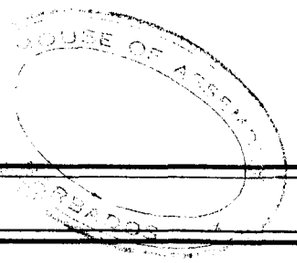
THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



SECOND SESSION OF 1961—66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 2nd June, 1964.

Pursuant to the adjournment, 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.; Hon. C. E. TALMA, *(Minister of Communications and Works)*; Mr. S. E. SEALEY; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, *(Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries)*; 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. J. B. YEARWOOD and Hon. A. Da C. EDWARDS, *(Minister of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Development)*.

Prayers were read.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, 26th May, 1964, have been printed and circulated and if there is no objection, they will be confirmed. *(A Pause).*

No objection having been heard, the Minutes will be confirmed.

DOCUMENTS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Financial Report of the Accountant General for the month ended 29th February, 1964.

PAPERS LAID

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

Statistical Service — Selected monthly Indicators, December, 1963;

Also, Statistical Service — Selected monthly Indicators, January, 1964.

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

Report of the Public Works Department for the year 1963-64;

Also, Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 31st March, 1964.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Government Notices were given as follows:—

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of land situate at Upper Collymore Rock, St. Michael, for Highway improvement.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: On behalf of the Hon. Premier: Resolution to place the sum of $24,180 at the disposal of the Cabinet for the purpose of advancing funds on behalf of the Headquarters Unit of Caribbean Meteorological Service to the Barbados Meteorological Service for operating the Rawinsonde Station at Seawell;

Also, Resolution to place the sum of $12,734 at the disposal of the Cabinet to supplement the Estimates 1964-65 Part I Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1964-65 No. 6 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of parcels of land situate at Halls Road, St. Michael for the purpose of the canalisation of the Constitution River.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution which is not on the Notice Paper but which has to be dealt with in all its stages today. Copies of it are coming down shortly. The Resolution is for the sum of $35,887.50 in connection with Aerial Photography of the Island for the purpose of assisting in land valuation and Town Planning.

I would like to point out that the Aircraft and the equipment for this purpose is now here and Government proposes to ask the Legislature to deal with this Resolution in all its stages today. I give notice of it now, and copies will be coming down within the next hour.

I also 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 Money Resolution of which notice has been given today.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' NOTICES

Mr. SEALEY: I beg to give notice of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS there has been a steady increase in the flow of traffic over the past five (5) years in this Island;

AND WHEREAS the staff at the Department of Highways and Transport appointed to inspect and test motor vehicles are hard pressed and cannot keep up with the overwhelmingly large increase in vehicles in this Island;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request Government to increase the posts of Inspector, Highways and Transport to double their present complement.

Mr. YEARWOOD: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is Government aware that the cost of obtaining a good and marketable title in land in this Island is well nigh prohibitive, especially to owners of land not exceeding in value the sum of £ 500?

2. Will Government ensure, by legislation or otherwise that a graded scale of fees and expenses with respect thereto be drawn up so as to alleviate this hardship?

Mr. SEALEY: To enquire of the Minister of Health:

Is Government aware that one of the posts of Head Orderly at the General Hospital has been vacant for a period of over three years and that the person appointed to act in that post over the same period has received no extra emoluments in respect of such acting appointment?

2. Will Government see to it that this situation be remedied without delay?

Mr. LOWE: To enquire of the Minister of Health:

Is the Government aware that Orderlies, Cooks, Maids and Carpenters who have been employed at the General Hospital for over four years have now been subjected to educational tests?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government state the reason? If not, will the Government issue a directive to cease this practice?
12.30 p.m.

REPLIES LAID

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, there are three Replies to Parliamentary Questions ready. There is the Reply to Question No. 1 tabled by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and enquired of the Hon. Premier.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 2 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph is now ready.

I also beg to give notice that the Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 3 also asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph is ready.

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER: The first Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:- To move the second reading of a Bill to amend the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act, 1943. When this matter was last under consideration, the House was in Committee. As a matter of fact, it would appear that there is an error on the Order Paper in connection with this Bill. The Order should have been to resume Committee on this Bill. I apologise for this error.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to postpone the consideration of this matter for this day's sitting.

There being no objection, leave was granted.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT CONSTITUTION AND MARTINDALE'S ROAD

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. John:- To move the passing of the following Resolution:-

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land situate at Constitution Road and at Martindale's Road, St. Michael.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Order standing in the name of the Hon. Premier.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister is asking leave to take charge of this Order standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. John. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. (*A PAUSE*).

Hearing no objection, leave is granted. Let the Hon. Leader of the House proceed.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this is one of those routine matters in which when the Government is seeking to acquire land for public purposes and is unable to come to terms with the owners or vendors of the land with regard to the price, it is necessary to resort to the Land Acquisition Act in order to achieve the Government's purpose in the first place and to settle the price on the basis of mutual agreement more or less. Hon. members will see that this land is situated at Constitution Road and at Martindale's Road in the City of Bridgetown, and that the area involved is nine acres, three roods seventeen and three-fifths perches. The Addendum to the Resolution points out that negotiations which have been opened with the owners of this land failed, and the Government had no alternative than to invoke the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949 in order to obtain possession of the area and then leave the question of compensation to the owners to be settled under the Act. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to compliment the Government in taking the initiative to acquire this strip of land in Delamere land which, in my opinion, should have been acquired about 15 years ago. I think the time has come in Barbados when people should be told that development — and nothing would give more character and dignity to this island than that — should be encouraged and the cheap, political gushing which we get when we have to remove people from their own squalor is something which we have to face. I hope the Government has plans to make the City of Bridgetown more in keeping with the appearance of the 20th century. I can very well remember when nearly 19 years ago we sought in this Chamber to buy — and indeed bought — the Pine Plantation. There were many people saying that we are taking the people out of the town and carrying them to the Pine, and they were talking a lot of nonsense which proved to be pointless.

It is amazing to hear anybody today in this Island of 166 square miles, talking about distance; you have a country 21 x 14 miles and someone will say that people will have to live too far — from what? Here in Bridgetown we have a slum growing up — and I hope that something would be done about it — in Nelson Street. My own Organisation without any Government aid renovated a building in Fairchild Street and that has lent character to the area; since that day that street has been completely changed and there is a complete metamorphosis over the south side of the City. I feel that this Delamere strip of land is an excellent acquisition which will open the City for better development and utilisation of the space; and if I had my way I would go right through Halls Road until I came back to the Y.W.C.A. I remember that some years ago — I do not know what the Government is waiting on, but the last Government waited too — it was more than ten years ago that all of the land which is going east of Combermere old school and the Highways and Transport Department should have been acquired so as to make the area something which would give character to the City. Queen's Park, Harrison College and all the buildings around there should be used so as to add some dignity to the City.
12.40 p.m.

This development cannot be done in a year, but there should be a development programme where the acquisition of land like this is for better utilisation. The hon. senior member for St. Michael has just given notice of a Resolution in relation to traffic, and I feel that when it comes to the traffic problem, you can give a better access approach and out-of-the-City exit to motorists and traffic rather than have these bottle-neck streets that were meant for the days of the horse and buggy. I feel, now that we are not living in the horse and buggy age, but in the astronaut age, the time has come that our thinking should be in consonance with the age in which we are living, and I hope that the Government will undertake to make these things clear. There is Emmerton Lane, a low lying area, which from the health point of view is not the best. Greater utilisation should be made of it, and I hope that the Government will also make greater utilisation of the atmosphere of the sky. Barbados is 21 miles by 14 miles, but there is no limit to how high we can go. Fortunately for us, no limitation has been put on our height, but a limitation has been put on the area of land we have. Let us utilise height and adjust the minds of the people of Barbados that it is better to live in dignity in flats than for somebody to go on feeling that you are living in a better condition when you are spread out in a 18' x 10' house in a backyard. This plantation concept must cease, and people must be told and encouraged that better living can only come by better planning; and if we have to plan for those who cannot plan for themselves, the Government must take the initiative in these matters.

I should like to compliment the Government, but I draw these things to Government's attention because I believe I would be failing in my duty if I did not do so. I said that Delamere Land was not a good place even before we had those floods; but, unfortunately for us, people who live in the Western world do not seem to like to come to grips with a situation unless there is a problem. If everything is looking like sunshine and you go to undertake anything, all the wiseacres are going to say that they have been living there in their great-grandfathers' time and it is quite good enough for them. Mr. Speaker, I feel that we need not wait until the floods come, but should attempt on occasions like these to have our own projections for the people of this country. I see in evidence as I said before, by the Market Square valuable portions of land being made available to people to give the City a better character, and I would like to see that character developing a little outside the City. I feel that it is an excellent opportunity, now that the new Hospital has been built and now that buildings around that area are going out, for recanting to take place, by putting people on alternate sites, and by beautifying the City in a way that would enhance a country that is moving towards independence. I hope that the challenge we have to meet will be made known to the people, and they will not be allowed to remain living in these low lying areas subject to all the vagaries of the weather. It is not in the best interest of the people themselves nor is it in the best interest of community development. This is a step in the right direction and I hope the initiative will be taken up.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I am not opposing this Resolution because it is serving a very useful purpose, but, Sir, the Addendum states that negotiations had been opened with the owners of this land but all efforts to agree on the purchase price were to no avail. Now we know that, so long as you have to acquire land along these lines, no agreement has been reached and we have to sanction this acquisition; but surely, Sir, whoever is responsible for the Addendum should have made it a little clearer to hon. members who do not know anything about the agreement. I do not know if any on the Government benches know, but we should be told what price was offered by the owners and what was offered by the Government; otherwise we are sanctioning this without that knowledge. The only knowledge we have is that efforts to agree on the purchase price were to no avail. The Government should pay members more courtesy by letting them know what in truth and in fact caused them to acquire this land compulsorily. We are representatives of the people, but in this case we are not altogether representing them in the true sense of the word when, if any of them should ask us what caused the breakdown or what was the difference in price, we would not be able to say.

I am appealing therefore to the Government, as I always have to do, to make the Addendum clearer than what it is. I suppose they were sitting on this Resolution for the last six months, but as soon as it comes here, it is public business and we should know what caused them to have to acquire this land compulsorily, whether the owners wanted a dollar per square foot and it is not worth a dollar and the Government is quite willing to give 90 cents. After all, I cannot understand this policy in the dark. They always keep us in the dark when it comes to voting the people's money to do these things. In this case we may not be voting the money, but we are asked to sanction the acquisition of this land from the owners and we should know the reasons.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I too should like to compliment the Government for this proposed slum clearance and improvement in drainage in the area under consideration. I would like, however, to draw to their attention that whenever people are moved from one area to another, this mobility must be followed up by an increase in the services in the particular area to which they have been moved. There are a great deal of complaints coming from the Pine area to which many people have been moved, because of a lack of sufficient transportation for themselves either to work or shopping in the Bridgetown area, and for the children to go to school. I say this in no critical manner, but I should like to draw this to those responsible that the services in the Pine area are far from adequate.
12.50 p.m.

Children, morning after morning, come to school late and report that there is no bus for the area to bring them to school in time and when these reports are investigated, they are found to have a considerable amount of truth in them. Other children report that if they are not fortunate enough to get a bus at a particular time they cannot get another until after one hour has elapsed. When these buses come, there is cause for much scramble and many people are left behind.

Sir, as I prefaced my remarks, I would like to repeat that I compliment the Government on this venture because many people who were against it now find that their children who have been transplanted to another area now enjoy better health and facilities. Slum clearance is being done everywhere in the West Indies and attempts have been made in Trinidad to acquire Shanty Town, and certain areas which have been slum areas are now being gradually cleared up. The Government is to be complimented on this scheme.

Mr. SEALEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the hon. members who spoke on this Resolution. I commend the Government for the good sense which they have shown in acquiring this spot of land which I consider was a death hazard. I have seen on several occasions that we in Belmont Road had to go and assist people from that place Therefore, I would like to commend the Government for the good sense which they have shown here.

I know that when the people of that area were told that they would have to be removed from there, there was a lot of criticism and a lot of harsh words passed on Government; but today, I can assure you that the people who have been removed from that hazard area and taken to the Pine are now enjoying better health and they are saying that they would have liked to have gone there many years ago.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, the Government is deeply appreciative of the remarks of the hon. members who saw fit to express their appreciation of the Government not only to acquire this land and resite the houses which were on it before, but also to minimise the danger resulting from possible flood damage and accasional loss of life. I remember as far back as 1944, 20 years ago, beseeching the Government then to canalise the Constitution River - unsuccessfully of course - and in future years serious floods occasioned considerable loss of life in the area.

Now, Sir, when this Government assumed office there were no plans existing at all for the clearance of this area. All we found were the plans to build a new Hospital without any attempt to improve the aesthestic beauty of the area, to drain the swamp nor anything even for the sewerage disposal of the new Hospital. It took a considerable effort on the part of the Government eventually to arrange the programme which the public now sees of the decision to remove these houses and resite them elsewhere and to drain the swamp in the manner in which it has been done. All these were part and parcel of our realm, and now both Hospital and its environments are a place of beauty, and the loss of and damage to health brought about by the condition of the land there exist no more.

Naturally, this has cost some money: but we feel that the public of this Island are entitled to the benefits which this expense will correct. It is therefore very heart-warming and very satisfying indeed to have hon. members speaking in appreciative terms of the Government today.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph posed a question with regard to the decision to acquire this land under the Land Acquisition Act. The hon. member has been in here - I almost said from pre-historic times - for many years and I have never heard a debate in here during his or my time in which the figures which he asked for today were disclosed.

This land has not been acquired yet, and the Government which has the authority to acquire land by this means is merely seeking the approval of the Legislature for the decision to begin negotiations with the owners of this land. Normally, what we might say is that the price asked for by the vendor was about seven times as much as what the Government's Standing Valuation Committee offered, and since there is this wide range of difference and there is no possibility at all of reaching a satisfactory conclusion to the question, we have to go about it by this means. The Government seeks to acquire it in the way the law lays down under the Land Acquisition Act.

Sir, I do not know what peculiar motive should have driven the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that he should think that at this stage of the negotiations, we could come in here and disclose delicate financial details which, if disclosed, might be the subject of a protracted debate which may result in the Government paying very much more than it should normally pay. Neither the price asked for by the vendor nor the price which the Government has been advised to pay must obviously be allowed to become the subject of debate during the debate on the Resolution. If the Government is constitutionally required to take steps to acquire the land, the House must act completely under the legislation which exists for the purpose, and the authorities lay down by law what procedure for financing must be allowed to operate without the sort of additional consideration which a debate in the Legislature along certain lines might be allowed to influence the decision to be reached, probably to the detriment of the public interest. Therefore, I cannot and will not entertain the suggestion that the details of this matter should be disclosed at this stage.

I do not think that any of us in this Chamber has ever questioned either the authority or the method practised in referring these matters to the constitutional authority provided for them in acts of legislation, and there is no reason why we should break any fresh ground in attempting to disclose matters of this kind which normally are not disclosed. I say, Sir, that the Government appreciated the tributes which have been paid on both sides of the House to its efforts to make this entire area surrounding the Hospital an area, not only beautiful to the eye, but an area which does not pose any further threats to the life and limb of the people in the community. With those tributes fresh in our ears, we feel that not only in this direction but in other directions as well, so long as the Government continues to pursue policies which are devoted to improvement in the public interest and the protection of the community from all points of view, we can afford to pursue such policies, being confident in the fact that in due course even the opponents of the Government will come around to the point of view that the policies which we are pursuing are the best policies.

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

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT MURPHY'S BOTTOM

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day also stands in the name of the hon. and learned senior member for St. John. Did I understand the Hon. Leader of the House to seek leave to proceed with all of these Resolutions standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. John?

HON. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I actually did not seek this leave at the time, but I propose to do so now with Your Honour's permission.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking permission to proceed with certain orders on today's Order Paper standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. John, and unless there be any objection, leave will be granted. *(AFTER A PAUSE)* There being no objection, leave is granted.

The next Order of the Day now stands in the name of the Hon. Leader of the House:- To move the passing of the following Resolution:-

Resolution to approve of the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land situate at Murphy's Bottom, St. Andrew.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, the arguments in principle which I used in connection with the first Resolution apply more or less with the necessary changes being made, to the one which is now before the House. Similarly, this is a Resolution for the compulsory acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act of 1949, of a smaller area of land than that mentioned in the first Resolution; that is to say, this area of land comprises 1 acre 2 roods 21.64 perches. This time we need this amount of land for the purpose of highway improvement. Hon. members will see from the Addendum that efforts to acquire the land by private treaty have failed not on the question of price in this case, but on the question of the unavailability or the difficulty in determining the whereabouts of the owners of about two-thirds interest in the land.

The land in question is required by the Department of Highways and Transport for stabilising the highway in that district since the area is subject to periodic landslides. Apparently we used to rent this land, and a certain amount of planting of fruit trees and khus-khus grass had been undertaken by the Department of Highways and Transport under the advice of the Department of Agriculture in order to assist with this land. Further steps have to be taken, and some of the owners of the land are not in favour of our taking these further steps so long as the land remains in their possession. The Government has come to the conclusion that this land should be acquired compulsorily, and this Resolution which is now before this Chamber seeks to obtain the endorsement of hon. members for the proposed action to be taken on the part of the Government. 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.

SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF LAND NEAR HOLY TRINITY BOYS' SCHOOL

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. and learned senior member for St. John, but of which the hon. senior member for St. Philip has been granted leave to take charge. It is to move the passing of the following Resolution:- Resolution to approve the sale by Public Auction instead of by tender of the house with land attached situate near the Holy Trinity Boys' School, St. Philip.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this is the third and final Resolution of its kind on the Order Paper for today, but in this case the Government, instead of seeking to acquire an area of land, is seeking to dispose of property which it now has. The property, which it is proposed to dispose of, consists of a piece of land near Ruby Plantation in the parish of Saint Philip containing ten thousand eight hundred and sixty five square feet with a building or small dwellinghouse standing thereon. This dwelling house was originally intended to accommodate the headteacher of Holy Trinity Boys' School, but for some years now it has been completely untenanted. It is not well situated in relation to the school and it is not in a good state of repair. There is no water installed because the house has been inaccessible to water, being situated in the middle of a large plantation area.
1.10 p.m.

When the Government offered the project for sale by tender, there was no adequate tender for it some months ago, and now that we have decided to sell by public auction instead of by tender, the Government is prepared to abide by whatever it brings when publicly auctioned. There is no point in retaining the property, Sir, because there is no point in trying to repair it. The Minister concerned visited the site. It was very inconvenient from the beginning and must have been selected by the people without any appreciation of the type of accommodation which a headmaster should have, and certainly, Sir, as I said in relation to the site of the school itself, nobody in his right senses even fifty years ago, far less now, would expect a headmaster to live in a house in which you could not even obtain the normal elementary facility of running water; and with the exception of utilising it as a house for a schoolmaster, the property is of no use whatsoever to the Government, and since it is not near to the school for this purpose, our decision has been to dispose of it. We got no adequate tender, and therefore we have decided to sell by public auction.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask leave of the House to deal with two Resolutions standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Andrew the Hon. Minister of Health, is asking leave to take charge of the two Resolutions, Nos. 5 and 6 on the Order Paper, standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Lucy, the Hon. Minister of Education, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

Hearing no objection, leave is granted.

RESOLUTION *re* CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. SPEAKER: Order No. 5 is a Resolution approving the guarantee by Government of the payment of principal and interest on authorised borrowing of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation not exceeding $650,000 in the aggregate.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, in December last year the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation was established, and it was understood at that time that in the near future a television service would be introduced. As the Addendum sets out here, the assent of the Governor was given on 20th November, 1963 for the approval of a loan to the C.B.C. not exceeding $300,000. It has now become necessary to increase that amount by $75,000, and also due to the fact that it is planned that Barbados should have a television service by December this year, the approval of a further $275,000 as a fluctuating overdraft or loan from one of the commercial banks is sought.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I think this Resolution with which we are dealing will require a little more debate, because after six months I think the new Broadcasting Corporation should give the Government and the Minister an opportunity to make a progress report, and to tell us, now that they are extending the services, what they think of the station and how the Corporation is functioning. I am not pressing that on them today, but I am sorry that the Minister in charge is not here, because I have to say a thing or two that is going to require a reply from the Government.

