beg to associate myself with the tributes which have been paid to the memory of the late Howard Lisle Smith. In so doing, I would mention that my experience of the deceased as a fellow member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple has always been that he was a member of the Bar who lived up to each and every tradition of that profession, and who lived up to the fullest to the ethics and the traditions professionally and otherwise of that society of lawyers, those who are members of what is called the University of the Utter Bar. In this Chamber, I had the privilege and pleasure of being associated with him as a member many years ago, and I have sat in Committee of this House under his Chairmanship. He had the gift of handling human beings. For the short time that he was the occupant of the Chair of this House, he performed his duties with tact, good humour and efficiency.

I join with my fellow members of this Chamber in extending sympathy to the sorrowing relatives of the deceased, and in respect of this Resolution, I ask hon. members to rise in their seats that we may stand for two minutes as an indication of our silent and unanimous passing of this Resolution to the memory of the late Howard Lisle Smith. Members only will stand.

Members stood for two minutes.

12.45 p.m.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY *re* THE PASSING OF LOUIS IVAN LYNCH

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, I find myself in the unfortunate position to have for the second time to pay a tribute to the passing of someone not unconnected with this Chamber. On the former occasion, we tributed a former member of this House of Assembly, and now it is my sad duty to extend the condolence of this Chamber to the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown on the passing of his father.

Sir, it has only just been brought to my knowledge that the father of the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown died this morning. I formerly knew that he had been ailing for sometime, but he was a man of exceptional, robust, physical attributes and I had felt and hoped that again he would be restored to health; but fate has decreed otherwise and now today his widow and son are left to mourn his passing.

The late Mr. Lynch was an exceptionally known personality in the district in which he lived; and although he spent a number of his years abroad, he enjoyed the respect and the esteem of people from all walks of life throughout this Island. A man, Sir, of Christian temperament and outlook, a fond father and loving husband and an esteemed friend, he was one of those personalities in this community who can be regarded as the salt of the earth and who make their contribution without any fuss to the general public welfare; therefore, the community is definitely poorer when they pass on.

Sir, I think the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown was the only child of the late Mr. Lynch and I, therefore, would like on behalf of hon. members of this House to express our most profound sympathy to him on the occasion of the passing of his father and to assure him that those of us who know from experience the loss of a father as well as those of us who have not yet had an experience of this sort, would like to sympathise with him in his bereavement and to share the deep feelings and sadness which we know he is experiencing now. Sir, I am not for a moment suggesting that the tribute which we pay will in any way assuage the grief which must beset him now, but we do want him to feel that each one of us, sitting around this Table, as well as all the friends and acquaintances who knew his father and who for years benefitted by his sane counsel and who have listened with a degree of credit to his sound reasoning and general philosophy in life – all of us, Sir, would profoundly regret his passing. It is true that he had reached a ripe age; but death, Sir, whether early or late, is always in the nature of something unforeseen and something which we prefer not to experience.

Sir, on behalf of hon. members of this Chamber, I should like to extend to the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown, the son of the late Mr. Lynch, our deepest condolences on the passing of his father. One great source of satisfaction to his father must have been the privilege that he has been spared long enough to see his only son by ability and strength of character with which he and nature had endowed him rise to a position of eminence and respect and authority in this Island: and I am sure that when the time came for him to depart this life, he too, was feeling completely satisfied in his mind that if he had accomplished nothing more than giving to this country a son of the eminence which has been attained by the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown, his life was not in vain and he had made his contribution to the community.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, I, too, like the Hon. Leader of the House, am saying that this is a very sad occasion for me and I may say that it is one of the really saddest occasions for me to record the death this morning of the late Louis Ivan Lynch who was born in this colony 78 years ago. Born in humble circumstances, the late Louis Ivan Lynch grew up in this country and not satisfied with his state in Barbados, he sought fields afar.

Sir, not only in Barbados the late Mr. Lynch was known and respected, but those of us who travelled to the United States of America where he lived for many years and to those of us who had the opportunity to go from other islands in the West Indies and other places to the United States will always remember the tales of Louis Ivan Lynch who was a man of a strong character, and of whom we can truly say because of the experience which he gained abroad that he came back to this country and was able to see in the very early days the value of education, was able to see in the very early days the value of having a stake in this community and was able to see in the very early days, as was so often said of him, the value of having pride in his race.

12.55 p.m.

It is not that he was just a man of a racial type, but he had pride in his race; that does not necessarily mean that he disliked the other races. Louis Ivan Lynch was a man, who, I think my colleague would say, was extremely fond of me and I liked to talk with him about the old days in Barbados and compare them with today. We are all here today very sad at the passing of this gentleman; although, as the Hon. Leader of the House has said, he has lived out his three score years and ten, death is something to which no one will ever get accustomed. We must know today how his son who is my colleague in this House must feel; we must know how one who was with him for over fifty years must feel at his passing or at the passing of people like the late Mr. Ivan Lynch who have blazed the trail in this country for people like myself and his son to take pride in ourselves and not to sit back and think that manna is going to come down from Heaven to us. It must have been a great pride for the late Mr. Lynch to live and see his son become a member of this branch of the Legislature in which he had never seen people like his son enter except when they came into the gallery. It must have been a great pride to him to think of his son starting with three children and of attending the Speech Days of his son where he saw 1,500 children. I could see in the late Mr. Lynch's face the happiness which he was enjoying.

Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the remarks of the Hon. Leader of the House to the effect that we express our sympathy with the hon. junior member for the City and to Mrs. Lynch on the passing of one who could not be nearer to them; it is fitting that we in this House today feel that this will, in some way, be a balm to them to know at least that they are surrounded by people in this country and by members of the Legislature who look back to the fact not only because the deceased's son is a member of this Legislature, but because he was among those who went out from

Barbados and was able to come back and blaze the trail, as I have said, and let people know that they are not to sit down and expect manna to come to them but, on the contrary, they have to get up and work. I remember a district in Harlem in New York where he is as popular as he is in St. Lawrence. It is just two years ago that I remember coming across someone who said that she was a bridesmaid at his wedding, and I also came across one who said that wherever there is work you will see Ivan Lynch. I believe that his son has emulated that. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution, but it is a rather sad thing for me to have to stand here today and associate myself with the remarks which have been made on the passing of a Resolution relative to the death of the father of my colleague, with whom I have been associated for much longer than I have been associated with my colleague.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, permit me to associate myaelf with the remarks of the last speaker. I am not as affected and touched as the hon. senior member for the City is. The reason for that is that I was not as intimately connected with the late Mr. Lynch as the hon. senior member for the City and other hon. members who are now sharing condolence at his passing. My regret is more a question of differential in years, but it must be a joy and happiness, Mr. Speaker, thinking of the father of the hon. junior member for the City, to look back on a life of toil and effort, and to say the least, denial. I must say that there must be a good deal of happiness, not so much pride, in the personal satisfaction, secret as it can be at times, derived from the feeling that your offspring during your life span had reached such a platform as the hon. junior member for the City has reached. All of us will continue to dream and yearn for this sort of satisfaction.