I am not opposed to television as such, and I have been pressing all along that Barbados should have a radio station. I am very pleased indeed that we have one, because it gave me pleasure on the last occasion that I left Barbados to listen to the Barbados Radio Station even when I got to Antigua. I did not hear it any further North, but when I leave Barbados and go to any of the other West Indian Islands, I can be in touch with what is going on at home, for which I am very pleased. I have visited the studios that have been set up in Jamaica by C.B.C., and I should like to say that the Government should undertake to see to it that C.B.C. gets a better studio. I am very glad to see that the Premier has arrived, because what I say now would bring a reply from him. I have been to the C.B.C. studio and I do not think it is good enough. They are putting up simple studios; and though I am not an expert and am not saying that they should be elaborate, I would say that the echo that you get on the radio from C.B.C. would be minimized if it had a better studio to absorb some of the sound. I am very pleased to know that Barbados has a radio station, as I do not feel that, apart from anything else, Barbados should be without one.
1.20 p.m.

It is left to the Government if they are satisfied that television is necessary at this stage. This is not a matter of principle; this would be a matter of detail and judgment. I would like to see this.

Now that the Hon. Premier has arrived, I would just say that he is responsible for policy in his Government. It has been drawn to my attention that the Government intends to revoke the licence granted to the Barbados Rediffusion Service and I would like at this stage to point out that the Barbados Rediffusion Service employs over 100 people. I have received a letter pertaining to that matter because we, of the Union, are negotiating with that Company now on behalf of the workers. I would just say that you should not put a Company out of business which is fundamentally a good employer.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would just give way, I would just like to say that I do not know where the hon. member got his information from, but there seems to be a mis-leakage of Government Business going on outside the walls of the Ministerial Buildings. As a matter of fact, one of the questions tabled by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph last week divulged information which even members of the Government did not know. He gave information about the arrival of a Report before it had reached the Ministry.

There is the intention to revoke the existing licence to the Rediffusion Service in order that they would be put on the same footing as the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. That is the position instead of the misleading statement that we are putting people out of business. Far from putting anybody out of business, we would be putting Rediffusion in business in that they have undertaken to provide the television sets when television comes into being. I just would like the hon. member to understand that there is no such intention on the part of the Government to put anybody out of business. We are trying to get more business in Barbados and, as a matter of fact, we get a lot of income tax from Rediffusion.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mine is not a matter of leakage. Temperamentally, I am not a believer in eavesdropping.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: If the hon. member would just give way, I am sure that they could not understand that from the nature of the notice which they have received.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the reason why I raised this matter is because it was only last week that we of the Union were negotiating with Rediffusion Limited on the arrangements of their staff, and we received a letter from them informing us that they have been informed that their existing licence which expires on the 23rd November, 1964, would be revoked and they would not be able to carry on any negotiations at the present because they are not in a position to know under what conditions any new licence would be offered. I wrote them and told them I was nothing to do with any licence under which the Company operates, and that I was something to do with the Company dealing with me and my organisation. I went on to state that you cannot ask us to wait from May until November to deal with this matter and I have written a letter to the Company stating that notwithstanding anything between the Government and your Company, we intend to proceed with this matter.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: If I may be permitted, I would just say that the hon. member should not be led away with such advice. I do not understand if it is any subterfuge on their part to postpone the negotiations between the Union and themselves, but the notice which we sent to them pointed out what Government intends to do, and they will be given the same licence which Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has now; so if C.B.C. has a superior licence now, they are going to enjoy something superior.

Mr. WALCOTT: Sir, I am not defending myself. When I received the letter from the Company, it would not be expected of me to call a strike, and if that is the case, I am letting the Hon. Premier know that we did not wait until the Premier said that he is giving them the same licence as C.B.C.; we wrote a letter informing the Company that even if the Government's intention was to revoke the licence and put them in a less favourable position, not withstanding all of that, we have nothing to do with that.

Sir, on the broad basis, I would like to say that I am not concerned at this stage with any negotiations between the Government and Rediffusion, but I would like to say this as regards Rediffusion Limited. It is a bigger Company than the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation because it employs more people and of necessity. Therefore, as it is such a Company, it provides a greater purchasing capacity for the people whom it employs because it gives more workers the opportunity for purchasing.

I am very pleased to hear what the Hon. Premier said. I would say, speaking generally, that we expect, and the workers expect, in this organisation to get better terms of service and wages.

Now, Sir, on the grounds of television, I have said that I do not regard television as a matter of principle; I regard it as a matter of judgment. I would say that even in Barbadian circumstances, a television service is something worthwhile. I believe that as a mass media, it can be a valuable asset to the community because it gives a wide area of people knowledge in things which they do not know. However, I would like the Government not to ignore what some thoughtful people have been thinking of television for Barbados. It is not that such persons are opposed to T.V. or the Government, to those of us who feel anxious as regards the spending capacity of our community in a manner which we feel, we know that we do not have the other sophistications; so we do say that you should proceed with a matter of caution on this matter.

We know that the Government is underwriting a loan of over $1 million which has to be repaid through advertisements. We also know that people from overseas are going to give you some good advertisements when T.V. is established; but, in a general way, whatever you advertise that is going to be responsible for paying for these things. I do not know if the Hon. Premier has something up his sleeve to put a tax on the advertisements. However, in a community like Barbados, I am one for the operation of television. Rediffusion provides a good service at the cost of only $2.00 per month. They have been doing it for over 20 years, and I do not think that they can be accused of rendering an exorbitant service.
1.30 p.m.

I do not want anybody to think that I am in any way a product of Rediffusion or that I am doing any job for them. As a matter of fact, I have to fight now in relation to some of the profits that they make and you will find that at the other end of the stick Rediffusion and my organization would be at loggerheads. I am very pleased to hear that the Premier has said that they are willing to co-operate; if the Government is controlling the broadcasts from the C.B.C., they are working with the closest collaboration with this network. This is a service which Rediffusion cannot develop on the same basis. If the Government runs a programme for seventeen hours, you are going to get a little trash in some of the programmes or in some of the service. In these programmes there is that which is good and there is that which is trashy. Everybody does not like all kinds of music. I heard a calypso and the person said: "This is music; this is not 'Sparrow Come Back Home' ". Then you have "Come Leh We go". People will want to put something in a Juke Box and it is of no use asking otherwise. I am not a prophet of gloom; I believe that I am just as progressive as anybody else and I would like to see Rediffusion spread far and wide. To get across to the people intelligent discussions would have a great impact on the minds of this community more so than the restricted soap-box methods which we now employ in keeping meetings from parish to parish, and television should be a great asset.

The Government should embark on a more imaginative and enlightened policy as to political broadcasts and they need not necessarily be partisan broadcasts. In my Organization there was an excellent discussion on the question of co-operation, and I feel that not only the ears of people who filled the hall of the Barbados Workers' Union but the ears of the other people to hear it would be in the best interests of the community. A recording of that discussion transmitted in this community would, I feel, be of inestimable value to the community of Barbados. Not carried on by persons who are merely politicians but by intelligent people of the community, television can offer you a service like that. I am not opposed to T.V., but I am a bit cautious when I think of Barbadians still in a poor state where the *per capita* income is concerned. I am not one of those who subscribe to the nonsense that T.V. sets would prevent people from doing their normal business. Far from that, you will find that in the United States of America, T.V. helps people to get through with their normal business. That is so because T.V., as it is arranged, enables the housewives to carry on their business quite intelligently. Those who have the idea that the American people are duds because they have these facilities, only have to put themselves against the Americans in their academic pursuits, and they will see how the Americans qualify themselves as well as other people in the world.

I am thinking from the economic point of view. The Barbadian society is one in which people like to follow others in doing things. This is no criticism of people who own their transmitter sets. These people have the temptation of making people spend money; they have certain emotional appeals. I ask this question: can the economy of the country stand it? I hope that it does not create any sort of inflationary trend among the people. At the beginning I believe that T.V. will be primarily the exercise of the middle income group; whereas Rediffusion can get these rentals to people on an extremely reasonable and cheap basis, on the other hand T.V. might be a very costly affair. The programmes on T.V. will be expensive. If you had to buy Television time — Mr. Speaker, you may not need it in St. Lucy — but it is likely to be beyond the pockets of any of us on this side of the Table.

Mr. SPEAKER: In that event it is bound to be beyond my pocket.

Mr. WALCOTT: Thinking of the Presidency of the United States of America, that would give rise to the mil-

lionaires. You can see what is going on now with people in the same Party, especially the millionaires. I hope that the Government here does not look upon T.V. purely from the point of view of people who have erected television in other parts of the world, but from the point of view of Barbadians. I have seen television in Africa, and one would say that if it is done in Africa it should be done here. However, in Africa there are resources which outstrip anything we have here. This is a matter of one million dollars which the Government is underwriting, which the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation would have to pay, and the question is whether the radio has developed enough or to the point that you can say that we can simultaneously take on a television service.
1.40 p.m.

My view is that I would have preferred to see C.B.C. develop as a radio station in its own right with a variety of programmes, and building up a local talent, because C.B.C. and Rediffusion are still essentially disc jockey organisations. You can count the number of records played out of the number of hours' service they give you. But the whole idea of a radio station is to produce local artistes, whether they be speakers or whether they be people writing scripts. We have not yet in Barbados produced script writing for the radio to bring out the Barbadian character. Those of us who listen to the radio know that one of the most popular programmes in England is that in which a young boy tries to speak like his grandfather, but it brings out something in England about English life. You get a similar thing in America. We have no scriptwriters bringing out something in Barbadian life that would give it character. I would say that Barbados should not be afraid of its folklore, and Barbadians should not be afraid of writing some script that brings out a market conversation or something that takes place on a bus for the character of the country to be portrayed on C.B.C. I am sure that the Minister of Education who is in charge of this had a lot of experience with the B.B.C. I am sure his training did not come from C.B.C., but from B.B.C., because during the war years he was noted for Parliamentary commentaries on what was taking place in the House of Commons; so he has been closer to this than I have been or ever could be.

Mr. Speaker, I am not critical of television. I feel you should have all these things, but I would prefer to see radio that is within the means of everybody now developed. The poorest of the poor is listening to the radio programmes, and I should like to see C.B.C. develop a radio programme until it becomes a very high technique and one of the best in the area, because I think in all the West Indian stations there is scope for building up the West Indian Radio Service to give it a character all its own. My fear about the television is that if you do not have good radio artistes or if you have not built that up yet, all you are going to give us on television is a recorded business, all the old film strips like Charlie Chaplin, a few trashy Westerns with horses running up and down on the screen. We are going to be dished up with this sort of canned stuff that we have plenty of on the radio now. My diffidence is not that I see anything wrong in television, I see something good in television, but I am still hesitant to know if Barbados' economy is one we have to rush for T.V., and my view is that I would have preferred to see the station develop as a radio station making it more powerful, because I was in Antigua and could hear it, and though it is true that I had a small transistor radio, when I got to St. Croix I could not hear it anymore. For that reason I would like to see a more powerful station which can get better as it develops, but I am a bit diffident about the feasibility of a television operation to start in December when your radio service has only one year's experience. You have to build up more of your own people — your announcers, scriptwriters, people writing plays for you original in character, and you have to build up more musical talent. I feel that is the encouragement radio is going to give and television will give, but I still feel that the radio service is the one that should be developed.

I am sorry to say that the development of radio is in need of greater encouragement, and I am pleased to support a Resolution which gives the radio encouragement, but I should like C.B.C. to give us a studio that is good enough. We appreciate the effort you have made in starting off. An excellent job was done; but now that it has started, let us give all the embellishments it requires and not continue to have the cheapest studio so that C.B.C. can function as it is. That is a criticism I have had from a friend of mine in Jamaica.

I can say to the Government, Mr. Speaker, that the management of C.B.C. has recognised the Union; so I can regard C.B.C. as a good employer too. You will see, Sir, that I have both C.B.C. and Rediffusion employers to deal with; so I cannot cut any sides. I have to say that both are good employers and they must compete with each other on equal terms. The Premier would know that I would not be asking for any better terms one against the other in this matter; but what I do say is that I feel that the C.B.C. Station on its operational side should be put to the highest point. Mine is not a criticism of television. It is not a matter of principle; it is a matter of judgment. Maybe if I had it to do, I would do radio more and then do television after, but perhaps the Government is satisfied that they are right in doing T.V. My view of it is that there are other aspects of the devlopment that should be encouraged. I know that we are going to spend a lot of money in importing T.V., and I am wondering if the advertisements that would come from this is enough to justify it; otherwise we would be exporting a lot of capital that could be utilised for other benefits of mass media communication. It is an excellent thing and I hope the Minister may be able to allay my fears in this matter, and also let us know if there is any progress report to be made on C.B.C. at this stage.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, of course, that I was not in my place when the hon. member rose to speak, but I had been informed of the burden of his criticisms before my arrival, and of course I have listened to him since I have been in my place with very great interest. I would like to deal first of all with the radio station as it now is. I think everybody understands, Mr. Speaker, that when we established a radio station as a Government enterprise and placed it by law under the control of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, we were not only doing a new thing in Barbados so far as radio transmitting was concerned, but in the circumstances in which it was being done, we were under pressure and we kept to our deadline.
1.50 p.m.

I say even within the five months now, not only did we receive congratulations from all sides of the House, but we received congratulations for the manner in which we did not have to come to the House to burden the taxpayers in any way with respect to the financial arrangements which we made for the establishment and future running of the Station, because they were such as to enable the people of this Island to enjoy the service and to pay for it in the most sensible way by creating a commercial station which the people of Barbados would own and which station eventually would pay for itself. It is true that there are some criticisms to be made of the progress and the operation of this station, but these criticisms are well known to the people who run it. The Ministry and the Board are duly examining these complaints, and just as frequently attempts are being made to remedy them. There is a weakness on the programming side. That is inevitable in view of the fact that the station is new; but both the Corporation and the Ministry understand that weakness, and we are making efforts to make that deficiency good.

I want to say one thing about the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, and it is a reorientation in the service and it is quite different from the service which they are now accustomed to. I do not say this in any denigration of the service of Rediffusion. Now, we do not report sensational crimes on C.B.C., because we feel the suppression of such would be in the national interest. By being so discriminatory, we encourage the people of this Island, not to be too taken up in other people's business. Secondly, even in such a simple matter as an announcement of a death notice, we do not announce it without prefacing the person's name with "Mr." or "Mrs." or "Miss" as the case may be. We feel that on that matter there is a certain amount of dignity which we want to attach to people so that even if

they are poor, their names should not be called out without that salutation. Some days after C.B.C. went on the air, the other service in order to show how much informed it was, broke into a very serious programme to announce that a woman had got her thumb squeezed by a car door. Now, that is not news, and for a radio station to think that putting out that sort of thing offers competition to another, it is just fooling itself.

We want the general public to be aware that we are aware of all those problems with respect to this Station broadcasting as a public service. When we started, our projection was that the revenue which we would derive would be $15,000 a year. Obviously, we have not come to the end of the year, but I can say from what is known that we are far in excess of that.

In this connection, I would like to say, without questioning the hon. member's point, that the caution which might be exercised by holding back television until the radio gets a little further need not be, because we have not planned to make radio and television two separate establishments. They are going to be two exercises in a single establishment. It is planned that the revenue from television within five years' time would be enormous. What is stated by the experts who know what they are talking about, is that advertising by T.V. grows, and as from the second year, we are going to see a drop in revenue by radio, but this drop would be made good by the increased revenue from T.V.. In other words, what we lose in the Lord's Prayer, would be gained in the Belief, or what we lose on the Swings would be gained on the Round-about.

As regards the economy to this Island with respect to television, here, it is a matter of outlook. What we hope for is that the people of this Island would use T.V. for enlightenment and exercise all restraint they can in using it.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER: It now being 2.00 p.m., the sitting of this House stands suspended until 2.30 o'clock p.m.

2.00 p.m.

QUESTION TIME

On re-assembling, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is no quorum present and I ask that the bell be rung.

On the bell being rung a quorum was obtained.

PREMIER'S VISIT TO LONDON

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now Question Time. Notice has been given that the Reply to Question No. 1 standing in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has been laid.

Mr. SMITH: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Was the Honourable Premier's visit to London on the most recent occasion a private visit or one on public business?

2. If the latter, will the Honourable Premier say what was the nature of this business, and the outcome of discussions affecting this Island?

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

On 25th April, last I left the island for the United Kingdom on Public Business. I was accompanied by the Financial Secretary. I held discussions with senior officials at the Colonial Office and the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies and with private individuals interested in the development of Barbados.

These discussions were held at a confidential level and the outcome cannot be divulged at this time.

We returned to the island on the 1st May after settling details of the Hilton project in New York with the architects and project manager on the same date.

Mr. BOXILL: As a supplementary question, I would like to ask the Hon. Premier whether he would inform this House whether it is a practice that Ministers of the Government, especially the Premier, when they go on confidential business, have to divulge confidential business to this Chamber.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. I know the Ministerial position, but I would like to know what sort of convention we are going to adhere to. Are we going to have Parliamentary Secretaries asking supplementary questions like this? A Parliamentary Secretary is part of the Government, and it would seem to me to be most irregular if you can have a Parliamentary Secretary asking a Minister a supplementary question. The next thing is that you will find a Minister asking another Minister a supplementary question. To me, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it looks farcical for a Parliamentary Secretary to ask a Minister a Supplementary question; I would like to know how far that is going to be a laughing-stock or how far it is going to be serious.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: In reply to the question asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.....

Mr. HUSBANDS: On a point of order.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will refuse to give way to somebody who is getting up on a point of order when I am in the middle of giving the answer to a question. We have enough of this sort of thing which the hon. member gets on with.

Mr. HUSBANDS: On a point of order. The point on which the hon. senior member for St. Peter rose is a matter of interest to the entire House. I would like Your Honour to make some ruling or give some explanation on that particular point of order. This is of as much interest to me as it is to any other hon. member. It is for Your Honour to rule in this matter. Irrespective of what the Premier says, that does not bother me; I would still like to hear Your Honour make some explanation on the point which has been made by the hon. senior member for St. Peter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What the hon. member asked was not a direct question; he just explained what the position is and he does not expect an answer. He followed it up by making it clear what is to be the convention.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the first place, I can answer any question. I have answered that question although, in my opinion, it is not a question — I know that the hon. member does not ask the questions himself; they are put through him. However, I am prepared to answer any question which is put in a constitutional manner. The hon. junior member for St. Thomas is not a member of the Government, and I may say that any member of the House can put a question. The hon. member is not a Minister at all. Quite apart from that, I would like to draw to Your Honour's attention that this is purely a procedural matter and I did not want to make any comment about it. As I say, Sir, I have answered the question which the hon. member has put, although I cannot see the propriety of a question asking a member of the Cabinet to divulge something which would come within the Official Secrets Act. If we do not have missions abroad, the kind of business which we invaribly have to transact would have to be transacted by means of cable or code to our representatives abroad, and the hon. member would not find it within his competence to ask what sort of cable we sent last night. For the hon. member to ask me what is the result of my visit or whether my journey was necessary or not, I do not

think that that comes within the province of the hon. member at all.

PUBLICATION OF THE JACKSON REPORT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next Question also stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph.

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

Is it a fact that the Jackson Report on Local Government has been received by the Government?.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am hearing voices other than the voice of the hon. member who is on his feet, and I will not tolerate that.
2.40 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question reads as follows:

To enquire of the appropriate Minister:

Is it a fact that the Jackson Report on Local Government has been received by the Government?

2. If so, will the Government publish at an early date the findings contained in the Report for the benefit of the people of this Island?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reply is as follows:-

"1. Yes, Sir.

2. The Report will be printed and published as soon as possible."

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as a supplementary, will the Minister state when this Report was received?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Report was received at Government House on Monday afternoon, 25th May. It reached my Ministry at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 26th, just a little over an hour after the question was asked. I may add that it is generally known that the Report was to have been sent to Government on or before 31st May, 1964.

ACQUISITION OF LAND AT EAST COAST ROAD

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the question reads as follows:-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will Government consider the advisability, now that a vast lot of land will be available through the opening up of the East Coast Road, of setting aside a few acres of land in the area of the East Coast Road for erecting a modern building, playfield and Park for the uses of the people in St. Joseph and the Island as a whole, in view of the fact that the Bathsheba Social Centre building St. Joseph, is in a very bad state of disrepair, and there is no proper place for a playing field?

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Reply is as follows:-

"The provision of recreational centres, including playing fields, parks and beach facilities throughout the island is under study. The East Coast Road is one of the centres being considered by the Committee which was appointed on 11th May, 1964."

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That brings Question Time to an end. The first Order under Private Members' Business is to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution *re* legislation of general coverage to ensure that workers, severed from employment through no fault of their own, be adequately compensated.

On 26th May, the hon. senior member for St. Peter moved the passing of the Resolution, and the hon. junior member for St. Peter seconded the motion, and was on his feet at 4.30 p.m. when Government Business was called.

RESOLUTION *re* LEGISLATION OF GENERAL COVERAGE FOR WORKERS SEVERED FROM EMPLOYMENT

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think I have much to add to what I said on that occasion on this matter, but I think that the House will be in entire agreement with this proposal, since the request is that the Government consider the urgent necessity of making this provision for workers who are severed from their employment through no fault of their own.

I remember on the last occasion, Sir, going through the different types of workers who are very often severed from employment at the whims of their employers, and others who are severed from employment after they have reached the age of retirement and through the incapacitation of health without adequate provision resulting to them after many years of arduous work. To my mind, I repeat that the most practical solution that I can think of is a system of insurance contributed to partly by the employer and partly by the worker, in order that workers finding themselves in such a plight may be relieved. It is often observed that many people who have given long service seem, when they come to retire, to be at the beginning of their toil. Instead of at the end going home and enjoying their retirement, most of them have to being or attempt to acquire a home, some of them still have to maintain families, and they live under a continuous strain of insecurity and uncertainty. I think that all citizens and all members of this House would be aware that such a condition should not obtain with workers who through no fault of their own have had to retire.

I feel, as the hon. member has said, that the Government should go into this matter of their employment policy. It is really a subject that is very far removed from that sort of provision that exists in other countries where people who have reached the age of retirement are given national security, but it is really not that, because it is specifically set out in the Resolution that it applies to people who have been severed from employment through no fault of their own, and I think that in a practical manner the question might be solved if there is some sort of insurance. Men who have reached their 70th year or men past 70 years of age without this seem to be rather at the beginning of their toils than at the end of them. I think that stultifies the whole purpose of life, and these are disadvantages and conditions that are handed on to their sons and grandsons.

I think that at this stage of our development, Sir, that the Government would not find itself in any embarrassing position if some practical solution could be found to relieve such workers who have given years of service and who cannot, as public servants can, look forward to pensions and other securities that Government servants obtain. And so, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I give this Resolution my blessing, and I do not think there is anything controversial in this which is not sectional.
2.50 p.m.

It includes all workers who through no fault of their own would be severed from employment; some of their conditions accrue to many workers of faithful service.

I need not repeat that again and I do not think there is anything material which I can add. I will say that this Re-

solution is a very sound one, and there are some reliefs which will be brought about which we will see.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, a Resolution of this sort is one which I feel should only be read once and then the question put, because I am saying here now that unless we as representatives of the people try to pass the necessary legislation to help those who really elected us, we will not be doing anything. Often you hear that such-and-such a factory or business has gone out of operation and you also hear that people are being told that there is no more work for them after working at a place for a very long time. As this Resolution reads, these workers are severed from employment through no fault of their own.

Now, Sir, this is a case in point. I was told that this has happened at the Government-owned sugar factory. There was a particular individual who did everything he was told to do by a particular person and eventually, that person told that individual that his spirit and that of the individual did not agree; so do not come back to work. Imagine an employer telling an employee who is a human being just like himself that my spirit and yours cannot meet; so do not come back to work.

That is not good enough. The person who sent him away and who told him "my spirit and yours cannot meet; so do not come back," must be an angel, because if I were working with a man and doing everything so as to satisfy him and all the fault which he could find of me was to tell me about my spirit and his do not meet, well, Sir, I would have to turn to him in spirit. That is not good enough.

This is another thing which has happened at the same factory. There are men who were working there who, I am told, have not been taken on at all since the factory has recommenced operations, just because the owners of it were changed. The persons who were responsible for taking on the workers told these people whom I am talking about that there was no work there for them and other people were brought into the factory from all around the district and given employment. I am not saying that that is unfair. Everyone of the working class people has to look forward to get work and if they do not get it, they will not be able to support their families. However, it is not fair to a man who worked at that factory previously — I would say until the factory doors were closed — to be told just because there is a new management and new owners, that "we are not taking you on" without any sort of reason at all.

Sir, a Resolution of this kind is needed because you are hearing all the time of factories going out of operation. What are we to do with those people who are severed from employment through no fault of their own? Something will have to be done and it should be done very quickly. You allow one man to tell six or eight people that there is no work for them. There is no work for them through no fault of their own. As regards those workers who were told that there was no work for them, I understand that nothing was in the black book of the factory, when it was Haggatts Factory, against them. As a matter of fact, some of them were even employed up to the time that the factory was about to start.

I feel that one of the main things which would encourage that factory would be to keep the workers together. What do we find? No sooner than the Government has owned that factory, the bosses of it have turned out whom they care and turned in whom they care. If you had legislation on the Statute Book to this effect, these people would have been drafted in or provided for according to the terms of this Resolution, and by that, may be, they would not be out of work at all because someone may say that it is no use turning off A to take on B because you would have to compensate A.

Sir, I know that a Resolution of this sort needs no pressing because every hon. member around this Table would be in favour of having a law on the Statute Book of this nature. It is true that we should drive some fear or some thought into some of those people who just do not care about the workers, because there are still some employers who only like to come among workers because they want work done. If they could get the work done otherwise, they would not want the particular employee. They would bring in the ones whom they want and out the others would go. Therefore, we have to tighten up on all these loose screws and let everyone know that representation is there for one and all.

3.00 p.m.

Mr. LOWE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when I consider this Resolution, I will have to support it on all possible grounds; but after hearing the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, I doubt very much whether he has really taken time off to consider and study this Resolution. When the hon. member discussed Haggatts Factory, I do not think that that has anything at all to do with this Resolution. This Resolution just seeks or requests the Government to consider as an urgent requirement of employment policy, the enactment of legislation of general coverage to ensure that workers, severed from employment through no fault of their own, be adequately compensated. The owners of that particular factory would have to compensate those workers. This is a bit of legislation which should have been placed on the Statute Book, not today, but from the time that we had a Labour Organization within the island of Barbados. It is a sour thing to think that in a progressive age like this, we now have to consider and discuss this Resolution for the purpose of safeguarding the unfortunate workers who have been exploited for a number of years, and who have been thrown out of work without one iota of compensation. I can only realise that the Union has done their bit in seeking for severance pay for many of these workers. I feel Sir, that this is a bit of legislation asking that employers take it upon themselves, not through economic pressure or through loss of money, but by way of agreement of the big people who decide within this island to mechanise and have things their own way in the one industry which employs the majority of people in this island seasonally and who have been thrown out of employment through no fault of their own, to compensate these people. If we had legislation of this nature on the Statute Book I would almost argue that the owners of many of the factories which have been closed down, would have thought twice before they did so. Applewhaites has just served notice to their employees and workers that they are closing down and there are approximately 75 of these workers. There is an agreement between the Barbados Workers Union and the management of Applewhaites, but in this year of Grace we have just seen an instance in this island that agreements between people are coming to such a stage that unless you have legislation to safeguard these agreements they fall to the ground. Therefore, as much as the Union might agree with the employers to grant severance pay to the workers, there is no legislation to the effect that if these people should decide not to honour the agreement with the Union, these unfortunate workers will not suffer the consequences. That is why I am prepared to support this Resolution because I realise that it is only the unfortunate people who are in the lower brackets who will suffer from the closing down of these factories. Therefore, I have much pleasure in supporting this Resolution.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Deputy Speaker, like other hon. members who have supported this Resolution, I am forced to add a few remarks in view of the fact that I happen to represent a parish which is largely agricultural. These workers in St. Thomas have been very worried, as the hon. member has said, in connection with the owners of Applewhaites Plantation having served notice on the workers as to the closing down of the factory. They have approached me and I have read in the newspaper that the Barbados Workers' Union has negotiated on their behalf and has been very successful in getting severance pay for these workers. I am quite sure that the fears of these workers have been allayed as a result of this information which was given to them. It is true that the workers in the lower bracket have always been at a disadvantage, and it is on that premise that we should address ourselves on behalf of these people. These workers have helped to develop the country and I feel that something should be done on their behalf. I also feel that this Government would do all in its power to al-

leviate the situation and to enact legislation which would improve the status of these people and so enable them to fill their rightful role in the community.

There are over 70 workers at this factory who would be thrown out of work and I am appealing to the Government to do all that lies in their power to find some alternative employment for these workers. Some of them have worked for more than 25 years and they have worked for the required number of weeks which will entitle them to their severance pay. I believe that a large number of these workers will qualify for this severance pay, and I do not think it would be out of order to ask the Government to enact legislation so that these workers, when the time comes for them to leave their jobs, will find that the Government has enacted this sort of legislation which will protect them so that they will have a future before them. I have much pleasure in speaking in support of this Resolution and I hope that its implementation will not be too far distant.

Mr. CORBIN: Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting a Resolution of this nature. This Resolution is seeking to secure adequate compensation for those labourers or for those people who have been working for sometime and have been laid off through no fault of their own.
3.10 p.m.

As one of the members who have spoken has said, legislation of this kind should be on the Statute Book. It shocks me to listen to members of the former Government speaking about the sufferings of poor people when they knew of their sufferings. The last Government, I understand, loaned people money to purchase factories which have now stopped operations, and people working in those factories have been laid off without any compensation. The people working at Lemon Arbor and Joes River were laid off without compensation when those factories were closed. The last Government, Mr. Deputy Speaker, showed people how they were oppressed by the Conservative Government; but they took over the Government, and for 17 years ran this country without any thought of social security to help poor people. There are people who worked for Bruce Vale Factory and up to now have not got a penny. I met yesterday an old man who worked for Bruce Vale from the time I was a boy. I enquired of him what he was doing in town, and he informed me that he was going to the Labour Exchange to register his name because he heard that some compensation was to be given to people who were laid off for many years. I assured him that the Secretary of the Trade Union had a Resolution before the House seeking compensation for such people. I know how this poor man suffered because I worked at the factory in former years.

Today, Mr. Deputy Speaker, you hear men get up and say that this should be done or that should be done, but when it was in their power to do these things, nothing was done. That is the sin of omission which was committed by the last Government. I am sure, Sir, that if a social security scheme was set up by the last Government, the poor people who were laid off would be able to benefit today. This Government in its manifesto promised to introduce social security, and for its two and a half years of office, the Government has been doing everything in its power to help the poor people of this country. Any Government which helps the poor people will stand. God has spoken to the mind of the Secretary of the Trade Union to bring this Resolution here, and I am sure that it will be supported unanimously in this House. I have seen old people heading canes up steep hills, and I have heard their bones crying out for lubrication, and now they have been laid off without any compensation, and have to depend on 50 cents a week from the Public Assistance Board. If the former Government had introduced social security, all the factories which have been closed would have had to set aside a portion of money for their employees; but instead the money had been put into the bank and the owners are living sumptuously. I have much pleasure in supporting this Resolution.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I too would like to support the Resolution which is now before us, and I think that the Hon. Introducer of the motion is highly deserving of congratulations. A great deal has been said about the poor people and those who worked in the fields, etc., but it might be a good thing to consider not only the particular workers involved, but people also in other walks of life.

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

We have had, Mr. Speaker, examples of workers employed in firms in Broad Street who when these firms closed -- they had been employed there all their lives, some for thirty and more years -- were given not only no adequate compensation but no compensation at all, nor did they know to whom they might apply for assistance after this arbitrary dismissal. What the Hon. Introducer has done has been to seek to ensure that in future no such arbitrary dismissals without compensation could occur, or that when a firm changes hands and the new proprietorship was not inclined to employ all of the old employees, those who were forced out would be able to receive some form of monetary aid to ease them in the last days of their lives.

I would like very much, Mr. Speaker to let it be known that we are in full agreement on this side of the Table with the Resolution tabled by the Hon. Introducer.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, the temptation, I think, is too much for any hon. member of this House to resist not saying something worthy on this Resolution. Now I take it that this Resolution does not cover a particular class of worker, but workers as a whole.
3.20 p.m.

It does not mean directly places where the plantations or factories are being sold out. As a matter of fact, not only plantations and factories have been sold out, but we have been hearing of firms in the City of Bridgetown changing hands at the eleventh hour and of the situation where the porter or junior clerk after working there for twenty years has been left at the door at midnight.

I take it that the Hon. Introducer of the Resolution was thinking on the whole matter. This Resolution goes to the fabric of the working society of this Island. Mention was made about social security; but if I may be permitted to say it the hon. senior member for St. Peter and the hon. junior member for St. Joseph seem to me to be like two animals drawing a heavy burden and each of them trying to move on and get to the same position.

While the Government is doing all in its power to help the citizens, the hon. senior member for St. Peter is also trying his best. While, in essence, social security thinks in terms of old age or pension allowance, this Resolution is before that because one may put in thirteen or forty-five years' service and then find one's self outside. As I have said, this Resolution comes before social security. This particular matter also causes some dissatisfaction because it is very unfortunate for a man after working in a firm or may be in a private concern, for twenty years and still is strong and able, to find it very difficult to be employed by other persons after he has been displaced, and this may be a stimulus against certain persons who feel after they have obtained the best out of you, or because of their whims and fancies, they should turn you aside.

Anything more which I may attempt to say on this Resolution would be ridiculous. I rise to express my happiness that such a Resolution is before us and regret that this piece of legislation was not on the Statute Book many years ago.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, this Resolution seeks to deal with people who as a result of industrial reorganisation may find themselves without employment, and it goes on to suggest enacting legislation of general coverage to ensure that workers deprived of employment through no fault of their own be adequately compensated.

I will begin by declaring in no uncertain terms that in so far as the general interest of workers in this country is concerned, whether it be a question of finding employment for them alleviating their economic plight or coming to their aid when they retire and are no longer able to work,

the Government of this country is deeply committed and will be committed in matters of this sort. I think not only from its policy but from its efforts on behalf of workers, there is ample justification for saying that in every field of endeavour where the worker is concerned, the Government had demonstrated beyond the slighest shadow of doubt that it has the deepest interest for workers in this country; therefore, on this question of displacement through industrial reorganisation or on the general question of workers finding themselves without employment through no fault of their own, they can rest assured that the Government is prepared, as it has done in the past, to take all necessary steps to see that the workers who form the basic core of the community are protected.

I think that the Government should, at this stage, present a review of its general intentions in so far as workers are concerned. On the general question of employment, I think that all hon. members of this Chamber would admit that no stone has been left unturned in the Government's efforts to provide adequate employment not merely for people who are employed and then find themselves displaced through industrial reorganisation, but employment for a large number of workers who, through no fault of their own, were never able to find adequate employment. We are endeavouring to provide new sources of employment in a variety of ways. The Government during its short time of office has endeavoured to give new direction to industrial development not only for the economy of the country, but in finding work for the people. Our election manifesto committed us to a marked departure in the field of industrial development, and the Government has during its term of office endeavoured to inject a new dynamism on this question of attracting new industries in the country. This was a marked departure for the simple reason that before this Government took over, the question of industrial development proceeded in a most cavalier fashion, and although it is true to say after years of pressure — something like ten or twelve years — the outgoing Government had at long last committed itself in endeavouring to attract industrial development through the enactment of legislation.
3.30 p.m.

Although we had legislation of this type on the Statute Book eventually, I think it is true to say that the question of tackling industrial development in a bold manner had to await the assumption of office of the present Government. We had to begin from scratch because of a completely undeveloped community. It was a community in which there was hardly any tradition of industrial development; there was none of the initial research necessary for industrial development, and none of the material which would be required to start in this direction. It was, therefore, necessary for us to start from the foundation and attempt to build some structure of industrial development. The result is that while, I think we have demonstrated something in the relatively short time in which we have been in office, we will be the first to concede that our function in this respect has not been as yet as far-reaching as we ourselves know it should have been. I would like to say at this stage that in the Ministry of Trade, I have always had the complete loyalty and cooperation of the entire staff in directing the activities of the Ministry along entirely different lines, so to speak. The staff had been accustomed to a department in which they were responsible for formulating a certain amount of policy with regard to the administration of the departments under the control of the Ministry, but they were faced with the task of assisting in the Ministry with an entirely new approach, one in which it concerns itself with the question of policy-making exclusively and being transformed to an almost promotional organization with all the complications and extraordinary efforts which it entailed.

I think we can say that in the Ministry there is a mass of information in connection with this promotional activity which will bear fruit in the best interests of the future economic advancement of the country. We have not only basically improved the legislative concessions for attracting industries, but at the same time we have been endeavouring to do, with the assistance of the Economic Planning Unit, a fundamental amount of basic research and the provision of certain information which can be used as a valuable basis for building a strong and valuable industrial structure. As a matter of fact, I can say that no stone has been left unturned in the effort to transform this island from its basic agricultural structure into the structure of a community which has devoted adequate time and attention to the building of an industrial future.

So far as the requirements of the Government in the way of industrial development are concerned, although not in a spectacular way, we have evidence of the amount of effort and initiative expended in this direction. I think that the next twelve months will witness what may be characterised as a sort of major industrial break-through as a result of all of this economic investigation, and this industrial promotion which will begin to bear fruit. It has been a question of progress by trial and error. As I have said, there was no information on which to draw; there were no examples for us to follow, and we had to chart our own path. Within recent times we have devoted a considerable amount of attention to attracting industries to this country, which not only provided the basic products for this community, but also provided products for the export market, because the consumption is necessarily small, even if judged in terms of West Indian markets.

It is necessary for us to be able to provide in the island products for the export market as well. Even in this respect I am pleased to say that there are possibilities of market development as a result of our efforts in this direction within recent times. Added to that is the fact that products which after our preliminary investigations were not feasible, further research has shown that these same products are a little more practicable than they appeared to be two years ago. Hon. members will remember that the Government declared itself as clearly committed to the idea of the establishment of a cement factory, and then at sometime later after some preliminary investigation, there was something which would be regarded as unsuitable for this product. It would seem that the project is not as feasible as it appeared to be. The cement factory and the flour mill had not been proceeded with, but now we are much nearer fruition with them than we were some years ago.
3.40 p.m.

As I have said, Sir, all these growing pains at the efforts of industrial development are to be expected in a community in this particular field. We had to start absolutely from scratch; there was nothing to build on. Hon. members are aware of the tremendous efforts made in other parts of the world, even in developed countries, in the same direction, and would have a better estimation of the difficulties they had undergone in endeavouring to follow the same path. You find, for instance, in countries like the United States of America, the individual states vying with each other in attracting further industrial development in the State itself. You find that States like New York, Massachusetts, Illinois and others are now setting up their own industrial promotion corporations, their own Tourist Boards and vying for control with other countries and individual States in fostering more economic and industrial development in their own area, and apart from that, Sir, is the fact that other countries, similarly undeveloped like ours, are also in the race for industrial development and are endeavouring to make themselves more self-sufficient in anything which they formerly imported.

There was a time, Mr. Speaker, say, two or three years ago, when I personally felt that an industry established here had a reasonable good chance of finding a market in the neighbouring South and Central American territories. Within the last 18 months those hopes have been dashed to the ground, as one South American country after another has itself undertaken an intensified programme of industrial development, and furthermore has gone to the point where it has created unsurmountable barriers against any manufactured articles coming in from outside which they themselves manufacture.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will ask the hon. member not to stray too far from the actual subject matter of the particular Resolution.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I take it that in a matter of this sort the Government is entitled to deal with the question of employment, unemployment and severance pay or retirement benefits in all aspects, and that the Government might or should be expected in a matter of this sort to give in detail the attempts which it is making to provide full employment for the population, to reduce the level of unemployment, and to provide forms of social security where needed. Therefore I am sure Your Honour would excuse me if I interpret the Government's position in this matter as not merely to get up and say that in principle we support the contention that, where industrial reorganisation is concerned, the Government welcomes the proposal for providing adequate compensation and take my seat. With due deference to Your Honour, I think I should be accorded the opportunity, even if at some time the House appears to be bored, to give a progress report on the efforts of the Government, specifically the Ministry with which I am concerned, to cope with a question which from the remarks of the introducer of this Resolution and from those of hon. members supporting it, would appear to convey the impression that hon. members are profoundly concerned with the question of employment and with the question of unemployment in consequence of the industrial re-organisation or for any other matters, and I should like to show how Government momentarily is taking steps to face up to the challenges involved in these various issues; so that if Your Honour does not mind, I propose to refer in passing of course to our efforts in industrial development, to our efforts at economic expansion, to our efforts at emigration, to what we are doing in the field of social security, and then basically to examine the proposals of the Resolutions before us, and to explain the Government's attitude in supporting the principle of the suggestion in this Resolution.