To the hon. junior member for the City and to his mother I share in all of the remarks which have been made in the expression of the condolences on the passing of the late Mr. Lynch. There may be other reasons why I did not know the late gentleman as well as the hon. senior member for the City knew him. As I say, it may be because of differential in years, but it is the type of happiness and joy that I am constantly in search of. You look at your progeny and find them going up the rugged ladder of success.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to prolong what can be regarded as a painful exercise for the hon. junior member for the City in my rising to pay another tribute to him in respect of the passing of his father. Those of us who have had this painful exercise to be sitting here and hearing hon. members sympathise with other hon. members at the passing of their relatives, those of us who have had the pain of sitting and listening to such words of condolence, will realise that it is not a very pleasant feeling.
1.05 p.m.

To the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, I would say that I did not have the pleasure of knowing his father; but if my long knowledge of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown is an indication of his father, it is a very excellent one. From the very first days of knowing the hon. member as a youngster, he was conspicuous as one of this Island's leading athletes, and he showed from his early school boy days that he was a man not only with a physical capacity, but in later years a mental capacity for reaching the top. My only regret is that in reaching the top of the political ladder, he has chosen a different philosophy from the one I had associated him with as an athlete, because as an athlete I regarded him as ultra progressive — and not Conservative — in the way he led the way of all athletes. I regret very much to have to say this today, because for a father who has lived as long as his father and who has seen his son play a conspicuous part in public life and make a very outstanding contribution to public life both in this Assembly and outside, and a man who has had the distinction of being a pioneer in private secondary education, I would say that those were indications to show what his father had done for him, and to show that he himself possesses a progressive mind.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my quota of tribute to the hon. member for the privilege it must have been to have a father who could live as long as his and to see him, as people in Barbados would say, pass the worst. I am sure that the hon. member will take what we say sincerely. We sincerely extend our sympathy to him. This is one of the inevitabilities of living, and as the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said, you do not get accustomed to dying; but we feel sure that in moments like these when we are bereaved, it is still nice to have someone around us who can give us a word of cheer and encouragement and we are not all disconsolate. I should like to add my quota of sympathy to the hon. member and to Mrs. Lynch and his sorrowing relatives.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the remarks which have been made. After listening to the remarks made on the death of the father of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, I am reminded of tributes which have been passed to the present Louis Lynch. I did not know Mr. Lynch by coming to this House, but through the good work which he has done. I know that a child is honoured through his father, and I know the joy which the father of the hon. member must have had in seeing his son come to honour and power. That is one of the things that any parent lives for. I am in sympathy with those who are sorrowing and I must add a few words of consolation. Blessed are those that mourn, for they shall be comforted. I know that some day the hearts that are mourning shall be comforted. I am in favour of this Resolution, and I must say that blessed are those who have contributed good for all their people, for they shall be remembered in years to come. I am glad to see a Resolution of this nature before the House today, and I could not sit without adding a few words of consolation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before putting the question, I avail myself of this opportunity of associating myself with the remarks which have been made in connection with the deceased, Louis Ivan Lynch.

I was acquainted with him not nearly so well, unfortunately, as the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, but such meetings as I had with him and such conversations as we had together have left a fragant memory. I am happy to be in the position to associate myself in its entirety with the tributes paid to the father of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, and in the traditional manner of this Chamber, I now invite hon. members to rise and pass this Resolution by a period of two minutes' silence as we stand.

Members stood for two minutes.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I am very deeply touched but considerably comforted in this hour of affliction by the expressions of condolence made by yourself and members of this Honourable House. I shall convey to my mother as soon as might be the message of your condolence. I thank you.

PAPERS LAID

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

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

Statement showing the Net Customs and Excise Receipts for nine months ended 31st December, 1963.

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Scheduled Officers) (No. 4) Regulations, 1963.

The Registration of Electors (Amendment) Regulations, 1963.

Statistical Service — Quarterly Digest of Statistics — No. 27, September, 1963.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

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

A Resolution to place the sum of $7,500 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1963-64, Part II — Capital, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1963-64 No. 43 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

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

A Resolution to place the sum of $450 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1963-64, Part I — Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1963-64 No. 44 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.
1.15 p.m.

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

QUESTION

Mr. SMITH: To enquire of the Hon. Minister of Communications, Works and Housing:-

Has it been drawn to the Minister's attention that the house of Viola Farmer of St. Bernard's Village, St. Joseph, has been extensively damaged by the hurricane "Flora" that passed the Island last year?

2. Is the Minister aware that, inasmuch as she is not in a financial position to make the house habitable again, she is forced to live in circumstances that are inadequate?

3. Is it the intention of Government to come to the assistance of the several poor of the Island whose homes have been damaged by the same hurricane or by future hurricanes?

4. If the answer to question three (3) is in the affirmative, will the Minister instruct the Manager of the Housing Authority, or the other appropriate authority or authorities, to replace Viola Farmer's home, and also to go to the assistance of the others who were struck by the same hurricane and are in need of help?

RESOLUTION

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a Resolution standing in the name of the hon. junior member for the City of Bridgetown.

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

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House place on record its grave concern re the recent attempt upon the life of Kuame Nkrumah, President of Ghana, a territory with which Barbados has had long and historic associations."

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House, the hon. senior member for St. Philip; to move the House into Committee of Supply to consider the grants of sums of money for the service of the Colony.

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

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1963-64 No. 42

HEAD 32 — HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT — CASUAL LABOUR

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution springs from the transferring of roads formerly under the Northern District Council to the Central Government.

As you will know from the Addendum, 93 miles of parish roads — St. Thomas, St. James and St. Peter — have been taken over from the Northern District Council and 93 additional posts of road menders are required by the Department of Highways and Transport. As each road mender would have a mile of road to do, the amount will approximate $25,000 between now and the end of the current year to be spent. The Resolution therefore seeks provision for granting from the Public Treasury the sum of $25,000 for this purpose, and since there are no additional reasons and no complications in a straightforward issue like this, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Chairman, it is not necessary for me to congratulate the Government for the expeditious manner in which they have accepted the recommendation of the Northern District Council.

Mr. Chairman, you, yourself, as a representative of the parish of St. Thomas welcomed the idea of the Council handing the roads in these parishes over to Central Government and it was a part of your initiative, too.

It was only a few days ago that the Hon. Minister of Communications, who always plays his part when Resolutions of this nature come before him said that he would give this matter his attention and I urged that priority must be given, or should be given, to those workers whose names had been sent out to the Minister.

Now, may be, what I am going to say today may not please many persons, but my experience is that one cannot expect the Hon. Minister, however devoted he is to his Ministry, to go into all the details. I want all the Ministers to hear this. A Minister sets out his policy, that which he thinks is just and fair and would benefit the Island as a whole. No one expects a Minister with his different duties to perform to walk around and say what should be done. It is impossible. He is a man; but there are certain persons who have to work in the Ministry who should carry out what the Minister wants to be done, and when they do not do that and there is dissatisfaction, the Minister is responsible. The Minister may want certain things done, but there are other persons who would always sabotage his plans.

Sir, on this particular issue, I am asking the Hon. Minister of Communications, if it is necessary on this particular matter, for him to give his direct attention. We know that Ministers are not responsible for making appointments and things of that sort, but he should look into the matter because certain persons are trying to make fast moves. I am not saying that they are doing so now, but other moves may be adopted by them contrary to the policy of the Minister or the Cabinet so as to get other persons employed in the work of the Department on the roads in those parishes to the detriment of the workers who have given satisfaction in the past. I am speaking in respect of the workers who repaired the roads in St. Thomas, St. James and St. Peter before these roads were handed over to the Central Government. These workers *en bloc* have given satisfaction and it is our responsibility to see that they are re-employed. We took the initiative and we have to see that what is carried out is carried out as fairly and justly as can be. It was only a few years ago that there was some unpleasant talk about much money being wasted and that there were irregularities in the spending of money.
1.25 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, you will agree with me and also your colleague, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, as well

as my colleague the hon. senior member for St. Andrew, that an attempt was made to save or to prevent irregularities from taking place, and checkers were employed, I would like to say that there was a checker for St. Thomas, one for St. Peter and one for St. James and you know, Sir, the amount of money which was saved. Nobody grumbled at the few dollars which were given because when a truck brought in four loads of stone the supplier was paid for four loads and not for eight loads. I have nothing against making this claim for these people that they work with honesty and integrity. What is done for them is just and fair. I am appealing to the Hon. Minister that if it is for once that the Minister has to come down and give directives, he should give them to the effect that if checkers have to be employed, there are young men who are able to work and they have worked with honesty and sincerity and integrity. I say to any person in this island that there are three checkers, three supervisors and I think there are three overseers; they are men of honesty, sincerity and integrity.

Where these offices will be created I am pleading with the Minister to see that these persons are given priority. The purpose of the recommendation from the Northern District Council is that the roads of this island will be kept as those which are in the hands of the Central Government; that better work will be done and there will be greater efficiency. That excludes the remotest possibility that those who have been working with the Northern District Council will be left in the wilderness. I speak not only for the workers or the rank and file, but I speak for the checkers and I make a claim that these checkers have the ability for doing this work; the overseers and supervisors also have this ability, integrity and sincerity. It will be known that not only Ministers of the Government are on the look out for persons who have priority, but they know that the first moves will be made, that persons will come in and push themselves against the three checkers, the overseers and supervisors. I hope that the principle which I have enunciated will be carried out by the Minister.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to speak on this Resolution, but while we are on this subject of the handing over of these roads to the Department of Highways and Transport, I would like to make it clear here and now that there are those who worked with the Northern District Council on the roads and as a whole. After reaching a certain age, these people had to be turned off because of old age; they have been turned off for almost a year and up to now nothing has been done about a pension for these people. I am therefore asking the Hon. Minister to see to it that none of these men are turned off before his pension has been computed. It is hard on these people to ask them to retire and they still have to go along for a whole year without getting their pension. That does not happen with people who are getting $300 or $400 a month. I am asking the Hon. Minister to use his good graces and issue a directive to the Heads of Departments to the effect that nothing of this sort should happen, that people have to be turned off and then they have to wait for a year without getting their pension. As a matter of fact, many of them will die before they get their pension. It should be known that if it is time for these people to retire, their pensions should be computed. A man should be turned off with his first week's pension. I may say that even although we are not pensioners we do look forward to becoming old.

Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of $25,000 and it is required to pay the wages of additional employees for the remaining three months of the financial year. It is for the purpose of extending the work on the roads which were in the hands of the Northern District Council until 31st March, this year. I would like to support the expenditure of this money for that purpose. However, Sir, I would not like to see another Resolution of this kind come before the House; I should not like to see any further construction being done with the very people who are in charge of the work now, because they do not have the necessary equipment for doing this work. I do hope that at the end of this year we will get proper equipment in order to carry out the extension work for the parish.

You cannot have work done by the Northern District Council as good as if it is done by the Department of Highways and Transport. They must spend the money themselves and have their equipment and see that the work is carried out in the best way. I heard the hon. senior member for St. James speaking about the employees. I notice that there is a habit with the Government when taking over roads that they do not take over the labourers, especially those who are permanent workers such as overseers, supervisors and checkers.

1.35 p.m.

If you do not have a checker, you do not know what is going on. Having no checker is just like the bus company; the water is running into the tank, but there is a hole where it runs out. You must have a checker to check not only the loads of stones but the size of them, because three-inch stones should not be mixed with five-inch stones, nor should six-inch stones be found among nine-inch stones. If you have the correct stones for sheeting, I am sure your estimate would not burst after you have estimated for a certain amount. The lorries that bring the stones should not drop them unless a checker is there. When the roads in St. Andrew were taken over by Highways and Transport, I can assure you that the work done was superior to work that was ever done, because the roads are well built, better maintained and are more substantial. The present Local Government is not in a position to give the quality work; we do not have the machinery, the men with the necessary brains and qualification, nor do we have the finance; but when the Central Government takes over the roads they will have better lasting qualities and will stay up longer. I am supporting this Resolution at this stage hoping that at the end of March, 1964, Government will find itself in a position to take over all the major work and have it done by Highways and Transport Department.