I was saying, Sir, that I did not expect the contribution from the Government on this matter would necessarily be completed in a single afternoon's exercise. If I do not finish today, I am sure the House would expect me to conclude at another date. I had come to the point where I was saying that I was pleased to be able to report that a number of major products which at one time or other appeared to be a little less practical than we thought at first, on further investigation have been discovered to be quite practical, and that the next twelve months in this Island will witness what I should like to characterize as a major break-through in the field of industrial development. I say also that in this development I think we can confidently expect that we will be able to produce a number of manufactured articles not only for the domestic market, but for the export market as well.

Our approach to this matter in providing manufactured articles for export was conceived in terms perhaps of getting in touch with some of the big Mail Order and Department Stores in places like North America, Canada and the United States of America and in endeavouring to supply specified articles. I think we have been able to do better this time, because on my last visit to the United States I have been able to get in touch with one or two of the biggest wholesalers in the country, people who stock something like 18,000 to 20,000 different items, and in one instance I discussed the possibility of marketing products already manufactured here, and I am able to say that in two instances where industries are already established on the domestic market, they are now preparing samples for large scale importing in the States, and the indications are that in these items we might be able to supply exceptionally large numbers of products already produced here, leading to a considerable improvement in the employment figures in the two industries concerned. We hope to go from there, if we can start on a small scale, and get a break through in this direction in providing things for export.

3.50 p.m.

These products which were produced here for export were usually imported into the United States and Canada from Japan; but with the wage rates as they are in Japan and they like ourselves are countries which have to import raw material, we will be able to compete on more even terms with them than ten or twelve years ago.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I really do not want to disturb the hon. member, but I am frankly at a loss to know what he is speaking on. This is no criticism of the Government's policy; this is absolutely for legislation to take care of people who are displaced through no fault of their own. I am really at a loss to know that this Resolution is regarded as a subject for the Government to make a platform speech on their total economic policy and of the Hon. Minister's visit to the United States of America. I regard what the hon. member is saying as a substantive matter for the Government to bring in a Resolution. This is a Resolution which I have introduced and I do not know how this matter can be reconciled.

Mr. SPEAKER: I may say this. This Resolution refers to economic or industrial organisation, and in the last paragraph it speaks of urgent requirement of employment policy and the enactment of legislation of general coverage. It seems to me that the Hon. Leader of the House is taking full advantage of the words "general coverage."

Mr. WALCOTT: It is for the enactment of legislation of general coverage to ensure that workers severed from employment through no fault of their own be adequately compensated.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, I said that both from the remarks of the Hon. Introducer of the Resolution and hon. members, the House was concerned generally with the question of employment and unemployment, and the Resolution itself while asking for social security.....

Mr. WALCOTT: I rise on a point of order. This Resolution does not seek to ask the Government for anything; all it seeks to ask the Government for is to make it obligatory for the employer to provide work for the worker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The operative paragraph is that which states:

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly request the Government to consider as an urgent requirement of employment policy the enactment of legislation of general coverage to ensure that workers, severed from employment through no fault of their own, be adequately compensated."

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: As a matter of fact, the hon. senior member for St. Peter has said that the Resolution seeks to ensure that workers severed from employment are compensated by the employers. Now, Sir, nowhere does the Resolution say so at all. As a matter of fact, it does not say anything of compensation. The point is that the last paragraph says:

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly request the Government to consider as an urgent requirement of employment policy the enactment of legislation of general coverage to ensure that workers, severed from employment through no fault of their own, be adequately compensated."

By whom? It does not say by whom.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. You could not expect anyone to sit down in the House and listen to my speech and then say "by whom." Only a convulsed fool would say that a Resolution like this would not indicate by whom. We are talking of enacting legislation. We do not have to specify.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: If I bring in a Resolution asking for compensation, you are asking for legislation, not a statement of policy and you cannot just draft legislation in mid-air. You have got to have concise terms and opinions of your own so that it must be clear who must pay this compensation. The Government, the employer and the employee may be expected to contribute because this is the basis on which social security operates or

where you are thinking in terms of direct employment on the part of the employer. In this context, you will observe that the whole issue of general severance pay will have to be considered.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is not fair to a debate for someone to introduce something like this, and the Hon. Minister's behaviour is even worse than that of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph whom he complains about. The Hon. Minister will remember that I made a speech and I spoke about obligations of the employer, about obsolescence of machinery and the charges you allow them off for income tax, and I specified that the object of this Resolution was making it an obligation on the part of the employers to look out for these people. The Hon. Minister does not want to contribute to the matter; he only wants to spell out the time of Private Members' Business. He now says that he does not understand. He does not want to understand.

Mr. SPEAKER: I now observe that that is no point of order, but that the hon. senior member for St. Philip gave way.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, I said that if you are asking the Government to draft legislation, you must be specific, and no where in the Resolution can any person read that it is incumbent upon anybody to draft this legislation. What you have is this. Someone is specifying that there should be compensation for workers severed from employment through no fault of their own. But by whom? In the beginning, the Resolution is talking about people displaced through industrial reorganisation. Then it goes on to speak of general coverage to ensure that workers severed from employment through no fault of their own be adequately compensated. There is nothing at all there as regards who is responsible; therefore, you are bound to ask by whom. As a matter of fact, if the Government wanted to set up legislation purely on the basis of this Resolution, it would not know where to begin. We could not ask the Attorney General to draft legislation purely on a basis of what this Resolution says.

I was saying, Sir, that basically the Resolution would have to be drafted in more specific terms, and we would have to know whether the hon. member had it in mind that this compensation, when it comes to industrial re-organisation or in the field of general coverage, should be paid by the employers or should be paid by contribution along the lines under which social security generally operates.
4.00 p.m.

Therefore, Sir, my proposal is that this matter would have to be referred to a Committee appointed for the purpose of establishing the lines along which this compensation should be paid. It must be obvious to anybody in this House that to ask the Government to establish legislation along these broad lines is not practical. Perhaps a tripartite Committee would have to be establishd of Government representatives, of workers' representatives and of employers' representatives so as to work out in specific detail the lines along which this legislation should be drafted. If there is any hon. member in this Chamber who can tell me that it would be fair to expect us just to adopt this Resolution as it is and to tell the Government to draft legislation to cover it, I am submitting that the draughtsman would not know where to begin. I will get back to the basis of my contention, but I should like to say that at the present moment the hon. senior member for St. Peter knows that International Labour Organization Conferences have been paying for years attention to this situation which arose from technological changes and the unemployment which may spring from these changes. However, Sir, there is no country in the world today in which there is legislation which is designed to cover this matter.

I have taken the trouble to get the report of a Conference of the International Labour Organization which devoted itself entirely to the result springing from technological changes. In the report of that Conference, this is what the I.L.O. found:-

"Compensatory measures are needed for all displaced workers for a period sufficient to enable them to make a satisfactory adjustment. If some, particularly among the older workers, never are able to achieve such an adjustment even with the help of the best-calculated measures to attain that end and, as a result, face premature retirement, they have a claim to compensation for the rest of their working lives.

The main instruments for providing compensation are stated unemployment benefits and assistance, and severance payments. To these it may be necessary to add special arrangements aimed at facilitating the early retirement of particular groups of workers if their problems cannot be dealt with by positive measures to promote their readjustment. Suggestions for the further development of such devices have been made in the study. Compensatory measures have, in fact, greater potentialities for further development than measures designed to facilitate readjustment. The latter can hardly be taken beyond the point where all displaced workers, amenable to and desiring readjustment, are or will be re-employed. Re-employment, however, is not in itself a sufficient objective in a society which fully accepts responsibility for compensating the victims of change. Increasing attention will need to be paid to those other repercussions of structural change, experienced even by workers who are quickly re-employed, such as the financial losses which can accompany a change of job. Furthermore, compensatory measures can be extended to the point where a displaced worker is not merely compensated for the difficulties which he may have experienced, but is made better off than before. It is not too much to expect that structural change should benefit not only the vast majority, but the whole of society -- including those who would otherwise be its victims."

Sir, the convention found that the entire question of compensatory payment, the question of this compensation to workers is a comparatively new conception, and there is no country in the world so far which has been able to draft general legislation to cover it in all of its aspects. That is why I am saying that, in view of the contradictory nature of the hon. member's Resolution as contained in paragraph four where it speaks about the enactment of legislation of general coverage to ensure that workers severed from employment through no fault of their own be adequately compensated, I am submitting that further simplification of the Resolution is imperative and the House will have to consider sending the matter to a Committee or have a Committee charged with the task of investigating all aspects of the matter and making specific recommendations, and on these recommendations the Government will be advised to draft the legislation which is involved.

What I started to do today is to demonstrate to the House and the public that the Government is completely mindful of all its commitments and obligations to the workers of this island. The Government's policy is geared to promote industrial development and to promote development by emigration and by every other possible means. It must be obvious to anybody that, presented with a debate like this in which either directly or indirectly the entire question of Government policy with regard to employment in the island is involved, no Government should fail or could fail to utilise the opportunity impressed upon it by the House of Assembly or the Legislature or the public, that is fully alive to the needs of the situation and that it is a matter for everybody. We have to provide not only social security benefits, but the people of this country want to know what the Government is prepared to do and what it is doing in order to reduce the level of unemployment for people who have been displaced as a result of industrial organization or those who have been displaced through no fault of their own.
4.10 p.m.

This is a matter which I submit in all seriousness involves an explanation even in some detail of our entire conception of our responsibilities in this matter and how we are attempting to discharge these. I say, Sir, that from every point of view our approach is conditioned by our belief that we are responsible in the final analysis for every phase of the condition of the worker in the country, employed or unemployed. And I say further, Sir, that in every aspect of this matter, the Government has demonstrated that it is fully alive to the situation; and, more important,

its policy in this respect can bear the scrutiny of even its most obstinate opponents, whether it be in industrial development, expansion of the tourist trade or emigration. As a matter of fact, in our term of office in the last two years, so actively have we concerned ourselves with all these questions, that on the question of emigration, workers going to the United States for the last two years have been the highest for fifteen years. Last year we had 2,300 in North America. You have had no figure approaching that since 1949-50 when it was 3,300. Between 1962 and 1963 we have sent not less than 1,500 people to guaranteed employment in London with the London Transport Commission and the British Transport Executive and Lyons. Even now we are working on a small emigration scheme which might perhaps not be as remunerative as emigration to North America, but which if it eventuates, would provide employment for a reasonably good period for people in need of work who do not mind going outside and working. Therefore I am justified in saying that no bricks, no justifiable criticisms can be hurled at us in respect of any phase of our approach of all aspects of this question.

This House will expect at some time or other, in consideration of matters of this sort, that it be explained in some detail how the Government views this matter. It would expect that the Government itself would go on record as establishing beyond the slightest shadow of a doubt that not only Trade Unions should regard themselves as having the correct responsibility to the workers, but the Government itself — and specifically the Ministry of Labour is concerned to the same extent with matters of this sort as anybody else in the community.

When it comes to the question of providing compensation to workers stemming from unemployment, we supported the proposals for providing compensation for people displaced by the construction of the new Deep Water Harbour. Our approach to the question was somewhat different from that of the last Government, but in principle we supported the conception that all the workers previously employed in the old Port of Bridgetown who were going to find themselves displaced from labour in consequence of the construction of the new Harbour should receive financial compensation. We have supported the concept of severance pay for workers displaced from sugar factories when those factories no longer continue to operate. We had to translate into effective terms the paper proposals for severance pay. We called in the Union and the employers and arrived at some *modus operandi*; then we had to get the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the proposal for utilising a specific sugar fund to finance severance pay; and now that we have at long last got the sanction of the Secretary of State to utilise a portion of the sugar fund to finance severance pay, our Crown Law Officers are actually drafting at the moment legislation to enshrine in the Laws of this country provisions for paying workers displaced from the sugar factories.

We have gone further, Mr. Speaker. We have paid more than lip service to the question of social security. Unlike the previous Government, we have not had reports in this connection and failed to act on them. We are now actively considering the question of reproduction generally speaking, of general social security provisions to provide what you may call general coverage under specific conditions for the workers of this Island; so that I make bold to say that from any angle at which you look at this question, you will find that the Government in office in this country at the moment is more than alive to the situation. That is not to say that we do not expect the Trade Union or other elected representatives of the people of this island should not take similar interest as ourselves if they are going to discharge their responsibility to the people who put them there. They have to do it; but I feel it is the bounden duty of the Government and my obligation as the person responsible for labour in this country in the context of discussions like this to make it indisputably clear that if all along the line we are not getting on the housetop and shouting out what we are doing, and if we prefer to achieve our purpose and then talk about it after, whatever position we may adopt, it remains a fact which cannot be denied that the position of the worker in this country — employed, unemployed, displaced through technological change, displaced merely by the whims or caprices of the employer, or displaced because in the natural course of events the time has arrived that he or she no longer can consider it their daily quota for physical work, whatever be the category — we have an answer to the problem. 4.20 p.m.

As a matter of fact, I go as far as to say this. If in the course of the debate on this matter the Government's spokesman had got up and merely said that in principle we support this Resolution and we suggest in order to simplify it that the hon. member states clearly by whom they should be compensated, every hon. member in this Chamber on all sides of the House would have felt that we had not approached the matter in a manner which our obligation demanded.

I felt this strongly; but I feel that the occasion is one for more than a casual approach to the matter, and so I attempted from the beginning to endeavour to explain as much as I could in detail what the Government considers to be the position in the matter and the methods by which we were trying to discharge these differences. As a matter of fact, it may also be argued that if our approach to this matter was more generally known or if our feelings were expressed, it may not be necessary for this Resolution to come before us. Obviously, this Resolution falls along the lines that the hon. member could not entirely depend on the Government to do what he thought should be done, and therefore it is Government's business to impress beyond the slightest shadow of a doubt upon the community that the Government itself is specifically charged and the Government is devoting adequate time and adequate attention to all aspects of employment and working conditions and severance pay of the workers. That is what we are here for. I can hear the hon. senior member for St. Peter saying that the Government is treating the matter cursorily if we were not doing that: and then when we are trying to make it clear beyond the slightest shadow of a doubt that we are approaching the matter in the fullest possible manner, we are accused of going into details and developing lines of debate which the matter before the House does not call for. It is not the right conception at all. It is not even that the Government, or the Minister for that matter, is presented with an opportunity for presenting in detail the Government's approach to important questions in the community. When it comes to the point where a member in the House in the position of the hon. senior member for St. Peter, who is leader of the Trade Union, comes to this Chamber with a proposal affecting the state and position of workers, it is even then more incumbent on the Government to demonstrate to him and to the workers that this is a deep concern which this Government has for the persons involved and, more important, all the steps which the Government has taken, or is taking, are to ensure that the conditions which are complained of or which may arise from time to time are taken care of in a manner best suited to promote the interests of the workers. That is what I was trying to explain.

I am not concerned with whether or not people like the hon. member cannot seek advice or they feel that they are so all-powerful or omniscient that they cannot be corrected. However, they should approach such matters with due discharge of the responsibility involved to the question and by a more humble approach to the matter and by a desire to listen and to stand correction because no human being is infallible. The moment you approach these things on the basis that you know everything and can never be corrected, well then, it means that it would be absolutely impossible to tell you anything and you are going to find yourself a very unhappy human being.

RESUMPTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now 4.30 p.m. and I take it that the Hon. Leader of the House has not yet finished his speech, therefore, he may resume on a future occasion. The time for Private Members' Business has now expired.

RESOLUTION *re* TELEVISION STATION

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of Government Business stands in the name of the hon. junior member for

St. Lucy: To move the passing of a Resolution approving the guarantee by Government of an amount not exceeding $510,000 for the purchase and supply of Transmitter and Studio Equipment for the establishment of a Television Service.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Resolution, as you yourself has just reminded the House, is to seek the permission of the House for a guarantee by Government of the payment by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation of a sum of money not exceeding $510,000 for the purchase and supply of Transmitter and Studio Equipment for the establishment of a Television Service by the said Corporation. This service is to be established by the end of this year. This money is to cover the cost of the T.V. Transmitter and the equipment and it is being arranged that they should be obtained by Manufacturers' credit without down payment; that is to say, the Corporation will purchase equipment from places overseas through its managing agents and by this arrangement it does not have to provide a down payment if down payment was required.
4.30 p.m.

Hon. members may just like to know, although the details are not yet all in, about the time table which we propose to follow with respect to the setting up of this service. Sometime this month we will begin the construction and renovation of the buildings for housing the T.V. sets. A T.V.Transmitter will be set up not on the site downthere, but somewhere else. We are hoping that by the 15th August, we will have completed the renovation of the building and by that time the equipment both for the site and the transmitter will have arrived. By the 15th October, that is to say, within two months after the erection of the building and the providing of the equipment, we hope to have the installation of the equipment completed and to begin test transmission. Just about that time in the early part of October — experts will arrive in the island in order to conduct the training of the personnel who will work at the T.V. station. The advantage of this is that the staff will begin to be trained and to work with the actual equipment as soon as it has been installed, in order to become familiar with it. We hope to begin regular transmissions on the 15th December and from every quarter it seems very likely that that deadline will be kept.

Hon. members will know that we expect to have the honour and privilege of entertaining His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh sometime in November, and we hope that by the time Prince Philip comes we will be able to put out a strong test signal of the events in connection with his arrival. As a matter of fact, we hope to record them on Television. I may say that the visit of His Royal Highness will be very timely in more respects than one, because one month before the stated date for the inauguration of the service, we will be able to see how the service will cope with the big occasion, and we will have experience in handling big events. We hope to have the service working by the time that Prince Philip arrives and see the activities which are in connection with the visit on television, which service we hope will be opened on December 15.

Hon. members will also like to know that in accordance with the procedure to be followed with the establishment of the radio. To that extent there will be an agreement between the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and the Thomsom group who are covering all aspects of the establishment of the station. Occasionally, whispers are heard here and there to the effect that this Government has made a blunder in making this temporaty establishment of television. I want to say that our experience is that the Thomson group as the managing consultants have been uniformly good. Our relations with them have been happy and they have fulfilled their part of the bargain as was promised. I would not like it to be thought that this Government has been so neglectful of the interest of the people as to overlook the importance and world-wide significance of the Thomson group. They are people who are out to do business with us and we will be able to talk with them; in fact, we had a talk with them and we had the best available advice at our disposal, so that there is no danger of anything being put over us which, of course, they did not demonstrate. We have seen the tender which enabled us to proceed with the establishment of the radio service and the agreement which has been submitted in relation to television. It is their business to have the Corporation to have made available to it the necessary facilities to finance the establishment of the television service on the condition that the repayment should be agreed on by amortization. As a matter of fact, it is largely due to their initiative that we know exactly what the transmitter and studio will cost.

We are therefore asking this House to guarantee this amount. The Corporation undertakes also to pay its part on an agreed basis for this service by the consulting agents. The Thomson organization undertakes to provide training facilities for the community in Barbados and elsewhere and it will be held responsible for the successful operation of this service. I have quoted from the letter so as to let hon. members know that this is no ordinary venture on which the Government has embarked. There is an agreement with a world-wide organization which has its reputation and service established in many parts of the world. In no case has the Government embarked on any of its programmes without thoroughly going into every financial, technical and other aspect of the matter. We are satisfied on financial grounds alone that the establishment of television is feasible and we know exactly what we are talking about.
4.40 p.m.

If anything, we have been far too conservative in our financial protection, but no harm comes from being too conservative in a matter of money, especially when you are working from the beginning. Now it has become fashionable all over the world and perhaps more so in Barbados from time to time to stand near the wailing wall and beat one's breast whenever any new thing is going to be established, and here too with television all sorts of prophets of doom are appearing as thick as mushrooms, and even when they cannot as they obviously cannot criticise — I am reminded that it is as thick as pond grass; one has to localize one's metaphors — whenever one new project which has a lot to recommend it is about to be started, the prophets of doom begin to beat their breasts at the wailing wall. They do not go so far as to condemn the particular project outright; they obviously have not got courage enough to do so.