Mr. WEEKES: Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with the remarks made by the hon. junior member for St. Thomas. In the Southern District I know people who have resigned for approximately two or three years and have not received their pensions. Only this week an old lady from Four Roads, St. Philip by the name of Mrs. Best who retired approximately two years ago died and had not received one cent. The time has come when I feel that something should be done to protect these casual workers. When people in the higher brackets resign from their offices, within a matter of weeks or months they are given their pensions, and it is very unfortunate that these poor people should not receive their pensions when they have rendered years of service, and have actually contributed to the economy of this Island. I feel the time has come, Sir, when Government should do something about it, and I should be very pleased if the Minister would explain to us what is the hitch or cause of these people who have resigned two or three years ago not receiving their pensions, and what is the trouble with the Bill that it has not reached the Local Government Service yet so that we can deal with those people.

In the years of the defunct Vestries we would come to the House and ask the House to help these people, and they would receive some remuneration for their services. Those days are gone. We are dealing with an Act now, and I would say that people in the lower bracket have sent me here and it is my duty to represent them and to let them hear that I have their interests at heart. I am appealing to the Government to do something about it so that these people will enjoy a part of their pension before they leave this world.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say before the debate goes any further that this is not the first time this question has been raised, and I merely want to assure hon. members that I have actually called upon the Personnel Department for a detailed list with individual explanations in every case for the reasons why some of these pensions have been apparently unduly long in payment. I will make a note of it and promise the Committee to bring the information to the House next Tuesday. I should like to point out, however, that in the case of some of these people — apart from the fact that I am trying to explain that there was this complete absence of records and

the legislation to entitle casual workers to pensions was introduced without any previous thought of endeavouring to get the records straightened - there are instances in which the Local Government bodies are to be blamed. The hon. junior member for St. Philip referred to the case of somebody in St. Philip who died after retiring for two years without a pension. I know of another case in which for over three years I have been trying to get the Southern District Council to collate the necessary information to send on to the Central Government. I cannot get it yet, and I am tired asking them for it.

Apart from that, Sir, the fact remains that it has not been an easy matter to find out how many years some of these people worked, how many days each year, and whether their service qualified them for a pension. As a matter of fact, beyond a certain amount of years there is no record at all, and it certainly was the fault of the Government at the time when this legislation was introduced not to have begun some time before its introduction or immediately after to get the records assembled or in process of assembling so that for people who were entitled by the legislation to pension and other rights, it would be an easy matter to pay them when the time came. The legislation was just brought in — merely a political gesture — and apparently not one single iota of attention was paid to the importance of collecting the basis on which the pensions could be paid.
1.45 p.m.

It may have appeared that we are unduly long in getting this information now; but if hon. members have the faintest idea of the difficulties facing the public officers in getting these matters settled, then they would appreciate what really took place. Many have been paid already and I have been also informed by the Personnel Officer that the people who are complaining about their pensions, according to the facts available, are not entitled to pension, having not qualified for it.

I am sure that what I have said should be enough as to inform hon. members that we are not unmindful of these pensioners in this matter and I promise with all the power at my command to see that everything is done as regards the matter.

Mr. SEALEY: Sir, in the parish of St. Michael, I have on many occasions, been approached by casual labourers who have put in hard work and shed much sweat for the Government. I am not accusing the present Government. I have been to the various Departments and made enquiries and have discovered in many Departments that there were no records of these persons kept. I have taken the matter up with the Heads of the Departments and they have said that the former Heads of those Departments must have been removed from there and gone elsewhere and that is all the records you can get of these workers.

Sir, all I am asking for today is that when a man reaches the age of 60 years instead of giving him his leave ticket at the age of 60 years which is two or three days before you do that, to keep him employed until the Government works out some method of pension or gratuity. At the present, you wait until the last minute to send him the letter saying that he would not be employed any more. What I would like Government to do is to keep these men employed until you work out a method in order to give him a pension or gratuity.

Mr. SMITH: Sir, I really cannot swallow these pills of no proper record being kept that causes one not to get his pension. I have already said that if you cannot get the particular date when the particular person was turned on to work with Government, surely, you must have the pay sheets from which you paid him. You do not guess when you are paying a man because when money is being paid out to Tom Brown, it has to be recorded and the paymaster has to keep a record and it would be there for the Auditor General to see the signature. The Auditor General is not going to accept pay sheets without the signature of the persons to whom money was paid out. Have you burnt all of them or thrown then away? Surely, you should have some.

The Hon. Minister said that he was trying for a long time to get the Southern District Council to give him the records of some persons and that, up to now, he cannot get them. It is a case that it is Government workers concerned; it is a case of workmen who were working from the time of the Central Road Board.

I know of a man by the name of Parkinson Leach. He drew his gratuity but still up to now has not got his pension. It is over five years ago that this man drew his gratuity. By now, he must have spent all of it and yet up to now he cannot get his pension. I would be glad if the Hon. Minister would take a note of this and ask the reason why this man has not got his pension. You do not want anything worse than that. Who is responsible for that? How then has he got his gratuity but still cannot get his pension? The Personnel Officer or whoever is responsible sees to it that, when the age limit is reached by these persons, instructions are given to lay them off, but still does not make any provision to give them a pension. These people have to go home, walk up and down and come to you and me, and ask that you do something for them in order that they may get a pension. They tell you that if they do not want to pension them, they would let them carry on; but the authorities would not let them work and still would not give them any work to do. The people with whom they work have already resigned and are getting their pensions, and these people have refused to sign an affidavit to prove that they worked with them during their time. I had to get in my motor car on one occasion and go to a man who was a J.P. to get him to sign an affadavit because he said to me that he was not going anywhere. I had to go to him and he signed that letter. All that trouble is given these people when the men could be working because they want something to do in order to get something to keep them alive.