One hears nowadays that "Television is a good thing; I have no objection to it, but...." and then there is a catalogue of all the things which are supposed to be the disadvantages which spring from T.V; that the community is a poor one, and that the establishment of T.V would encourage people to overspend, that people will have it not because they really want it but because it is fashionable.

Mr. Speaker, I am old enough to remember when a Victrola was a status symbol, and that if you did not have a Victrola you were not thought to be doing anything at all. It is true that some people who had Victrolas used them, and some kept them very nicely in the corner of the room with a nice bit of brown velvet covering them from the dust. I believe that the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, when he read of old Barbadian customs, will recall the Victrola and what a status symbol it was. The people had it because they wanted it, because it gave them entertainment; and even if some people felt that if they had a Victrola it showed they could keep up with the Joneses, forty years since that time it is not only the Joneses we have to keep up with; in some cases it is the Armstrong-Jones, and what a Victrola would do in 1920, you cannot expect a T.V. set to do now. But it is not on that ground at all that this Government bases its attitude towards television. In the first place, Mr. Speaker, we do not know what challenges the people of this country might be called upon to face. We do not know what responsibility may lie upon them in the immediate future. They may be called upon to shoulder the responsibility of nationhood either by themselves or in conjunction with their brothers across the sea. How could you expect to face this challenging responsibility if the media of communication are not at the disposal of the people who have to be responsible in world affairs? The very minimum a people want in the 20th century is to be able to communicate, to make its own views felt in the outside world and be able to receive impressions from the outside world through all these media

of sight and sound. If for no other reason, therefore, than the challenging responsibility of nationhood, all that we can do to bring the people of this island in contact with the outside world would be thoroughly justified. On these grounds alone the establishment of a transmitting station and a television service cannot be challenged.

Mr. Speaker, there are other grounds not less important, but perhaps not so easily acknowledged. The fact, for instance, that nowadays if you want to educate a people, particularly if they are adults and more so if they are children, to keep their minds on the alert, you have got to do it in ways which cause them a minimum of discomfort. It is therefore easier to explain something of great importance to a man sitting in his own home viewing his own screen than to ask him to come out on an occasion which he might find inconvenient, or in numbers which their very paucity do not justify the attempt to instruct; so that even if a man with great sacrifice to himself by denying himself of something else which he equally desires, puts a television service in his house, he cannot calculate in terms of dollars and cents the value which would accrue to him from the education and entertainment which he will get.

Now it is not any part of our duty or responsibility to look after the quality of the entertainment; that responsibility lies with the people who provide the service. You have to assume that the people who are going to run the television service — and that is in the first instance the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, in the second instance the Ministry of Education and in the third instance the Cabinet of this Island — are responsible agencies and desire to spread in this community a proper national outlook. The people will be self-reliant that they can bring an intelligent awareness to bear on their problems and be able to make a true value of judgment of what is going on in the world and see their own relation with what is going on. You have to assume that the three agencies who are providing the television service will have a care to these things and will see to it that nothing degrading or shocking or nationally enervating will appear on the television screens to disrupt our television life or to weaken our people. If you can take these things for granted — and you can do it if you know you are dealing with responsible people — you have to assume, therefore, that the man on the receiving end of the television set will benefit from the outlay which he makes in providing himself with that form of entertainment in his house.

Some people talk, Mr. Speaker, of the damage to our economy by the encouragement which television will give to people to overspend. Why not talk on the other hand of the encouragement which television may give to people to build the economy of this country up? We can bring home by means of television in a single hour to every single person of working age in this community how the economy works by a series of single drafts, and by the use of code or simple instruction material which you can display and which people can watch on the television screen.
4.50 p.m.

You cannot do it in 1,000 broadcast hours because there are some forms of instruction which for their proper instruction require a listening ear, it is true, but also a seeing eye; and therefore, many people who fear that damage to the economy may result through over spending and a care for luxury, it cannot be justified by the size of one's pocket. This cannot be so if you can use the same media to teach people all these techniques which you cannot instruct by hearing alone.

When you leave the adult, you come to the child. I cannot begin to describe the benefits to education which television can bring to children, neither can I treat with any weight the assumption that if people put T.V. in their homes, children will not do their homework. Naturally, if you are a parent your home is so arranged that you do not have to have a T.V. set so that they cannot do their homework. You hear the complaint now that children do not do their homework and the bringing in of T.V. would worsen the homework.

The reasons for children not doing their homework may be varied. It may be, in some cases, that the pattern of teaching at a particular school is not such which insists much on it at all. It may be due to the carelessness of the child and its indifference to its own study. It may be that the child knows that its eyes are bad and it does not want to strain them and it well may be that it does not get in its home the kind of light by which it should study, and it can be that having known of these disadvantages, the parent just through indifference does not take an interest in the child. Therefore, none of these is relative to the argument against T.V.

If you discipline your children, they would have to do their homework when you say that they have to do it. So this is not a genuine fear. I do not accept what the argument against T.V. may do in this respect. I imagine that some of the programmes would be devoted to children, and there will be instruction in education, say, in the afternoon or morning; therefore even if a child watches a programme, it would not lose much. But I certainly resent this counterfeit logic which argues that the establishment of T.V. is going to break down the educational system by making the children less disciplined than they should be.

I well know that in Barbados as soon as you bring up something for the first time you are going to get criticism. You can do it for the second time: so I anticipate that there will be some criticism in the light of it about television. But I think that criticism just cannot hold water because it is not serious enough for a person to be really concerned with it.

I will take, not only now but in the future, full constitutional responsibility for anything which goes wrong in any department under my control. I am responsible for the radio and television service, and so this much is to be said. I do take an interest in matters which affect the instruction and the enlightenment of the people of this community and the West Indies, and I do say this in no spirit of boasting but, generally speaking, the administration of these two services would be safe in the hands of the Corporation, the Ministry and the Government.

Before I sit down, I have to say a word or two on this question of political broadcasting. It is a subject on which I would like the House to know although no definite announcement has been made in this House, that the matter is currently under examination by me. I am preparing proposals to put before the Cabinet on this matter of political broadcasting, and these proposals when they are accepted by the Cabinet would be put before the political authorities or the responsible parties so that details and principles already accepted would be worked upon, and perhaps, if it is the desire of hon. members, then I may ask Your Honour to set up a Select Committee to make sure that the detailed proposals are acceptable to all.

I would just like to say this about political broadcasting. One reason why I am not hurrying to put anything before the Cabinet is that events are overtaking us very fast. We recently had to give notice to Rediffusion Limited that we are revising its licence in six months from now. That is something which I have to take into account. The fact that television is to come into effect by December has also to be taken into account. Therefore, as soon as we settle down to consider the matter of one thing, some new thing comes up. I am not even concerned with only political broadcasting in the formal sense; I am concerned with reporting of the debates of this House. This House is competent to set out the terms and conditions under which it should have its proceedings reported, but you will see that in any arrangements of political broadcasting we have to take into account the fact that the Legislature of the territory has to have its proceedings recorded and in some instances televised. When you take that into account, you will see how wide is the field of political broadcasting and how much care and attention would have to be put in this whole matter before I can put something which is comprehensive enough before the Cabinet.

I have had a look at political broadcasting in many countries. In the United States it varies from State to State,

and in Canada, it varies from Province to Province. I have also looked at the rules of the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the B.B.C. and Canada. That gives me a new slant on the whole matter. However, I have already in a public broadcast given some clue to my own personal thinking on what I call the basic attitude to this question and to television appearances.
5.00 p.m.

First of all, I feel that they should be paid for, that the time should be bought and sold like any other advertising at the rates which are feasible, the time of the day when the broadcast is coming out and for the length of the programme. My own feeling also, insofar as radio and television appearances are concerned, is that only the political parties which are represented in the Legislature of the territory should have this privilege. After all, those who are in the Legislature can claim with perfect justification to enjoy the confidence of the Electorate. Political candidates who are coming up now are not in that category. If Labour has representatives in both Houses of the Legislature, then those representatives would be deserving of political broadcasts; if Labour does not have any representatives in the Legislature then, in my mind, it would not be deserving of the right and privilege of political broadcasting.

Sir, another thing is that no matter for broadcast should be put out which is libellous or defamatory, and therefore the last word must rest with the broadcasting authority as to what it considers to be libellous or defamatory, and the Caribbean Broadcasting service would as I say, in these circumstances, have the last word in that connection. You cannot have the right and privilege to have political broadcasting or an appearance on television for the purpose of slandering your opponents or making statements which are defamatory, derogatory or unsuitable. Those are the things which would have to apply to that form of broadcasting. These broadcasts must be paid for and be made by political parties in which there are representatives in both Houses of the Legislature, and they must be vetted as not being libellous or malicious or slanderous matter. That is the basis of the rules of Broadcasting and in the observance of them you will not go far wrong. There are other aspects to be considered, but there are the basic ones. It is on those grounds that I have made my recommendations.

Finally, Sir, I think I ought to assure this House and the public in general that this exercise of radio and television is in safe hands, that we have the utmost confidence in our managing agents who have already proved their expertise as being of the highest sort, and that the Corporation which we have set up to manage the service is a creditable one. I think that the Ministry understands what is required in this day and age, and we will see that the best is established and that things are carried out with the best of intention. I now beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, we all know that after we had established radio broadcasting in this island, it would only be a matter of time when that would be followed by television. A year ago we, in this House, felt that we were behind the other islands in the matter of broadcasts; that we had allowed ourselves to be superseded by even an island like Antigua in giving the image to the Eastern Caribbean in the matter of broadcasting. This matter follows automatically the establishment of the broadcasting service in Barbados. We are off to a good start and we knew that television would follow. I am not against the television service, but I would like to sound a warning as to whether television at this time is the correct thing. We have hardly had time to consolidate ourselves in the matter of a broadcasting Station. We do not know as to the revenue — because advertising is the sole source of revenue - whether it is on a sound basis before the Government has attempted to establish television within six months.

This is what this television calls for; it calls for the guarantee by the Government of the payment by the Caribbean Broadcasting Station of a further sum of half a million dollars to establish television in this island. We do know that television is the best form of disseminating information to the people. As far as I am concerned, the best programmes on television are in relation to sport. The next thing is the news and the third would be educational subjects. When it comes to sport, I would like to see sport in the island or what is happening amongst the inhabitants of the islands around us. That would mean that these things would have to be televised in the area and the cost of these programmes is most expensive. I have heard the story of someone who was televising for half a day and in the afternoon somebody was having a drink with the operator and he said that he had enjoyed a very successful day and he thought that he had four minutes of television which was worthwhile.
5.10 p.m.

That is the extent to which you have to go to get a few minutes on television; so do not let us fool ourselves. We have to meet the most expensive form of communication. Trinidad has established theirs. It did not get off to a good start, but I am told that the programmes are quite good now. It starts at 6 a.m. and ends at 11 o'clock in the evening, but maybe 90 percent of the programmes are imported from overseas - what we call "canned" programmes, - and they have to be paid for from the earnings of the area. If you can recoup yourself from advertising to pay for that, all well and good; but that money has to come out of the area.

Another warning which I would give the Government for consideration is that advertising on T. V. is very expensive, and to do it properly it will have to be done probably in studios in California, and who will be able to put on the best programmes? Those principals in England, Canada and the United States that sell Ovaltine and other imported products will have the best, and few local products will be able to compete with them in this advertising. From the words of the Minister himself, five minutes on T.V. is worth ten hours of broadcast, and you will be able to convince the local people conclusively that Ovaltine is a better drink than anything else. It might even compete with the milk programme we are thinking of establishing. We are establishing a dairy industry in Barbados, and might try to advertise and push that, but with a proper programme established by a foreign company, they might cut across and easily be able to outsell our local products.

Mr. Speaker, I am not one of those who feel that school children will neglect their homework, because if parents are worth their salt, they should insist that a period of time for homework be set aside. After all, they will own the T.V. set and can turn it off or take out the switch, or send the children to their room if they want to enjoy T. V. in the living room. I am not concerned with those trivialities; but it is just a matter of time. Has Government worked out the revenue they hope to derive from television to see whether we will be able to afford it from that point of view, or to find whether we will not be expending local currency on imported programmes on which somebody will make money to the detriment of the local consumer? The Minister said it is not time to give us any details. I would not expect them, but he should at least be able to say that the revenue he is now getting from the broadcasting station is so much to give us an indication of what he can expect from T. V.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would give way, I do not think the hon. member was here when I mentioned earlier that as far as the radio station was concerned, we had at the beginning anticipated a revenue from commercial advertising of something like $150,000 this year, and one year has not yet passed and it is much in excess of that - I would not like to say anything more - and that our projections for the T. V. show that by the end of the 5th year after it is established our revenue will be something like $3/4 million.

Mr. GODDARD: Well, that is news to me and I thank the Minister for it. It is on these facts that you can base a projection as to what you will envisage from T. V.. I am not opposing it, but I do wish to state that I hope the Government has gone well into it to see if it is not too soon

after the establishment of the Broadcasting Station to set up television. There are lots of things we have to do to develop the economy of this island, and if anything should detract from the establishment of industries which we are now encouraging to come here by way of advertising on T.V. I should say that you are injuring these industries. We should be concerned now with our balance of payments. We all know that we are importing millions and millions of dollars more than we are exporting, and we are making it up by invisible revenue, remittances from overseas and so on; but that gap has been widening every year, and that is why the Government should be so concerned with the establishment of secondary industries to do some of the things for ourselves that the other people from overseas are doing and selling us. We should not always be on the receiving end. We want to intensify our production, and that is why with the coming of independence, if it should be so near, we would have to concern ourselves with that. The Minister of Finance particularly will have to be very concerned as to how we are going to pay for the services and for the things which we have to import for our own livelihood; so we should not put so much stress on things that will encourage the greater importation of consumer goods and not encourage us to produce the things that we have to use day by day. That is the form that I think technology takes, and it may have to be adopted to curtail imports from overseas by one form or another. For instance, Government has had from time to time to stop the importation of chickens or pork so as to encourage local production. I agree that we should do these things.
5.20 p.m.

I repeat again, by means of television, and a proper advertising campaign, the foreign exporters will be at a great advantage over the local producer.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, while listening to the Hon. Introducer and the way how he explained this Resolution to this House, if I did not know that $510,000 was a lot of money, I would have said "Aye" before he had stopped speaking. I would have voted for it even before the question was put by you.

Now, Sir, I am not ashamed to own my faults. I do not know anything about T.V. I never saw it: so I cannot say much on that part of it, but I feel I can say something as regards the money to be spent on it. The Hon. Minister said that it will educate the children of Barbados. He may be right. I do not know how right he may be, because I do not know anything about it. However, in my opinion, after listening to the hon. junior member for Christ Church who spoke on the matter quite authoritatively, these T.V. sets are going to be very costly: and since a T.V. set is going to to be very costly, I doubt very much that the very poorest class of children will be able to enjoy television at night.

I am wondering if the people of this country will be able to enjoy it for as much or a little more than they are enjoying Rediffusion at the moment. I do not know because that will be the only way in which everybody will be able to enjoy it. We are asked to approve the guarantee by Government of the payment by C.B.C. of an amount not exceeding $510,000. I know that you are going to give your approval or are going to give the O.K. to this and that is all right. But one can go and back a note to the bank and the Bank Manager in his paying out of the money is not going to look at the person who is going to sign for it; he is going to see that the person who has stood responsible for it is able to do so because if the person who is borrowing the money fails, the bank manager is going to tell the person who stood responsible for it that he is going to take it out of his account. He is not even going to tell the person who stood responsible that the person failed to repay it.

Sir, when you are venturing out into these thing, you do not know what is going to happen. When one starts a business, one feels that one is going to make a profit; but one cannot tell before one goes into it because if one feels that one will lose, one will never start the business.

Now, Sir, if this venture fails, we will have to pay. Of course, if the Thomson people have not failed in similar ventures in other countries well then, they will not fail here. However, I would like to know what it costs per set in each home so that if anybody asks me I would be able to say. I cannot say now. Suppose it is going to cost as low as $10 per month — and I put it as low as that — that would be $120 per year. If that is so, very few people would be able to carry a set in their homes because even by the rental of $2.50 or $2.00 by Rediffusion for their radio sets, that Company has to go back very regularly to people's homes for them. If $2.00 a month can be a very big mountain for some people, what would you think of $10 for the people whom I would like to enjoy it too?

As I have said, I do not know what it costs and I am sorry that the Hon. Minister did not tell us. If he told us, I did not hear.

Anyhow, be that as it may, as regards the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, it just started broadcasting in December last year. It is not a year yet; so I do not know if the Hon. Minister can tell us, although the time is short, how we stay financially with that. I do not know if he will be able to tell us if it appears to be a paying concern. I agree with the hon. junior member for Christ Church that we are starting off this other venture so very shortly that in truth and in fact, I do not know if it is possible that C.B.C. will be a paying concern. Of course, they only have to rely on advertisements for their revenue, whereas as regards the other company, it started off with the rent of sets at $2.00 a month so that if they do not get any kind of advertising, they will be able to carry on. However, as regards C.B.C., they do not have any sets to rent because the people buy their own sets and listen in to the programmes of C.B.C. Therefore, C.B.C. has to rely only on advertisements.

Sir, we are asked today to start another branch to the service and the amount we are asked to back is a lot of money. I feel, in my opinion, that we are travelling too fast. Why all this hurry to start this by December? In other words, by the end of the year you will have two stations going. I suppose the Government knows already what is going to happen, but I do not know. However, I still have to say "yes" or "no" to this Resolution. When I have to sign my name to anything, when I am going to O.K. a cheque at the bank, I am bound to ask the person for whom I stand bond some questions. I cannot do it blindly. I know that this venture is going to be very costly and if there is any failure, the taxpayers of this country will have to foot the bill.
5.30 p.m.

When I say "taxpayers" I am not only referring to the big taxpayers; I am also referring to the small ones. I am referring to those who are already paying an extra four cents on a half gill of grog; they will never be able to enjoy T.V. Those who are paying taxes along that line will not be able to enjoy this service. If I should try and squeeze through and have a T.V. service installed at my home, the only way in which the small people will be able to enjoy it is when a boxing programme is coming through and I will have to open my door to them. As far as Barbados is concerned, this T.V. service is a 'big-shot' thing, and as the hon. junior member for Christ Church has said, it is going to be costly. Anything which has a capital of $10,000 as a start, you must know that it is an expensive thing. I am saying that if people have to pay taxes they should also have the benefit of this facility. It is said that he who pays the piper must call the tune, but here it looks as if those who are paying the piper cannot call the tune.

It has been said that a child should be sent to his room to learn his homework; but if something new is coming through T.V., then the child will not go to his room to learn his homework. He would rather fall to sleep or he would rather want to see what is happening. I am not against this service on the whole, but I am thinking of the speed at which this matter came before us. I think that we should have a little breathing space. Let us see how the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is getting on before we step over to T.V. If a businessman has two businesses he will start with one and will make sure that one is going on well; he will put by something from business No. 1 so as to start business No. 2. If he is half way with business No. 1 and he is not sure about how that is going, he will not start business No. 2. I do not think that the hon. member would be in a position to tell us

about the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation now, because you have to give a business a space of at least five years because there are a lot of ends to be tied off. You cannot take a period of two years in order to test your profits; you may have two good years and in the next year something may go wrong. I generally allow a business a space of five years, and if nothing is happening with it in the way of profit, well then, nothing will ever happen. As a little bit of a businessman, I am only trying to show the facts. I am saying how I would go about doing business: but what do you think of the hon. junior member for Christ Church? I do not believe that this Government could lose out whether they bring about the television service or not; but if they are thinking along these lines, by all means they should fire off the gun. I heard a man say that he believes that if you are in trouble you should go further in trouble and you will get out better. That would be my advice to the Government, but the Government knows it business. Everything might be cut and dried in this matter just awaiting for this okay this afternoon, but I am merely drawing these matter to the attention of the Government so that if anything happens and I have to say anything about it, I am sure the Minister will say "This is what the hon. junior member for St. Joseph agreed to."

I am drawing these matters to the attention of hon. members now. If everyone of us was in a financial position to enjoy T.V., that would be all well and good, I do not know if everybody will be able to advertise on this service; I do not think that any little 2 x 4 business will be able to advertise on T.V. It is costing a lot of money already. The bigger the motor car is and the more comfortable it is, the more you have to pay for it. On the question of advertising on T.V. I am sure that a sensible businessman would say: "I have got on far without T.V. I started my business on a very small basis without T.V. I do not owe anybody anything, I have some money somewhere and I will not take it up and put it in T.V.