Sir, I hope that the Minister would ask for those names.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: May I ask the hon. junior member for St. Joseph when did Parkinson Leach resign, because the hon. member said that this man got a gratuity and has not got his pension? If he resigned before the new Act came into operation, he would be entitled to gratuity and no pension. The hon. member is fully aware that before the coming into effect of this legislation, that a casual employee was not entitled to both. If the hon. member can give me the facts, I would pursue the matter.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir, I did not want to enter this debate, but the hon. junior member for St. Joseph knows pretty well that you cannot get a gratuity and a pension too. Unless you are a first-class idiot, you should know that a gratuity is paid on a pensionable basis; therefore you cannot arrive at one without the other. This House is not a place for fools. The hon. member should know that if anybody was going to get a gratuity, it would be based on a pension. You cannot get a percentage of something unless you know what the principal was; therefore, there is nobody in Barbados who can receive a gratuity and the pension is unknown.

Sir, I only have risen to say something because I see a lot of advantage is taken of you and the very Leader of the House does not help you. This Resolution is for the sum of $25,000 to pay the wages of 93 workers. It really does not deal with the other part which you are talking about. This is just bringing in a red herring along the line. You are dealing with wages and all that should be heard about this matter and what you can question is: is this a fair amount to pay these people? What are the things which apply to the people in the Northern District Council to which this Resolution applies?
1.55 p.m.

This Resolution applies specifically to the workers in the Northern District Council which you are taking over.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that I do not like the imputation that you need help from somebody. You do not need any help from anybody. You have paid some attention to the Standing Orders of this House and you know what you should do. Normally, Sir, if

you were to rule on a matter of this sort that an hon. member could not refer to the matter of pensions for casual labourers, you would be precipitating a row. I say that, Sir, because in matters being dealt with in Committee of Supply, hon. members are always given some latitude, and as long as they do not go too far off the mark or they do not expatiate unduly they are allowed some latitude. If this were a Bill, hon. members would have to stick to the subject matter of the Bill, but in Committee of Supply if you cannot raise what you think is a relevant issue before the Committee, when on earth can you raise it? You cannot raise it in the House; you must stick to the question of principle there, but in Committee of Supply you are given some latitude.

In my conception, Sir, hon. members were quite justified in referring to the pensions which are so long in coming. I am not saying that you should allow hon. members to make any lengthy speeches on the matter. I may say that there are many instances in which complaints have been made by hon. members, but in which no pensions are really due at all. The workers have rendered over five or six years' service but in no year have they reached the qualifying number of working days; but because they work in the Department of Highways and Transport and in the Public Works Department for more than one year, they are entitled to pensions. That is why I said today that I would investigate the situation individually and let hon. members know how many cases there are in which workers have already been paid, how many are not entitled to pensions at all and for how many we cannot find the records.

Now, Sir, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has said that you must have the pay sheets. It is sometimes very difficult to retain your Parliamentary composure and keep within the bounds of Parliamentary courtesy when you are dealing with the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, Mr. Chairman, when we refer to the absence of records we include such things like pay sheets. Pay Sheets, fifteen, sixteen or eighteen years old are not available.

Mr. MOTTLEY: But the Government records are available *(ASIDES)*.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The hon. member says that they are available as if.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order. They are not available, but you have an Act saying that the Government records must be available.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At this stage, it now being 2.00 p.m. of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER took the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 2 p.m., of the clock, this sitting now stands suspended until 2.30 p.m., of the clock.

This sitting now stands suspended.

On re-assembling,

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now Question Time.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am craving the indulgence of the House to deal with Questions now, and after that I propose to suggest that we resume Government Business. There are two Replies to Questions ready, one of those Replies having been laid last week. As I say, I am suggesting that Question Time be now taken and then we revert to Government Business in order to finalise two small items on the Order Paper. I also propose that we deal with the Bill relating to the abolition of February 23rd as a Bank Holiday because there is no longer any Federation. We propose to finish the two Money Resolutions on the Order Paper, the Resolution dealing with the right-of-way for the Barbados Fire Service and the Bill in respect of the abolition of February 23rd as a Bank Holiday.

Mr. SPEAKER: Did the Hon. Minister refer to a right-of-way for the Fire Service?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: That was just a precis of the item on the Order Paper.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, in order to give effect to the proposal which I have just made, it will be necessary to get permission to move for the suspension of Standing Orders 5, 14, 16 and 18.

Mr. SPEAKER: Standing Order 62 permits the suspension of the Standing Orders, and that should be proposed only with the consent of the Speaker either after notice given or after the expression of the general assent of the House. Notice has not been given nor has there been any expression of the general assent of the House. At this stage, I am seeking an expression of the general assent of the House without which, of course, I cannot permit the suspension of the Standing Orders to be moved.

The Hon. Leader of the House has intimated the reason why and the purpose for which he is seeking the permission of the House to move the suspension of the necessary Standing Orders. I am now trying to ascertain in my mind what is the attitude of the House towards the suspension of the Standing Orders for the reasons for which the Hon. Leader of the House has given notice. *(After a pause).* If it is correct to assume that silence gives consent, it would appear to me that the general assent of the House has been given and, accordingly, I give my consent for the Hon. Leader of the House to move the suspension of the necessary Standing Orders which he may now do.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders 5, 14, 16 and 18 be now suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

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

2.40 p.m.

QUESTION TIME

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

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: I am advised by Mr. Clerk that Replies have been laid to Questions Nos. 148 and 149. In respect of No. 148 which stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Michael, I observe that he is no longer in his place. In respect of No. 149, that is in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas who is in his place.

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

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will Government, in view of the fact that the maintenance of roads in the parish of St. Thomas has now become the responsibility of the Central Government, integrate all of the workers who originally worked with the Northern District Council on the said roads?

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

"It is the intention of the Government to engage as many as possible of the road workers who formerly worked on the Northern District Council parish roads."

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: When the Sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee. Automatically it reverts thereto.

Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before the suspension, when the House was in Committee, the Hon. Leader of the House was addressing the Chair.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I must draw your attention to what is taking place in the precincts of Parliament. The Police is expected on the surrounding roads to maintain order rather than have this Chamber interrupted as it is. This is reducing Parliament to a farce and bringing to disdain its ancient dignity. We have a responsibility to this Parliament and I take it you are aware of the responsibility. I want to continue to respect your ruling, but this is certainly not the type of conduct that would become an ancient and august body such as this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Leader of the House was addressing the Chair.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I took the opportunity of the adjournment for lunch to get some information which, I think, ought to satisfy the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and other hon. members who are always inquiring quite justifiably about these pensions for casual workers. Several times in the last two years, hon. members have been very indignant over what they characterise as the delay in giving pensions to retired casual workers.

Unless you call for order in the precincts of the House, Mr. Chairman, I will stop. I am not going on with this type of thing.

Mr. MILLER: Do we understand, Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the House is seeking the assistance of the Police re order in this Parliament?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That was beyond my hearing.

Mr. MILLER: I just want to be told.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am now listening to the Hon. Leader of the House to address the Chair.

Mr. MILLER: To the contrary, Sir, the Leader of the House is in his seat and he indicated he had no desire to continue unless you demanded order.

Mr. WALCOTT: As nobody is addressing the Chair.....

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House is addressing the Chair.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, I was saying that I utilised the luncheon adjournment to get some sort of information on this question which has been repeatedly raised by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas and other members in the Chamber.

Now the Act under which casual employees are entitled to a pension actually came into operation in February, 1962. It was assented to as far back as September, 1961, but only came into operation then. Since then there have been 52 applications for pension under the Act. Twenty-six have been awarded; that is half; twelve were before the Accountant General when I requested information in October last year, and nearly all of them have now been paid. There are two before the Department of Public Works for additional information, two before Highways and Transport, three before Waterworks, two before the Auditor General and one before the Ministry of Finance, and four remain in the office for processing.
2.50 p.m.

As I have said earlier, Sir, before the Act was passed, you could get a gratuity after a minimum of ten years' consecutive service on the specific qualifying period each year. After the Act was passed you could get a pension but no gratuity. Then the Act was amended last year to provide for a gratuity and reduced pension.

As I have said earlier, some of these cases go back for as long as 40 years. Many of the applicants worked with the Central Road Board from as far back as 1923, 1924 and 1928, and since they were not legally entitled to a pension, no records were kept of them. It is different now. If you know a man is entitled to a pension, you keep his record. Legally, there was no provision made for a pension for these people; therefore, there were no records kept; therefore, when they came to pension them, the Government did not know from where to begin to endorse the claims made by workers for a pension. What we actually did was to say that if a worker could bring evidence from witnesses who worked with him and who were prepared to swear to an affidavit that the man actually worked with them, well then, we would pay him a pension. Normally, you would get witnesses to go and swear an oath that Parkinson Leach, Lloyd Smith or your humble servant was employed during their time and we would accept those affidavits. Nothing could have been more equitable in the interest of these people.

As I have said, Sir, there were only 52 and there are only very few which remain. I have said that we will in the near future not be hearing this swan song -- I almost say electioneering speeches -- but I know that hon. members are interested in the plight of the people who come to them. However, we now can pinpoint each individual application, and if hon. members in the future would not generalise but would come and say why did not Parkinson Leach, why did not Napoleon, or why did not Hitler get his pension, then, we can take a record and see why they did not get their pension. This, I hope, will bring a discontinuation of the general allegations that the Government is indifferent to the claims of people who are entitled to the claims under the 1952 Casual Employees Pension Act.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir, I would not prolong this debate. I think I was the first person who raised this question. A member must deal with things which his capabilities entitle him him to deal with. There has been a lot of explanation about this matter. When I first came to this House, I said that this is a matter which can be dealt with by the Departments. I feel when it comes to matters like these someone should be able to calculate and say: let us work on an arbitrary basis. Everytime a matter like this comes up, there is no point in your having a whole long debate on what you hear a member is paying passing reference to. What I rose to say was that this was an idea of giving an impression which was wrong and stupid which is that a person who is entitled to a pension should receive a gratuity, and you do not know what the pension is. I say that any person who speaks in that way does not know what they are talking about. If you are entitled to a pension and your gratuity can be calculated, *ipso facto*, your pension can be known. How can anyone calculate your gratuity without knowing what your pension is? You cannot get a gratuity when you are not entitled to a pension, because the calculation of one is based on the other. To arrive at the lump sum, you must know what the pension emolument is. It is impossible to know it otherwise. Therefore, I say that anybody who is entitled to a pension cannot receive a gratuity and does not know what the pension is. The Auditor General cannot tell me otherwise.

If a policeman or anybody in the Public Service retires tomorrow and he is entitled to a pension and gratuity, as soon as he has reached the age limit, with the service which he has put in, his pension must be known.

May be, the Government should make up its mind. If you are going to pension this person, you should say that it is so many years you are going to take into account; but do not say that you are looking for records because if a man was working in 1920 and you were not keeping any records until 1930, how can you find his record from that time? That is why I say that if a man has worked with you, the onus should be put on him to bring in an affidavit; it should not be someone swearing to the affidavit. If you are satisfied that the man worked in the service, you should put it in the reverse. Let the man swear to his own affidavit and if you find anything to the contrary, if you prove that he has sworn to something which is false, lock him up.

Everybody in this Island plays politics when they see something is easy to play politics on. Playing politics depends on the breadth of your mind.

The question that the Resolution for the sum of $25,000 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

3.00 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1963-64 No. 41

WATERWORKS

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Chairman, the next Resolution is a Resolution to place the sum of $231,300 at the disposal of the Governor-in-Executive Committee to supplement the Estimates 1963-64, Part I – Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1963-64, No. 41 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

This Resolution, Sir, seeks the approval of the expenditure of this $231,300 under Head 30 – Waterworks – of the Estimates. The reasons why these various amounts set out here are required to supplement this Head of the Estimates under the various Items, are clearly set out in the Addendum to the Resolution. As to Item 28 – Pumping – the note explains that there has been an increase in water consumption in consequence of the accelerated installation of domestic services. This has resulted in higher pumping costs by virtue of the increased power consumed. In addition there were major mechanical breakdowns at the Belle and Bowmanston Pumping Stations. In consequence, the current provision of $500,000 has proved to be inadequate and it is estimated that supplementary provision of $54,000 will be required to meet expenditure for the remainder of the financial year.

As to Item 31 – Plumbing – it is estimated that supplementary provision of $170,500 will be required to meet demands for new services and to provide for repairs to services. Expenditure under this item is offset by corresponding revenue.

Mr. Chairman, this is a vote in which the amount of money is recoverable as people who are installing water pay for their plumbing. The amount of money is then deposited in the Treasury. As to Item 33 – Refunds – it will be seen that customers pay in advance the estimated cost of the installation of water services and are refunded any excess in the amount deposited on the actual cost of installation on completion of the work. As a result of the accelerated programme of private service installations the vote for refunds was virtually exhausted at the end of October, 1963. It is estimated that a further $2,000 will be required to pay refunds during the remainder of the financial year.