5.40 p.m.

Some businessmen do not like to part with their money, because it is a good friend. I am throwing out to the Hon. Minister that the advertisements heard on C.B.C. and Rediffusion will not necessarily be put on T.V., and if he is not 100 percent certain, he is not bound to push this for December, because we will sepnd a good Christmas, if we are alive, without T.V. I am complimenting the Minister for representing his portfolio, but we have to think of the economy of the country. I am wondering what the Minister of Housing is thinking, because the Housing Authority cannot lend one cent. Here it is: you are going to give me a $510,000 T.V. set and there are some people who would not have a house to put T.V. in. Some cannot even instal Rediffusion for $2.00 a month.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, I am really enjoying the hon. member too much to want to interrupt him, but facts are stubborn things. This Resolution asks that the House should guarantee $510,000 for the purpose of purchasing a transmitter and equipment, not to buy a T.V. set.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, you accept that and I accept it too: but is that a point of order? This Resolution asks us to guarantee $510,000 I do not know if the Minister ever had anybody to guarantee anything for him at a bank, but I will tell him that the Bank manager does not look at the person to whom he is lending the money; he is lending the guarantor. We are the guarantors; and if we do not guarantee this $510,000 this afternoon, we will not get the T.V. I should like the Minister to tell me who is going to be the owner of this station, because he mentioned about some Thompson. I do not know if that is Felix Thompson at Mellowes Hill. I want to know if these Thomson people will be owners or whether the Government will be. I want to know if we are guaranteeing this money to the Thomson group to erect this station and for equipment, and whether it will then be the property of the Government. If it is the property of the Government, I would not guarantee it, because Government can spend more money unless it does not have any money to buy the equipment. I would like to know who will be the borrowers. Now that the Hon. Minister is asking us to guarantee $510,000, we as members of this House and representing the people of this country would like you to guarantee another $510,000 to the Housing Authority so that they can help people with houses, because people have been constantly told to come back and cannot get any help.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us come back to the Resolution.

Mr. SMITH: I only wanted to get that in. I want the Minister and the Government to know that first things should come first. There are lots of things to be done that would put a feather in the Government's cap more so than this television station. If the Minister of Housing looks around at this time, he will see people tacking on a piece of tin on to their house; but now we are talking about $510,000 for a T.V. station.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is not dealing with housing now; he is dealing with T.V., but he mentioned that people cannot get houses at the Housing Authority. They cannot get them because the money is spent on proper houses.

Mr. SMITH: I am not going to worry with him. If he does not know the meaning of money, I do. This is $510,000 that I have to sign for, because I am a member of this Assembly. The electorate of St. Joseph sent me here; so I have the same authority and power in here as any Minister on that side. We are boasting that we have just put down the C.B.C. Station, and now six months after we are coming for a television station; but I know a woman in St. Elizabeth's Village who wanted a house before C.B.C. was started and cannot get it. You should leave out these 'big shot' things, because a T.V. set is a 'big shot' thing, and small people will not be able to see it unless they pass along and somebody has a window open when they are viewing; and it is so costly that people will shut the window if they see people looking in. If I had one, I would have to open my doors and let people see too.

5.50 p.m.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter made a statement just now and I can see that he knows something about it. He still has a chance now to speak because he has not spoken on this Resolution. I would like to do everything, but first things first. If T.V. is not costly and the people would be able to enjoy it in some way, or if it cost a little more than Rediffusion, well then, it is O.K.

I am not too keen on it because, to begin with, I do not know if C.B.C. is going to make a profit or not. We are asked to guarantee $510,000 to C.B.C. but there are a lot of other things of more importance to do and I do not think it is fair to the people of this country.

Mr. HUSBANDS: Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to contribute to this debate relative to this guaranteeing business of over $1/2 million to assist in the establishment of a T.V. station.

Now, Sir, I believe that there is too much haste in this business. There are certain lines in which this thing must be viewed. The Hon. Minister said that things look rather favourable as far as the takings of the C.B.C. company are concerned. He said that there is a heavy schedule as far as the takings are concerned. But that is making a half statement. What very few people do know is this. What part of those takings accrue to Government? We have an arrangement in Barbados, but who knows the exact arrangement as to what the Thomson people get and what the Government gets? The average man does not know. Therefore, it is a half statement when you say that takings are rather heavy. The same thing is going to be applicable to this T.V. business. I do not care what the hon. junior member for Christ Church has said. He is one businessman and there are several other businessmen. You, Mr. Speaker, know very well that when it comes to this type of advertisement, it must of necessity be costly to those who send their products to this island. The commission agents of Barbados do an amount of advertising, and as far as the local advertisements are concerned, it may be in that light that the goods are called goods. I do not hear many of the co-operatives selling their wares by advertising over Rediffusion or C.B.C. I do not hear of the Shamrock Chain stores advertising over Rediffusion.

As far as education is concerned, I can conceive of very few homes which do not have some educational ability, some

product which is of value educationally and T.V. would have one. On the other hand, the introduction of T.V. into every home may at first have an effect as far as encouraging children to do their homework. When radio first came to Barbados, the average owner of a home in Barbados sat until long hours of the night listening to radio, but that did not have too much effect upon children doing their homework; and I do think that the type of T.V. which we are going to get, at least in the initial years, is going to be rather limited.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph in his jocular way has said a few hard and true things. Let no member of this House be deceived or deceive anybody that every householder will in the future be able to provide himself with a T.V. set. It is not true. I will not fool anybody with that, nor do I think Your Honour can fool the average Barbadian with that. This is not a vote-catching Resolution. No Government would lose on this. If this is not set up by December, the majority of people would not care anything about it at all.

I do not think any of the business people is pushing this. The advertisements and the advertising rates which they are going to pay are what is going to make T.V. a financial success or not. As I have said, we do not know yet what the Government gets or what the Thomson people get. We do not know yet what Thomson would get or what the Government would get. We may know when the Hon. Minister replies; therefore, do not expect us to be enthusiastic of this particular thing because we cannot be, or will not be, until we know.

I hope the Hon. Minister will pardon me but we have been asked to guarantee the sum of $510,000 to C.B.C. We have been asked to be guarantors in two ways. The Hon. Minister has experience in politics and as a citizen to know what it is to be a guarantor. I know the position because I have found myself in the role of a guarantor, and I believe other hon. members of this House know what is the position. Mr. Speaker, I believe you know, too. Therefore, I do not believe in rushing through with this business today. I cannot agree and I do not, and I most emphatically say so. Nobody is going to take on this except those commission agents who are anxious to get their wares advertised.
6.00 p.m.

I know that there was a funeral establishment in Trinidad which advertised their wares over Radio Trinidad; well, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph advertises his wares over the service of Rediffusion. I doubt if the C.B.C. were heard so well in Trinidad when they first began. T.V. will only be seen in Barbados and I might say that some of these sets will cost a few hundred dollars. Of course, we must look ahead: but we cannot just look ahead and plunge our economy to that state of insecurity from which we will find it very hard to recover. I am not in any hurry in having this T.V. service; I do not think that the people of this country are in any hurry about it, and when I say "the people of this country", I mean the majority of the people and I include the small businessman, not those who represent big companies who sell their wares to the big commission houses which have a large measure of success. I do not think that any hon. member except perhaps the hon. junior member for Christ Church, would disagree with me, and he nods and shows his assent to what I am saying. However, Sir, I am not in entire agreement with the sentiments which the hon. member has expressed today. He is speaking from the point of view of certain Barbadian businessmen and he cannot speak for different sections of Barbadian businessmen.

We have to guarantee a certain sum in one way and a certain sum in another way, and that makes me think that we are dealing with the frills and leaving out the substance. I do not think we should give priority to the establishment of the T.V. Station or even the establishment of a Radio Station. We have to think of what may be accruing to the Government and, of course, the hon. member will have to arrive at something which is reasonable. I do not think that we are entirely satisfied just to hear about the establishment of this Station. I am thinking of the immediate social effects in the home because initially this may produce other effects. However, Sir, it does not prevent you from doing your normal business. I am not bothering about that; but I must regard the fact that as it is proposed at present, this is a frill and we have much more to do in the interest of other Government Departments. I do not think that this haste is necessary, having regard to the question of priorities.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, it is true that we have seen writings in the Press by people expressing their view of this matter. I did not hear what the Hon. Minister said in his introductory remarks with respect to this Resolution. However, Sir, although we are not actually taking money out of the Treasury, we are the guarantors of a Corporation backed by the Barbados Government, and we are now asked to grant this infant Corporation, so to speak, the ability to extend its tentacles into the field of the most expensive form of advertising. I am not taking the stand which some people are taking as to what television can do for or against education, because there are arguments to be adduced on either side. Nor am I going to take the stand as to what television has done in connection with social life and otherwise, because I disregard that entirely.
6.10 p.m.

The Caribbean Broadcasting Station has been operating for a short period of, I believe, less than six months. This Resolution says it is proposed to establish a television service in December, and we are asked to guarantee this company $510,000. I suppose my colleague, the hon. junior member for Christ Church has already put most of the points I would raise, but I could not allow this Resolution to pass without adding my quota. Is this a priority? Do we really consider this a necessity when in this country where you have approximately 58,000 houses there is the cheapest means of dissemination of knowledge or advertising by way of Rediffusion established only after 30 years in around 20,000 of the houses? Those of us who have been fortunate enough to travel abroad and see television realise the monopoly which big business can hold over it, and you can see this from the number of items for which manufactures' representatives are given allowances for advertising which is run in a newspaper followed by advertisements over Rediffusion and now also over C.B.C., which I shall be generous enough to say goes well, because it is picked up as far as Tortola and all the way back down in Trinidad. I am wondering if it is the right of Government to institute and put into effect any promise which they have made, or whether they should not consolidate first and find out what will be the position, because no one can fool me that C.B.C. can tell you after six months with promises made on whatever their canvasser might get in advertising or what propaganda you have heard about a man having sold $200,000 or $300,000 in advertising, that that is binding upon anybody. I am wondering whether it would not be more fitting to see how well you can consolidate this first before you guarantee the company, so to speak, to embark on this.

Mr. Speaker, it may be said that they are backing C.B.C. because it is a separate entity, but it is similar to when they were backing the Transport Board. As the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has said, it must be common knowledge to the average taxpayer that it is the guarantor that goes to the bank; so I hope the Government has studied this matter most carefully. Without trying to step on anyone's corns, I could take one instance of a programme which you can look at over T.V. in America. The people who can do that excessive advertising would put their programmes over that as against the local people. You are establishing something primarily at the moment for the benefit of business. I am prepared to argue or take on anyone from the educational side of it, because it has been discovered in the United States that it can be used for the dissemination of knowledge in nursing and all the fields of learning by way of demonstration, and therefore I am prepared to answer what it can do here. If after 30 odd years however, the dissemination of knowledge by wire through Rediffusion has reached less than half the inhabitants, how do you feel about television which will cost a minimum of $300, when there are several things in the Government's programme for recreating and ameliorating the social evils with which we are faced in this country? In guaranteeing this sum of $510,000, I wonder whether you have taken into consideration every possible angle to see whether this could be a priority or a means of bringing in revenue to help in this direction. I myself am rather doubtful.

Mr. Speaker, I hope when the Minister replies that he will be able to tell us more than that they have come for a blank cheque, now that they have set up a radio corporation, to establish a television service six months after because they have the votes, because that would be unlike a democratic Government. I should like him to satisfy us that they have taken every possible angle into consideration. Would any member of the Government guarantee any person any sum of money unless he was perfectly satisfied that that money would be forthcoming or if it was a question of business, that the business programme which was placed before him would be such as would pay for itself? As I said, if this is a means by which you can bring in revenue to this island, I will give it my support so long as it is nothing to lower the moral standard of the Island. However, Sir, the way in which the Addendum to the Resolution puts it, leaves me to understand that after less than six months you are plunging into the modern means of advertising which is lucrative to manufacturers , and I am wondering if it is going to be to the detriment of the inhabitants of Barbados. You will notice clearly, Mr. Speaker, that I have been refusing to make political speeches on the floor of this House for a long time. This is a Resolution on which if I wanted to be in my usual Lower Green platform style, I could take this House to task about; but as you get older, you become saner. (A VOICE: Hear! Hear!)
6.20 p.m.

As you get older, you become saner in not letting your opponents know what to expect. (VOICES: Hear! Hear!) I hear hon. members saying "Hear! Hear!".

The hon. senior member for St. Peter referred to the fact that the small transitor set is in hand, but they have not yet reached the stage with T.V. as it is with the smaller transitor sets. Mr. Speaker, you will notice that my observations are such that I have left room open for the Hon. Minister to give us some facts. We have not been given any facts at all. We know from the inception that the Thomson people were given the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation to run; therefore, we know from this Resolution that they will be also running this. I wonder if the Hon. Minister of the Government can tell anyone of us in here from what he knows about it whether anyone of us in here may be able to afford having it. What we really want to know is what percentage you are getting, and if you expect to sell this to the average taxpayer in this country.

Unless you can show that it really will bring in more finance or help to bolster the revenue of this country, then I am afraid we will have some reservations about it, though we will support it. We will have some reservations as to the economics of bringing it about.

I wonder if the Hon. Minister can tell us something. He must have gone into this matter very seriously. They must have canvassed the industry and taken all the statistics which any business man would do to see what it would mean to them in a year, in customs duties, and so on. They must have taken into account the percentage of houses which they expect would take up these sets. I take it that the Chairman and members of the Corporation will go into this matter just as any businessman would do.

I, therefore, say, Sir, that I will await the Hon. Minister's reply primarily on the economics of this television service coming in so soon after the coming into being of the broadcasting station. It is not that I oppose the date of the coming into operation of television because I contend that it has been considered by people to be the greatest medium for advertising. As regards the advertising of local industry by local firms, one wonders what is going to happen as far as that is concerned. As I see it in the United States, it is not the retailer who does the advertising in this business; it is the big man who can spend big sums and who can keep television alive. We have to remember that television is very expensive. I hope that the Hon. Minister does not want to embark upon it just one year after having the broadcasting station without taking this into account. I take it that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has not put out a report yet, and, therefore, we cannot make a comment on it; but I believe that the Hon. Minister should have something to say as regards what they have done, what progress they have made; he should be able to tell us something about it without just making us to vote for what is set out here.

According to the Addendum to the Resolution:

It is proposed to establish a Television service in December, 1964 under the jurisdiction of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. Equipment for the service is estimated to cost $510,000. In order to secure the equipment on Manufacturers' credit without down payment, it is necessary for the Government to guarantee the payment by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation of the sum of $510,000. The Corporation proposes to pay for the equipment in four annual instalments of $127,500.

That in itself seems as if you must have had some information. I put it this way. You must have in your possession sufficient information that these people have already canvassed and they have got a certain amount of business lined up by which they can see that if you back this note of $510,000, they can pay you back in four years. They must have said to you: "I have lined up a certain amount of business which can pay you that amount in four years' time."

The Hon. Minister, therefore, cannot get away from telling me some of these facts. I therefore, feel that under the circumstances, while we are not going against it, he would give us some information and I hope he will tell us before we are asked to vote for it.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I spoke on this matter already, but the hon. junior member for St. Joseph said something about my knowing something about the matter. I do not know anything different from what any other hon. member should know. What I do know is that television is no revenue earning industry. Any economist, if you bring down John Maynard Keynes, would tell you that this is not an industry which is earning anything; this is a service which can only distribute funds which are in your community already; even if it brings money from outside, it is not an industry which will be earning anything. They have just got television in the Middle East, and when they took it there, the British Company carried money over there. Television does not produce anything. I will say to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that if I were like some Minister of the Government, I could make some political speech on the matter. If I brought in this microphone before me. I could make a political speech on it.
6.30 p.m.

I heard the Hon. Premier, in introducing a budget, say that you cannot have a champagne taste with a mauby pocket. Well, Sir, I say that you should not create a TV taste with a magic lantern pocket. I remember some years ago where you use to turn a handle by the Red Cross Store; you were near to the cinema, but you were very far away from the actual cinema. You would turn a handle merely for four cents, and you had entertainment. Now you are putting up a TV Station. I am saying Sir, that this is one of these narrow Resolutions in which you do not know if you are dealing with an Abstract Resolution or a Money Resolution. Although we are agreeing to pass this Resolution for the setting up of this TV Station, yet we are not actually voting the money. What the Government is really asking is this; when we give the Government the power to guarantee this loan to the company, in effect we know that this $500,000 is coming out of the Treasury. The indication is that when we pass this Resolution we are giving the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation the right to borrow money from a Bank, and the Government will know that we can underwrite this loan. On the other hand, if this money is not repaid, the Government of Barbados is responsible for it.

The narrow point is this: is it an automatic thing for us to pass the other $500,000 if the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation cannot find the money? In this Resolution we are giving authority for the Government to guarantee the loan of this money, but we are not voting the money. I do not want anybody to say that because we give the Government the right to guarantee the loan of this money, we are passing a vote for the money. Somebody may think that we

are voting this money: but what we are saying really is that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation is a productive organization and that we are agreeing to the underwriting of this loan, but we are not voting the money. If we were voting money by way of a Money Resolution Your Honour would have to leave the Chair and we would have to go into Committee on this Resolution. Under our new constitution it is for Your Honour to determine when a Bill is a Money Bill, I sincerely hope we will not be told that we passed a Resolution guaranteeing this $500,000 and therefore as such this $500,000 was voted. I am saying that not one penny can come out of the Treasury as a result of the fact that we are passing this Resolution; not one penny can leave the Treasury until a Money Resolution for $500,000 comes before this House. I say that this was a matter of judgment: but I will also say that there is no point in saying that you will give a guarantee to the Caribbean Broadcasting Corpotation for the loan of this money but that you will see transport die and you do not care because the other Government took it over.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I know that the hon. member is negotiating for increased wages for employees of the Transport Board, but I do not think the hon. member should say that the Government will not guarantee a loan to the Transport Board whereas that Board owes the Banks $2 million and it is all guaranteed by the Government. The wage negotiations between the hon. members Organization and the Transport Board should proceed independent of this debate. That is a matter for the Transport Board and not for the House to debate.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member is capable of that kind of conduct which you permit. I will not embarrass Your Honour and ask you to rule in this matter. I would leave these things to Your Honour's conscience.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Again, on a point of order. It is not competent for the hon. member to give a lecture on offending the Standing Orders. If the hon. member discovers that the Government had paid out money on this Resolution, then he could raise the question on any Tuesday.

Mr. WALCOTT: That is a matter again for the hon. member. The matter of lecturing is something which he arrogates to himself. Well, I am following him. I am lecturing and all he has to do is to leave the lecture room.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the lecture must be on television. *(Laughter)*

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I am going to lecture on television, and if this offends the Government I do not care. I do not care whose business is offended. I say that if you can underwite half a million dollars in respect of television, there is no nonsense that you are not going to underwrite money for the Transport Board. The hon. member says that I am negotiating with the Transport Board. Well, Sir, whether you negotiate for the workers at the Transport Board or elsewhere, you are negotiating for the workers of Barbados and not for the workers of Tortola. We are not dealing with anything which has nothing to do with Barbados. I know that television will not percolate as much money in this community as what the question of transport means to the life blood of this community. That is what I say and it is so elementary that it does not need a member of the House of Assembly to see it. It is a matter of judgment, and in a matter of judgment you can take one view and you can also take another view. I am not one of those fools who believe that television means the same thing to Barbados as what it means to the United States of America which has had the radio service for fifty years before they had television.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: On a point of order. I want to make two points.

6.40 p.m.

The subject matter of this debate is not a choice between the Transport Board and television. That is the first point. The second point is that they did not have television in England or the United States for fifty years for the simple reason that it was not commercially feasible. It was not a question of choice, but we are trying to drag the people of Barbados into the 20th Century. To say that the people in England had to wait 50 years, does it mean that we must wait another 50 years to get television?

Mr. WALCOTT: When the hon. member makes those sort of stupid remarks about dragging somebody, can he look at me and see that I want dragging into the 20th Century? So far as my progressive views are concerned, the hon. member could be in the 16th Century, because snobbery belongs to that age. I could never be a snob; so he belongs to ancient history where snobbery and privilege existed. I am a socialist which is a 20th Century concept. It is not a question of bringing Barbados into the 20th Century; but because television is in the world today, it does not necessarily mean that it must be in Barbados. We are living in a world where they send astronauts around the earth, but are we going to spend money to compete with countries that can send people to the moon to show that we are in the 20th Century too?

What we say, Mr. Speaker, is that you have put down a broadcasting service, and you do not know yet what your broadcasting station has been consolidated into. You do not have a proper commentator at this station who can give a commentary of what is taking place so that one can have an intelligent understanding of what is going on as with the B.B.C. news. When you have a radio station, you try to create some of the expertise that goes with it. In bringing people into the 20th Century, you have to take them gradually along these lines. Any fool today can buy a transitor set; it is not based on intelligence, but what we know is that no person running a country can in one breath say you have to do this and that, and in another breath say you have to halt inflation or you have to put on the brakes and look upon the frills to tax, when you are going to underwrite what can be regarded in any society as one of the last media in communications. The analogy I drew with the Transport Board is only an analogy because that is something the Government underwrites also. I am not like the members on both sides of this House who have criticised the Transport Board and said that it should be scrapped. I am not drawing any comparison between television and Transport.

Mr. Speaker, I must draw to your attention that when I am speaking in this Chamber, I must be accorded complete silence from the Gallery. This sort of conduct I am not going to stand for. We are not in British Guiana. I know it is true that the Marshal from the beginning of this Session is afraid to exercise the authority that reposes in him, but I am not going to subject myself to that nonsense.

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret the hon. senior member for St. Peter has been disturbed by voices from the Gallery. Perhaps it would be as well for me to remind those who are unaware or have forgotten temporarily that there is Standing Order No. 69 which reads as follows:-

"Strangers shall be admitted to debates in the House and to sittings of Committee of the whole House under such rules as the Speaker may make from time to time for that purpose.

2. If any Member takes notice that strangers are present, the Speaker, or in Committee the Chairman, shall put forthwith the question "That strangers do withdraw", without permitting any debate or amendment.

3. The Speaker, or the Chairman, may, whenever he thinks fit, order the withdrawal of strangers from the whole or any part of the House."

Before the hon. senior member for St. Peter resumes, there is another point. In view of the time, there will at 7 o'clock be an automatic suspension. The usual preparations have not been made, and I am wondering if the hon. senior member for St. Peter would move that further consideration of this matter be postponed so that the suspension of the Standing Orders may be moved.

Mr. WALCOTT: As Your Honour pleases. I beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution be now postponed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Standing Orders Nos. 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 be suspended for the remainder of today's sitting.

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

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

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, if I may test the feeling of the House at this stage, thinking in terms of the fact that there is no dinner available, and the staff has been here for some time, if hon. members so desire we can postpone further consideration of this matter until the next meeting; but we will have to crave the indulgence of hon. members to deal with at least two other small Resolutions which have a certain degree of priority attached to them. The Government has no objection to postponing further consideration of this matter for another meeting and proceeding immediately, Sir, to consideration of those two Resolutions which were distributed during today's sitting.

If the House does not object, I beg to move that the Resolution that the sum of $24,180 be advanced from the Public Treasury to be taken as the next Order of the Day.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to second that. 6.50 p.m.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, before you put that question, I would like to know what really the hon. member proposes to do. Does he propose to postpone further consideration of this matter from today's debate and deal with some other matter? When I was speaking, I moved the adiournment because you led me to believe that all I was required to do in the middle of my speech was to move that further consideration of this matter be postponed for the purpose of allowing the Hon. Minister to have the rules so suspended that we may be able to continue after 7.00 p.m. As far as I understood it, it was not intended to be a stop gap for the matter with which we are dealing.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, the position is this. This debate, obviously, is going to last for a long time. There are two Resolutions which we would like to get through with tonight. I would like to dispose of those first, and then if the House so desires we can go back to the Resolution with which we were dealing.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am not opposed to the Hon. Minister proceeding with those two Resolutions; but I would like to know if he intends to postpone this until the next meeting.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: As I have said, it is entirely a matter for the House. If the House wants to go on after we have dealt with those two Resolutions, we are prepared to continue.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House is the members, and the Hon. Minister is Leader of the Government with the majority; therefore, if he is going to proceed, the backbenchers are going on too.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: The Government has no desire to curb the flow of speech on this matter. If the hon. senior member for St. Peter does not want to, we will postpone further consideration of the matter.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am prepared to have it postponed until next week, if the hon. member so desires.

RESOLUTION *re* METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

Hon. E. W. BARROW: This Resolution before the House for the sum of $24,180 is to authorise the advance from the Public Treasury of this sum to be placed at the disposal of the Cabinet - I understand that the copies which hon. members received stated "Government", instead of "Cabinet" - for the purpose of advancing funds on behalf of headquarters Unit of Caribbean Meteorological Service to the Barbados Meteorological Service for the purpose of operating the Rawinsonde Station at Seawell.

There are two Resolutions on this matter and the Addendum of the other is the same as this Resolution before us. The two things overlap, so to speak.

I would like to give a little more detail on the Addendum to this Resolution, but I understand that Your Honour would like to have this sitting suspended for fifteen minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not just now, the next fifteen minutes or so.

Hon. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Speaker, you will notice from the Addendum that the Governments enumerated below which were comprised of the territories of the former Federation in addition to British Guiana, British Honduras and the British Virgin Islands, agreed to the establishment of a Caribbean Meteorological Service and also to a Hurricane Research Project for the whole area. It was decided that the cost of the Seawell Station should be included in the budget of the Headquarters unit of the Caribbean Meteorological Service. The Seawell Station has been partially operational since September, 1963. The cost of operating the station during 1964 is estimated to be $24,180 and it is necessary to establish an advance account to meet expenses. The Caribbean Meteorological Service will reimburse the Government of Barbados with the funds which we are now being asked to advance.

Now, Sir, this would be rather mysterious to hon. members who have not been intimately concerned with the Meteorological Service. If I may just say this, Mr. Speaker, I see that the Official Opposition is holding their own meeting over there, and they will remain in their mystery about this matter: but to those hon. members who are interested, I would like to mention that the Meteorological Service of the Caribbean was operated by the Federal Government before, and the United Kingdom Government used to make a certain contribution to it. The Meteorological Service has recently come under my Ministry and it deals with air traffic control, weather reports, hurricane warnings and matters of that kind. We work in close collaboration with the U.S. Weather Bureau which is situated at San Juan, Puerto Rico. We also contribute to the World Meteorological Organisation and what we have in the Caribbean is a main Meteorological Station at Jamaica, a main Meteorological Station in Trinidad and we are starting in Barbados with a main Meteorological Station which will be forecasting these services for the Windward and Leeward Islands.

Now, Sir, in Jamaica and in Trinidad, there is the Rawinsonde Network; but in Barbados, we do not have one and we are negotiating with the United States of America who had this equipment for a Radar Tracking Station when they were carrying out a limited experiment in Barbados. Now, they not only left the equipment here, but they sent down somebody to train our Meteorological Assistants in the use of this Rawinsonde Network. It is very important for forecasting. In normal circumstances, there is a balloon which is used in Meteorological Service, and in it there are very technical instruments with a transmitter which sends back a lot of information relating to temperature, humidity and so on. But Rawinsonde Network is a lot more sophisticated because it involves the use of helium, telegraphy and the use of Radar Tracking Station on the ground. The Radar Tracking Station attracts the balloon which takes up the message to a greater distance before you get the Rawinsonde. It gives you temperature, humidity and barometric pressure and also wind speeds at different heights.
7.00 p.m.

We are very lucky because we have equipment which we used in the last Hurricane and we sited it a long way off. We hope to have one of the most modern radar equipment costing something like between $2 million and $3 million (U.S.) which we will be able to use to track hurricanes as

*** TRANSMISSION REPORT ***

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far as 250 miles away, aircraft as far as Trinidad as soon as they take off, and fishing boats as far off as 65 miles. There will be no cause for fishing boats being lost. We will be able to pick up fishing boats off the fishing banks as soon as they leave and tell them where other boats are. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries is working very closely in collaboration with my office in this particular matter.

Mr. Chairman, when people talk about $500,000 for a guarantee for TV service and we compare that with what the Canadian Government is placing at our disposal, this equipment which is costing $3 million (US) which will help us with scientific development as regards the tracking of hurricanes, we are ashamed of the contribution which we are making in the field of scientific development in this country. Apart from that, the United States are coming to our assistance. The cost of operating this station is partly being borne by the United States of America. United States Government spend about one thousand dollars a week on experiments with balloons. These balloons never come back and they have expensive radio equipment in them. The balloons make two assents a day, and they lose much of this expensive equipment.

We should normally be paying the sum of $6,755.86 per annum, but this is being refunded to us by the Department of Technical Cooperation. The Trinidad Government pays a contribution to our station and the Windward and Leeward Islands also have their contribution refunded by the United Kingdom Department of Technical Co-operation. What we are getting here is a most up-to-date weather forecasting service at very little cost to the Barbadian Taxpayer. The money which this House is being asked to advance, this sum of $24,180, is being asked for so that we can send assistants of the Meteorological Department for training next week. One of our assistants will go to Puerto Rico to have this training in time for the hurricane season and this training is a six weeks' course. This is the reason for this Resolution. We are now being asked to approve of the advance of this sum of $24,180 which will be refunded from the sources which I have mentioned. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

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

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

HON. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Committee of Supply be the next Order of the Day.

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

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

HON. W. A. CRAWFORD: 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 when in committee to deal with the Resolution of which notice was given today.

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1964-65 No. 6

SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS - METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

A Resolution for the sum of $12,734 was called.

HON. E. W. BARROW: Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution for the sum of $12,734 to be granted from the Public Treasury and placed at the disposal of the Cabinet to supplement the Estimates, 1964-65 Part 1 -Current, as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1964-65 No. 6 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution. This Resolution is in many respects similar to the one which was dealt with by the House not so long ago in today's session. This Resolution is also for the establishment of a Meteorological service and the necessary authority has been passed. In the Estimates for 1964-65 under Head 47 - Subsidies and Grants - Item 6A, we voted the sum of $21,000 for the contribution of the Government of Barbados towards the upkeep of the Meteorological Office in Trinidad. The amount which we are now being asked to vote is in consequence of the establishment in Barbados of a Rawinsonde installation which is a piece of radar equipment. The Barbados contribution towards the cost of running this service is of the order of $6,755.84. This Resolution is broken down in two parts. There is the contribution towards the Rawinsonde installation for 1964 which is $6,756 which will be refunded by the United Kingdom Government. We have put in an estimate of $5,013 towards the Headquarters cost of the station at Seawell from the 1st January, 1965. That is the estimate in this Resolution to carry us over the period until when we will next be coming for a contribution towards this service. That is the first part of the Resolution.

7.10 p.m.

The second part of the Resolution is for $965 for the hurricane research project carried out by the United States Weather Bureau. This is a contribution which we have to make, and it is not refundable, but the difference between $12,734 and $965 will be refunded to us in due course. It is a question of accounting that we have to pay this money to the Weather Bureau and then the United Kingdom Government refunds it. The Weather Bureau has to have this money to continue their operations, and that is the purpose of this Resolution.

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

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

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

On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution 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. G. G. FERGUSSON, the Resolution was read a first and second time and agreed to.

RESOLUTION *re* DEATH OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, before the business of the House is completed, I understand that there is no desire on the part of hon. members to return to the debate on the proposal of the financing of the TV Corporation, and the final matter with which I should like to deal is to place on record the tribute of this House to the passing of the late Prime Minister and foreign Minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru. I propose to move the passing of the following Resolution:-

"BE IT RESOLVED that this House place on record its profound sympathy at the death of Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs of India;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the President and Government of India, and to Mrs. Indira Ghandi."

Mr. Speaker, so much has been said already of this great Indian leader within recent days that it would appear almost superflous to add any lengthy tribute at this stage

to the passing of this great Indian leader and patriot. But I merely should like to say in passing that by the distinct manner in which he has led India since the granting of Independence, Nehru himself has added a new statute not only to himself but also to colonial leaders. The manner in which he led India after independence, and the distinction he gave to the place by his leadership, added lustre not only to India itself, but demonstrated that the countries which were still under the control yoke could be given a chance to distinguish themselves and make a marked contribution to the progress of international affairs; and so in this respect, if for no other, people like ourselves who are yet in a semi-colonial state must revere the memory of this man who, given the opportunity, showed that the various countries under the British Empire were capable of conducting their own affairs in a distinguished and enlightened manner, and in so doing he placed no obstacle in the granting of independence to countries which as his own had been at one time, were still under the domination of the British Crown.

India under Nehru demonstrated that she was entitled justifiably to independence, and proceeded to set an example which supposedly enlightened nations - and nations which for a far longer period enjoyed complete self-Government - would do well to follow; and both by example, precept and the manner in which he led India during these difficult years, he has created an example which many leaders of colonial countries after attaining independence might do well to follow. I think, Sir, that the universality of the homage paid to this great leader in his passing and the manner in which the sad news of his death was received all over the world is meant to demonstrate that the world has lost one of its most distinguished leaders, and India one of its most distinguished sons.

I do not think, Sir, that anything we can say here can serve more brightly to illumine the fame which he was accorded, nor can we say anything to further gild the distinguished place with which he will be revered for all time, not only by the citizens of his own country, but by all the countries of the world. We owe it to ourselves in memory of this great leader to place on record our warm appreciation of his services to humanity and of the tremendous contribution he made towards the achieving of independence by all colonial countries.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

7.20 p.m.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Resolution which has been so ably moved by the Hon. Leader of the House. So much has been said within the past few days of Mr. Nehru that it is almost useless for me to say anything more at this stage.

The late Mr. Nehru who was the illustrious son of a distinguished father has left this mark not only upon the great-All-Indian sub-Continent, but on the rest of civilization as well. His father achieved great things for India and Mr. Nehru was himself one of Ghandi's greatest friends and strongest supporters. His father owned a newspaper, the Independent which did a great deal to advocate dominion status for India, and he was one of the greatest actors in the civil disobedience campaign.

The late Mr. Nehru was educated at Harrow, Cambridge and the Inner Temple, and with that background of education plus his mind, it was certainly within his character which did a great deal too to foster good relations between himself and what was then known as the British Empire.

The man who is tipped to succeed Mr. Nehru has now to learn the mastery of the English Language. He is expected to be Mr. Bahadur Shastri. The English Language, as will be appreciated, needs considerable mastery. Mr. Nehru himself saw to it that with his intimate knowledge of English that language should be the official communication in India, despite the protests of the Nationalist Party. His greatest achievement was to continue with the maintenance of parliamentary democracy in India when at her doorstep and all around her there were nations which showed no intentions whatsoever of following her in the maintenance of parliamentary democracy. Although parliamentary democracy is practised in India, it has appeared to many that the future of India might well fall in the hands of China. Many people fear that with the man now in control of India who does not have a hold on the country as Mr. Nehru that the future of India might well be a perilous one.

I have great pleasure in seconding this motion.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I do not think that I should allow this occasion to pass without adding my tribute to a man who was a worthy statesman. In the space of two years, this House has paid tribute to three of the world's great statesmen, Mr. Nehru being the third, to whom we have passed our condolences. The first was Mr. Hugh Gaitskell, the Leader of the British Labour Party, and then only late last year, we paid similar tribute to the late Mr. John Kennedy, President of the United States of America. Now, we are paying tribute to Mr. Nehru who was Prime Minister of India from the time of her Independence and whose name was one of the most popular among the statesmen in the world.

Sir, I think that Mr. Nehru's life, even as distinctive from the others, was a model in itself. He was one of the world's statesmen who gave to developing nations a character even at that time when it was misunderstood and has now become the policy of many of the developing territories in Africa and that is the system of non-alignment. Mr. Nehru had the conviction that India should be friendly with the East and the West, and he had good reasons for thinking likewise owing to the geographical position of India. He guided his country well and he was a light and guide to many of us; therefore, I feel that the passing of a man like Mr. Nehru must make a mark on many of us.

Sir, we have not reached a stage of civilization yet to say that it does not matter when people like Mr. Nehru pass from this scene. We do miss them, and all I say is that a man of Mr. Nehru's qualities is one whom all of us should try and emulate. Mr. Nehru steered his country clear of war because he was a man of peace. His was a shining example for any member of a developing country to follow, and any statesman in any part of the world to emulate.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, so much has been said about Mr. Nehru since his passing that there is very little for me to say at this time. From what little I read of Mr. Nehru it shows that he was a man of great understanding and wisdom, and was always willing to place his political knowledge at the disposal of all his colleagues on all sides of Parliament; that is what caused him to make such a great success of his leadership.

I sincerely hope that those whom he has left behind would make an effort to take a leaf out of his book and would be always willing to make a success of their leadership. May he rest in peace.

Mr. SPEAKER: I esteem it a privilege to associate myself with all the tributes paid in and out of this House to the memory of this distinguished Indian statesman, and in order to signify our assent to the passage of this Resolution, I invite hon. members, according to tradition, to stand in their places for two minutes.

Members stood in their places for two minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Appropriate steps would be taken to have this Resolution forwarded to the proper quarters.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I now beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 9th June, at 3.00 p.m.

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

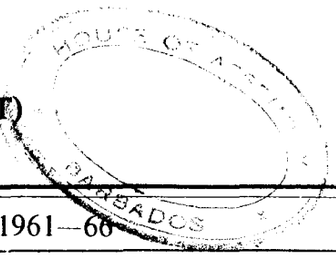
The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

7.30 p.m.

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)



SECOND SESSION OF 1961—64

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 9th June, 1964.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 3 o'clock p.m. today.

PRESENT

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

Prayers were read.

Mr. BOXILL entered the House and took his seat.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the last meeting are not yet ready for confirmation.

PAPERS LAID

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

The Legislature (Offices of Profit) (Exemption) Act, 1964 (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 1964.

The Public Officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (Scheduled Officers) (No. 2) Regulations, 1964.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land known as The Mount, St. Michael for the provision of a site for the College of Arts and Science of the U.W.I.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the Compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land situate at Rendezvous Hill Road for the purpose of highway improvement.

QUESTIONS

The following Notices of questions were given:-

Mr. COWARD: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Will Government, in view of the circumstances surrounding the Transport system of this Island, consider the advisability of giving early consideration and publicising to the Report recently handed in by the Committee appointed by Government to examine and report on the said system?

Mr. COWARD: To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

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

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

RESOLUTION *re* LEGISLATION TO COMPENSATE WORKERS SEVERED FROM EMPLOYMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: The First Order of the Day under Private Members' Business is to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution *re* legislation of general coverage to ensure that workers, severed from employment through no fault of their own, be adequately compensated.

When this Resolution was most recently discussed, the Hon. Leader of the House was speaking. Do I understand that the hon. member proposes to resume his speech?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Your Honour's understanding is quite accurate. Normally, Sir, I would not.....

Mr. WALCOTT entered the House and took his seat.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Sir, last week in connection with this Resolution I made certain comments on it, and I think that I had got to the point where I suggested that, in order to give effect to this Resolution a Committee comprised of tripartite representation, that is to say, representatives of Government and representatives of both workers and employers should be set up to investigate this matter and submit a report for study by all concerned. Therefore, Sir, I propose to move an additional paragraph to that effect to this Resolution. This paragraph will be numbered paragraph 5 and it will read as follows:-

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Committee comprised of Government, employers' and workers' representatives be set up to examine this matter and submit a report after study by all parties concerned."

3.25 p.m.

As I said last week, my reason for doing this was that the conception of compensation of the sort proposed in the Resolution is entirely new. There is no legislation in existence in any British territory which could be used as a basis for enacting similar legislation here, and while I would be the first to admit that there is no reason why we should not be the first to set an example of this sort, as we have in other directions affecting the welfare of the workers, yet still in the drafting of legislation one has to be precise; and in the absence of precedents from which to draw, or in the absence of any enactment even remotely similar to what is proposed here, obviously further investigation on the part of the people involved is more or less indicated. I said, Sir, that the Trade Unions in the Western world and even the International Labour Organisation itself have for some time been paying appropriate attention to the disadvantages likely to be suffered by workers in cases of displacement through industrial reorganisation, and I quoted the actual text of a Resolution passed by the convention of I.L.O. with reference to this matter. Subsequently within the last few days, I have seen another comment by the International Labour Organisation with respect to the proposals in this Resolution, and I think that hon. members will agree when they hear it that this comment justifies the amendment I have proposed.