Mr. Chairman, as soon as an amount is estimated for the service of installing water, the applicant is asked to deposit that amount. In order to facilitate matters, the amount is usually over-estimated and the difference between the estimated amount and the calculated amount must be refunded to the applicant. The amount of money under this item is being asked for in connection with this particular purpose.

As to Item 40 – Commission to Debt collector – at the 31st October, 1963, $259.55 had been spent under this Item leaving a balance of $40.45 in the vote. It is estimated that a further $200 will be required for the remainder of the financial year.

As to Item 41 – Delivery of water by lorry – there was need for extraordinary use of this method of water distribution during the first half of the financial year, arising mainly from disruption of the water service at Bank Hall Cross Road by the laying of new mains. Accordingly the sum of $1,500 is required to supplement the current year's provision of $2,000.

Mr. Chairman, with the heavy programme which was carried out during the last financial year on road works and widening of roads, several of the water mains were broken on account of the heavy trucks and vehicles which are using the roads today. In instances like this, trucks had to supply people in the various districts with water from the water wagon. The vote under this item is for this particular purpose.

Finally, Sir, there is Item 43 – upkeep of vehicles. There are twenty-three (23) vehicles in use in the Department and provision for the maintenance of these prior to the current financial year was made under a number of works items in the Department's Capital and Recurrent Expenditure. To ensure more effective control of expenditure a single vote of $8,649 was included in the 1963-64 Estimates. This has proved to be insufficient, and it is estimated that a further $3,100 will be required to meet expenditure for the remainder of the financial year.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

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

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

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

The CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER the passing of two Resolutions in Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEASE OF LAND TO DaCOSTA & CO. LTD.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries:- To move the passing of the following Resolution:-

Resolution to approve the lease to DaCosta and Company Ltd. by the Governor-in-Executive Committee of a parcel of land situated immediately to the north of the headquarters of the Barbados Fire Service and containing approximately 1,385 square feet or thereabouts.

3.10 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the addendum sets out the details which reads as follows:

"DaCosta & Co. Ltd., owns and operates a warehouse which has a frontage on Fairchild Street and extends behind the headquarters of the Barbados Fire Service. The only access to the warehouse at present is on Fairchild Street, and operations at this access often cause disruption of traffic on Fairchild Street."

Incidentally the warehouse is 202 feet long. The Addendum continues as follows:-

"With a view to relieving the traffic congestion, the Company has asked for the grant of a right of way over land owned by the Executive Committee on the northern side of the headquarters of the Barbados Fire Service in order that it may open a door on the western side of the warehouse to provide access from Probyn Street. The area of land required to provide such a right of way is approximately 1,385 square feet.

It is proposed to lease the area of land to the Company for a period of 10 years in the first instance in considera-

tion of a sum of $480. The Company will be required, at the discretion of the Governor-in-Executive Committee, to replace the property to its former condition at the expiration of the period. The Company will also be required to pay all legal expenses including fees of office to the Crown Solicitor in respect of the transaction and to submit its final plans for the approval of the Town and Country Planning Officer.

There is very little I can add, Mr. Deputy Speaker, in that all the information happens to be given in the Addendum except the length of the warehouse which I have just given as 202 feet long. That is about all the additional information which can be added to the Addendum which sets out the entire position.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have nothing against the Resolution, but I should like to draw to the attention of DaCosta and Company and its Directors how generous this Government is in acquiescing to their request. I should like to draw to the attention of DaCosta and Company that after operating here for some ninety years, they have not seen fit to offer scholarships to the Barbados public. I have mentioned this before, but nobody seems to have taken heed of it. Of course the Government cannot compel them or anybody to do it, but as a matter of good gesture, since they have been operating for some ninety years and it must have been profitable to them since they have made a lot of alterations to their buildings for the better, that firm and most of the big firms in town should offer scholarships to the Barbados public. They are asking us to do something for them, and I as a representative of the people am asking them to do something for us. There is absolutely nothing wrong in DaCosta and Company and a couple of these other big firms offering scholarships to Barbadians who would be able to benefit from them. Before Trinidad won independence, I remember them offering scholarships to Barbados, and I am yet to see most of these Barbadian firms which benefit – I would not say directly by exploitation – start to show good commonsense and good graces to the people here. Trinidad leasehold offered scholarships to people in the West Indies, and I know a Barbadian in England studying on a Trinidad scholarship. I cannot see why DaCosta's, Harrisons and the other big firms, even if they have to get together to do it, cannot offer some incentive other than when they spend money to get a car which is only a recent venture. They should as a matter of good gesture to the Island and to show the harmonious relations between themselves and the workers give a scholarship and I am imploring them to do so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, if the hon. junior member for St. George wants to carry on a conversation, I will have to retire. When he is speaking, I give him the opportunity to do so. He has no manners, of course.

If these people have been operating here for a matter of ninety years, I do not see anything wrong in offering one or two scholarships for the benefit of Barbadians.

Mr. MILLER: The hon. member, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is obviously charged or obsessed with this form of philanthropy which is unknown to the commercial minds in this area. It is an ideal thought and [illegible] of the member's ability to think in terms of people in a community with regard to social development, but it is clear that he is utterly unaware of the sociology that is in a community like ours. If he paid a little attention to anthropology and how it worked, then surely my friend and colleague would certainly not have made that awkward error in speaking of this type of philanthropy. As a mere suggestion, it would go a long way to support the daily school meals, but the increasing cost of rice would be so much in respect of meals that it would eventually close the schools and of course put restrictions on them.....

Mr. BOXILL: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member said that I am not aware of the philantropic ideals of some of these people. That might be true, but it is also true that everybody who would benefit from the scholarship does not eat a daily school meal.

Mr. MILLER: I am aware of the sympathy of this sudden venture in the breast of my friend and colleague, but on the question of application of the thought, this is not to be expected although it would be a gracious attempt for these big firms to give back to the community some of the things they have taken from it. This is a commercial deal and its aspect to them is a question of profit. There is no mistake that in the firm of which he is thinking you would certainly have some of the members out of pocket making contributions to this type of scholarship which my friend is thinking about. (Mr. BOXILL: I am not your friend.) The hon. member is my friend although I would not like to be found dead with him.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Call him the hon. member.

Mr. MILLER: I am addressing you, Sir, and if you will pardon the metaphor, I am thinking of a heap of human debris. I have no doubt that some of the gentlemen who operate this company would make contributions out of their pocket to some scholarships for the educational advancemebt of the people of this country, but to glibly talk about it in the House hoping to persuade the director who is bent on profit at any cost, you will probably agree with me that any assistance by way of a scholarship would only be regarded as a liability when we think in terms of commercial practice. I admire my friend and colleague's idea; it speaks of a type of Christian philanthropy; but the question of whether it is practicable is another matter; and if he continues to dream, these things may come to be a reality and we may benefit from the things which my friend continues to dream about.

3.20 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Before you put the question, I just rise to say that this is a simple matter and one which of course, has to be explained to hon. members. We are merely seeking the approval of the House for a narrow strip of land which is adjacent to the Fire Service to be leased to Messrs. DaCosta and Company. That parcel of land is useless to the Government and the Government in this case is getting full compensation for it. The Government is getting *quid pro quo*.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: What the hon. member has said, Sir, needs a little more emphasising. Some hon. members earlier on spoke about generosity. There is no question of generosity in this matter at all. This is a question of the Government getting its *quid pro quo* and not giving up more for less. It is getting compensation for what it is giving up. All we are doing is to give them a right-a-way to their warehouse and they are paying for it. They are paying $480 for it. The land is of no use to us. As a matter of fact, it is lying there without being of any use to anybody. They have asked for permission to use it. There is no generosity in it at all.

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

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

LEAVE TO TAKE ORDER No. 5

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day.....

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

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

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

THE BANK HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1963

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5 stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House: Second reading of a Bill further to amend the Bank Holidays Act, 1905.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, this is a very simple matter before the House. As you will see from the Objects and Reasons, this Bill seeks to amend the Bank Holidays Act, 1905 in order to give effect to the proposal that the 23rd of February in every year should cease to be a Bank Holiday.

Hon. members will recall that after the first glow of national feeling, jollity and rejoicement over the establishment of the old West Indies Federation, we allowed ourselves to be carried away with the enthusiasm of it so much that we actually earmarked a day to be specially observed as a bank-holiday. Subsequent events have demonstrated how vain were our ambitions and hopes, and only have served to underline the question of whether or not the former leaders of the West Indies were as matured, as experienced and as nationalistic as many of us at present believe. This Federation is now a bad memory and as a matter of fact, some of the territories which formed it have now gone on their own independence, and the remainder appears now to be floundering in the abyss created by the leaders of the old Federation.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I want to get the position clear. This Bill was moved on 12th February, 1963 by the same Hon. Minister, seconded by the Hon. Minister of Labour and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, myself, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph spoke on it and the Hon. Minister himself replied. On the motion of the Hon. Minister of Social Services, seconded by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas, further consideration of this Bill was postponed.

I would like Your Honour's ruling on what is the actual position in which we are dealing with this Bill. At what stage are we?

Mr. SPEAKER: My impression is that the Hon. Leader of the House is making his final speech and the hon. senior member for St. Thomas for reasons known to himself has declined to resume. That is my impression.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I thought that was so elementary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Everything that is elementary is not always obvious.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, I certainly felt that even the narrowest mind would have realised the position at which we were. My next move would be that the House go into Committee on the Bill.

I was saying that the purpose for which this Act was designed no longer exists; therefore, it would be farcical for this Island to still observe the 23rd February as a bank-holiday when the national constitutional position for which it was observed no longer exists. The Government regards it as a most logical step to introduce this Bill to discontinue that day being observed as a public holiday.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that I have to rise again.

Mr. SPEAKER: On what?

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, Sir. If I refresh your memory, all the members who spoke on this matter previously expressed the view that this Bill should be passed; but as it was introduced on the 12th February, it was postponed because the next week was to be the bank-holiday and people had already made preparations for it to be a holiday. There was no opposition to the Bill; so I cannot understand what the Hon. Minister is replying to. 3.30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am under the impression that the Hon. Leader of the House is reminding hon. members that they did not oppose this Bill in the past.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, every hon. member is not blessed with the agile memory of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, and it is therefore necessary for me to recapitulate and to explain what we are doing. After a lapse of nearly a year hon. members may certainly be pardoned for listening if I endeavour for five minutes to refresh their minds with what this matter was all about after the period which has elapsed. Anyhow, Sir, now that I have been reminded that the memories of hon. members of this Chamber are as agile as they ever were, hon. members need no reminder from me as to what this Bill is all about, so that the question can now be put.

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

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

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and passed.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS CONCLUDED

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: As I pledged today, Mr. Speaker, the consideration of that Bill brings Government Business to an end with the exception of a slight amendment to a Bill which was passed by this Chamber and which has been returned by the Other Place. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries would like to deal with the amendments to that Bill.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S AMENDMENTS TO THE BARBADOS MARKETING CORPORATION BILL

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that there has been returned to this Chamber by the Other Place the Bill to amend the Barbados Marketing Corporation Act, 1961. That Bill was passed in this Chamber and it has been returned with certain amendments which appertain to Clause 2 of the Bill.

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries to move the consideration of the Legislative Council's amendments to the Bill to amend the Barbados Marketing Corporation Act, 1961.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the amendment to which Your Honour has referred is in relation to the definition of the word "Produce" as specified in the penultimate line of Clause 2. "Cooking fats, Cooking oils" are referred to and can be taken on by the Marketing Bill. These fats and oils are those with which the Marketing Board will deal as a result of its operation as cooking fats and cooking oils of animal origin. That is a very slight amendment but it merely specifies what fats and oils were contemplated. That is the only amendment, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member quite sure that there is only that amendment to that Bill because the document which I hold in my hand refers to amendments.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, the amendment is merely the substitution of the words "cooking fats and oils of animal origin" for the words "Cooking fats, cooking oils"

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the assurance of the Hon. Minister, but I see that four words have been deleted and seven words have been substituted therefor. That may be properly regarded as "amendments" in the plural.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to move that these amendments be now read a first time.

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

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

On motions of Hon. C. E. TALMA, seconded by Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS in each case, the amendments were read a second time and agreed to.

3.40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, nothing now remains for me to do except to extend my thanks to hon. members for their co-operation in bringing this session to an end so expeditiously. We have to come back next week because the Government proposes to deal with the West Indies Sweepstake Bill, and of course the other matters of which notice was given today, and I think hon. members might well condition their minds to the possibility of prorogation in the very near future.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday, 21st January, at 12 noon.

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

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

3.43 p.m.