This is the relevant portion of the Report by the International Labour Organisation that I want to read. It says that –

"Private arrangements, and in particular redundancy procedures and other arrangements negotiated between management and trade unions, have an important part to play in this connection;" – the connection of course being the hardships suffered by workers involved in industrial reorganisation; it further says that "private individuals, for one thing, may lack sufficient incentive to undertake socially desirable measures. For example, although the retraining of displaced workers may be both socially and economically desirable, individual employers may well be unwilling to undertake this task, fearing that the workers will be "poached" or will move to other jobs. Again, without Government aid manufacturers may be unwilling to locate in a depressed area, although this again might be socially desirable. Another reason why private arrangements are not enough is that, whenever structural changes affect the owners as well as the workers of an undertaking, as may do, private arrangements may merely mean a transfer from one adversely affected group to another. Society, which is the real beneficiary, makes no contribution. Furthermore, it should not be overlooked that it is mainly older workers who suffer from structural adjustments and that, for example, in a given Trade Union these usually form only a minority, so that less attention may be given in collective bargaining to provisions designed especially to further their interests than to those intended to promote the interests of the membership as a whole.

For such reasons it seems fair that it is mainly through the instrumentality and initiative of the State that a more equitable sharing of the benefits and costs of material progress can be brought about. Besides negotiating private arrangements, employers' and workers' organisations may participate in formulating and administering national measures to this end."

In other words, Sir, in the underlying proposal for the basic requirement involved in planning to meet these changes, society has a part to play. It is the employers and workers themselves who are both involved, and who in conjunction with the State decide after thorough investigation all the means whereby the desire can be achieved.

I do not think, Sir, that there is anything more that I want to add at this stage. I have covered the ground as I think I should have on the last occasion the House met, and I now formally beg to move that the proposed paragraph which I suggested be added to the Resolution.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: It appears that no other hon. member desires to speak on this Resolution. Accordingly it is now open to the hon. senior member for St. Peter, the Mover of this Resolution, if he thinks fit, to exercise his right of of final reply.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I never thought that this Resolution would have created the speech from the Hon. Leader of the House that it did, because the Resolution itself is a simple and straightforward one.

From what I heard the hon. member speak on in relation to this Resolution, it caused me to read and re-read the Resolution to see if we were speaking on the same matter before the House. Listening to the hon. member, one would have thought that this Resolution was revolutionary in character and was calling on the Government to do something where the Government would have a financial obligation, and therefore on this Resolution one had to go cautiously.

I would like at the beginning to thank the hon. junior member for St. Peter, my colleague, for seconding this Resolution, and those hon. members who spoke in support of the Resolution; and I am pleased to see that members of the Government Bench spoke in support of it.
3.55 p.m.

If I do not accept the hon. member's proposed amendment to this Resolution, it is on the ground of logic. I will explain why I do not think the hon. member has given careful consideration to the text of this Resolution nor to the facts as they are existing in Barbados and, as I have said at the beginning, to what my organisation has done in this matter. If he did, and if he were aware of his functions as a Minister of Government, I do not think it would have been necessary for him to make his proposed amendment.

I will begin and show that not only is his amendment superfluous and redundant, but that this is what the Resolution is asking the Government to do. The hon. member said that there is no legislation on this matter. When it comes to drafting legislation, you are thinking of model legislation and I am not a believer in model legislation; that is to say, that anybody who is drafting legislation in 1964 would look back 39 years to see how it was done at that time – and, as a matter of fact, the Government did not take the 1906 Trade Union Act and draft the recent amendment we had along those lines. The Government came out with a different draft entirely. Anybody who understands that Act wondered why the Government gave the organisation the right to picket and at the same time withdrew it from the individual. As it is, the organisation can agree to have peaceful picketing but the person who is aggrieved cannot have it. One would think that it is stupid to give the organisation instead of your giving it to the individual. You think that you must give it to the individual if you must give it to the organisation because the organisation *per se* has no civil liberties to protect.

Those of you who are experts in some of the fields in which we now have to pass legislation know very well that at times we will have to advise the lawyers in the kind of things which you want done. If that were not so, well then, you are a believer in the idea that Barristers are blessed in knowing all things.

Sir, there is another point which I would like the hon. member to be aware of, as regards a Resolution like this and in saying so, I hope the Hon. Leader of the House would not follow the bad example of his predecessors, in that whenever I brought something in here, they tried to find something wrong with it. If they did not find something wrong, they would say: "We were thinking of it before and it is just a matter of time which prevented us from doing it." There are many of us who think that ideas only spring from a small Cabinet. If that were so, then there would be no need for having so many people in the community or in the world.

I do not hold any original ideas for some of these things because there are some of these things which have happened already. Mr. Speaker, I think when my reply is over that you would clearly see that I have given thought to this matter. The text of this Resolution reads as follows:-

"WHEREAS the workers in Barbados recognise the inevitability of change and progress;"

"AND WHEREAS the workers know from bitter experience that economic or industrial re-organisation, though perhaps in the long-term interest of the community, may nevertheless work grave hardship upon individual workers who lose their employment as a result;"

"AND WHEREAS workers are satisfied that by the application of forethought and an enlightened consideration of the needs of the individual some of the worst features of industrial changes may be mitigated;"

That is the preamble to this Resolution. All that the preamble dealt with was what we regard as the problem facing people as a result of this change in this world of swift changes. This has nothing to do with the Government's economic programme. It has nothing to do with the Government's industrial programme, nor does it say that the Government's industrial programme, is wrong. It does not comment on the Government's programme at all. I made it clear that in all of these things which you are doing, you are going to employ fewer people for the amount of money you invest in view of mechanisation and the machinery available to mankind. In view of these changes, factories will employ fewer people than similar factories twenty years ago because different techniques are employed, and for that reason fewer people would be employed per dollar invested. A man who invested $100,000 in 1920 could employ more people with that investment would employ today because there are different techniques.

Now, Sir, the burden of this Resolution was set out in this paragraph:-

"NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly request the Government to consider as an urgent requirement of employment policy the enactment of legislation of general coverage to ensure that workers, severed from employment through no fault of their own, be adequately compensated."

Now, Sir, all the Resolution is asking the Government to do is to give it its support. Why do I say "general coverage"? The Hon. Minister is aware when he speaks of the Barbados Workers' Trade Union that there are agreements in this Island between the Trade Union and employers for severance pay. There is an agreement between the workers Union and the owners of sugar factories for severance pay. Those agreements were not made with the Government, but they were made with private employers. However, the Government has been involved in them in the same manner as the Government is involved in the sugar industry through the spending of its funds in that you cannot withdraw money out of the sugar industry unless it is for a specific purpose which has been set out, such as under the Labour Welfare Fund or the Price Stabilisation Fund. Since the 26th October, 1963 – and this is June, nearly nine months – an agreement was reached to pay sugar factory workers, who have been displaced as a result of technological changes, severance pay. The Government is involved in that because a fund has to be set up. The Government now is involved in a sugar factory in St. Andrew with workers who have been displaced as a result of the changeover of hands, but the machinery for doing so has not yet been put in operation because one Government went out of power since this matter was in hand. As a matter of fact, this was going on since 1959 and the last Government went out in 1961 and we could not implement these things because we could not take up money from the Sugar Welfare Fund or the Price Stabilization Fund until we get authority from the Government.

3.45 p.m.

The full implementation has not taken place. A lot of people have to rely on the Government's decision. I have a file here which has grown to this thickness, and there is nothing in it except correspondence between Government, employers and the Union on the question of severance pay and the provident fund for casual workers. I have been in the centre of this thing for the last seven or eight years in this island and therefore I should know something about it. There are people other than sugar workers affected. The hon. junior member for the City spoke on this Resolution for which I thank him, and he pointed out that there are people who are not covered by the Trade Union Agreement. Because I am a Trade Unionist, I do not say that if you want these conditions or advantages you must be covered by the Trade Union Agreement. Some people are working in fields of industry, people who are not easily organized; some of them are not in industrial employment, some are in domestic employment and they are dependent on the domestic services, and there are others who are afraid; but I say that a domestic servant as such is entitled as a matter of morality to these basic conditions.

Mr. Speaker, what I am seeking by this Resolution is to have legislation enacted of a general coverage to ensure that workers who are severed from employment through no fault of their own are adequately compensated. The I.L.O. is an Organisation and it has legislation from different parts of the world. I could bring legislation from Latin America or from the Middle East or I could go to Russia and see what they have done there. I do not have to follow British legislation necessarily. In Tanganyika they have followed legislation dealing with these matters and they have set up the machinery. I thought merely that it was my duty in proposing this Resolution to set out to the hon. House what I meant by this Resolution and not wait until the end, but the hon. member did not listen to me. If he had been listening to me or if he had been available to hear what I said, he would have heard that I made it patently clear to everybody that we are dealing with a Resolution based on the Government taking action in relation to what the Resolution seeks to do.

Hon. members of the Government party supported this Resolution. They supported it based on the fact that they are living in Barbados and they are aware of some of the consequences which are taking place in their own constituencies. They could see what is regarded as something strange in Barbados, and it is recognized that workers' services are terminated and no regard is paid to the length of service which has been performed. In the same manner that the Income Tax Department and the Income Tax Commissioner allows employers certain redemption charges and certain charges for the replacement of machinery into its original condition when it becomes worn out, I would say that labour in this connection is as important as capital. That is so because in one sense labour and capital go hand in hand and they form the capital which you have to invest in the business. One is capital and the other is recurrent. It was not necessary for me to rise on a point of order and explain what I meant by this Resolution. It is quite clear to everybody that a sugar worker – and this is not a flippant, vote-catching business – is not the only worker in Barbados. If you only had the cane-cutter in Barbados, what would happen? I do not subscribe to the idea that one class of workers in Barbados is all that we require; we want services and we want somebody to move the sugar from one place to the other and then you need time keepers and clerks. We want all of these people in order to make our life smooth.

I am not one of those people who believe that only one class of person comprises all the workers in the community You want to measure the importance of people in the industry if you have to determine how much you have to pay them. That is a different exercise from saying who is important. From the man who is sweeping the street until you get to the doctor – all are important; but you do not pay the street-cleaner the same wage as you pay the doctor. You can say that because you cannot play the organ unless it is being pumped, that the man who is pumping the organ should be paid the same thing as the man who is playing the organ. This Resolution is not intended to be anything like that; this Resolution is seeking to give protection to workers who, through no fault of their own, are thrown out of employment, and you want something to cushion the shock of a man who is losing his job. What I am saying is that something should be done to provide a cushion, especially during this period. I am saying that the coverage should be of a general character and not specific. As the matter now stands, in a general way we are inserting a Clause like this.

There are more workers who are unorganized in Barbados than there are workers who are organized, and that is because of the character of employment. Barbados is an area of casual employment, and that does not lend itself easy to a Trade Union organisation because the Trade Union depends on dues. The Trade Union itself is a consistent organization and not a temporary organization; Clerks could be replaced as a result of business or businesses changing hands or as a result of new technique in these businesses, and all of these things take place.
3.55 p.m.

When these things have taken place, we ask whether it is fair and just that the worker should be left unnoticed and feel it is hard luck, and he or she goes home without any reward. My contention, Mr. Speaker, is that the employer should be made to accept his obligations. The Hon. Leader of the House said that this Resolution did not say who is to pay. This is not a Bill we are passing. We are passing a Resolution which sets out in general terms what you want the Government to do. This is not an enactment which when you pass it it is going to be implemented tomorrow like a Bill. The hon. member read from I.L.O. documents, but only last week in British T.U.C. representing eight million workers, more workers than the local population of the West Indian islands put together, where they have social security, where they have the Beveridge Plan, where they have unemployment insurance and where they have a wide coverage for social security, prepared a paper and called it "New moves to cushion the effects of loss of a job."

Now my colleagues talked about social insurance, but this Resolution has nothing to do with social insurance. A man losing his job as a result of technological changes after working with an employer for 20 or 25 years cannot be asked to seek aid from the Social Security Fund. This is a specific cause where job security is involved, and it is a question where you are asking people for protection.

Now, Mr. Speaker, at the beginning I made it clear that the Government could not resist this, because in principle if the Government abolishes a post tomorrow and the officer holding that post is no longer required by the Government, he receives an abolition pension which is higher than an ordinary pension, because you have disrupted him from an office he looked forward to, and there are cases in other territories which have been to arbitration where the abolition of a post by arbitration has been accepted and high rewards have been paid.

You will remember, Mr. Speaker, that even with the defunct West Indian Federation — I am not now speaking of what the politician received in what is colloquially known as a golden handshake; I am speaking of the Civil Servants who worked in other services in the West Indies and were transferred to the Federal Services — it was regarded as appropriate that these workers should receive compensation for the loss of office, and all the Trade Unions in the area supported them when they had difficulty with the Federal Government, and made a protest to the Secretary of State for the Colonies demanding that they should have fair treatment; so there is enough evidence on record. Now the Trade Union here has been able to get the sugar people to agree to this in the factories. We are about establishing a Provident Fund on plantations, but there is no agreement yet on plantations, because we were taking them as they arrived.

Mr. Speaker, only last Friday or Saturday, to show you what can take place in this island, I received a letter from a worker where the employer wrote him on the 4th June informing him that his services would no longer be required at Porters Factory from 5th June, and that man had been working there for fourteen years. They gave the man a day's notice that they were going to remove him from his job after fourteen years' service. It is true that the man is entitled to severance pay, but it is not a question of being entitled to severance pay; it is a question of giving a man a day's notice, one who was a permanent worker working in and out of crop. They did not give the man notice informing him that as from the next crop they would not need him, but as a permanent worker, he would work until the end of this crop or until the end of the next crop period, or until December or the beginning of the next crop season; they gave him one day's notice to terminate his services after fourteen years. Fortunately for the Union, we are capable of taking up that matter with the appropriate sources, but it is just an indication to show the kind of employers in 1964 that we still have to deal with. When people say in one breath that the industrial climate here is all well, they have to bear in mind how strong the workers can be to create an industrial climate that could give them the protection that they require.

When the hon. member says that if you pass this Resolution as it stands "that the House request the Government to consider as an urgent requirement of employment policy the enactment of legislation of general coverage to ensure that workers, severed from employment through no fault of their own, be adequately compensated", that it does not give the Government or the Attorney General the means for making legislation, well, I do not know clearly what he means by that. Now, let me examine the hon. member's amendment. The hon. member is the Deputy Premier of Barbados, and if this House passes the Resolution, it is for the Government to decide in what form they are going to accept the Resolution. There is nothing to say that you must set up a Committee of Government, employers and workers representatives to examine the matter and submit a report for study by all Parties. In my humble opinion that is axiomatic. If you pass a Resolution asking the Government to do something, the implementation of it is for the Government to do and in whatever form; but I do not consider it necessary to say that you must set up a Committee on this or that because it is left to the Government. Obviously you may ask people's views on this matter; you may ask the Trade Union, and you may ask the workers' representatives and the Government itself will be there. This is not something which has taken place where you want a public enquiry into somebody's conduct, and therefore I must specifically put in the Resolution the setting up of a Committee because I want Government to do it. When you ask the Government to send down legislation to do anything, you do not have to tell the Government how to proceed to set about the enactment of that legislation. When you ask the Government to enact legislation, you cannot then preclude them from setting up the machinery which the Government sees fit.
4.05 p.m.

I was not asking the House to set up a Committee. I was not asking the House and the Government to set up a Committee to study the question of severance pay because I do not consider that you should ask the Government to do those things. When we passed the Bill for Holidays with Pay, it was not as a result of a Resolution passed in this House; it was the result that some employers were giving their employees holidays with pay and some were not, and it was felt by the Government at the time that, instead of asking those employers who were not doing it to do so, we should pass something to give general coverate to it.

I would say this. The Government could have passed this legislation without a Resolution from me, judging from members who spoke on it, especially those of the Government Party. The Hon. Minister can see without any prodding from me that there are no doubts that a clerk working in Broad Street or working anywhere in Barbados who loses his job through no fault of his own should get adequate compensation.

Sir, the reason why this Resolution was vague and would have to be is because I am not here proposing a Bill and asking the House to agree to it. What I have done is to bring in a Resolution asking the Government to do something and this is where the Government must understand the whole purpose of what a Resolution should deal with. A Resolution is to give members of the House of Assembly the opportunity of discussing a measure, and if it is agreed upon, the Government would know from the debate how general was it in character and if it has their support. This matter did have the support of members of the Government party, and therefore Ministers listening to the speeches of the members on it would know the type of machinery which they should set up to deal with the matter and they would deal with it as they think fit.

Sir, to whom is this Resolution going? This Resolution is going to the Government, and primarily this is a Resolution which would more fit in with the Minister of Labour. If the House accepts this Resolution, implementation should be carried on in this matter; and if the Minister of Labour proposes that a Committee should be set up of employers to give effect to what is in the Resolution, he can do that. I do not have to do that. However, if the Government wants to set about doing it, either by departmental methods or by Committee, they can do so. Soon after this Government came into power, it brought down a Bill dealing with Workmen's Compensation. They decided to implement the legislation based on what they found. Therefore, you have the Government implementing legislation which it is the Government's own business to do, and as long as they are carrying out the general text of the Resolution that is all which is needed.

Sir, this amendment by the Hon. Minister appears to me to be illogical and redundant. I do not think the Hon. Minister should have got up and told the House how he thinks they should set about to deal with it. If this Resolution is passed and it is accepted, then the machinery for putting it into effect would be the Government's. I have no doubt that you have in mind the type of machinery which you should set up to deal with it, and that this is the type of machinery which you have in mind. But do not tell me that you have to put this in the Resolution and that you have to say in this Resolution how you propose to deal with it. If you do this, this is purely the Government's action.

I will go further and say this. Because you pass a Resolution in the House, it does not mean that it becomes imperative for the Government to carry it out. The Government can make pious excuses all the time for not putting it into effect. To give you an instance, the Government can set up a Committee and the Committee submit a Report to the Government: but the Report of the Committee does not bind the Government to implement what is in the Report. All over the world, you have legions of Reports; but if it does not suit the Government to do what is set out and the Government does not feel it suitable to do so, the Government does not do it. There is no law to tell the Government that it must implement a Resolution. Some of us in here are experienced parliamentarians, and we know that when you pass a Resolution, it does not bind the Government to implement that Resolution. You pass a Resolution because you feel it would emphasise the need for Government doing it.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand why the Hon. Minister spoke about the setting up of a Committee. It is obvious if we pass the Resolution that we will expect the Government to set up some machinery to implement it. I said that you would have to set up a Committee, but in what form it should come down is for the Government. You do not have to tell the Government to set up a Committee. If you pass a Resolution asking the Government to set up a Committee, you are imposing on the Government to do something. What I have been asking the Government is specifically for the enactment of legislation of general coverage, not for a specific worker, but in general for all workers working anywhere. I spoke about people who are permanently employed. I did not mean people like carpenters or masons who work from day to day for somebody else because such carpenters or masons could not expect you to be responsible for them. But if a carpenter or a mason was responsible to a contractor, well then, that contractor would be responsible for that carpenter or mason. I feel that this matter is vital to Barbados via its industrial programme, and it is what I regard as one of the problems that are going to beset us as a result of mechanisation.
4.15 p.m.

I made a reference when it comes to machinery, and I feel it is to be rationalised with the type of community in which you are living, the type of employment problems you have and the phases you can expect from mechanisation if it is not to disrupt the community too much. For that reason, I feel that you should have a plan to take care of this aspect of the matter, and the impact of mechanisation would not hit the community so hard. You should have something to cushion the impact; you will alleviate it and you will realise that workers would not be so opposed to machinery. You would not have this behaviour of people who want to break up the machinery, but you will have co-operation, and the community generally will get the benefit of this change. I do not think that it would be fair to suggest that this Resolution was aimed at making the Government the underwriter for people who lost their jobs and that the Government will have to pay. Far from that, the Government of Barbados is extremely fortunate in that the Trade Union movement has never called on it for any financial assistance There is not a case in this island in which the Government has ever gone to the Treasury and taken up one penny so as to pay a worker one cent in relation to any agreement for severance. Even in the sugar industry there is nothing in the way of Government money being taken out. The money which is being used is a levy out of sugar which will be paid out because of displacement. No Resolution is coming to this House for workers to be paid their severance pay; we consider that there is enough money in the sugar funds to get the sort of coverage which the workers need. That is where we are encouraging the workers at any stage to undertake something which we know that the community would benefit from as the years go on.

I am satisfied in my mind that time will be on our side and we will be able to demonstrate, beyond the shadow of a doubt, the wisdom of our proposals and the wisdom of this Resolution. I want to thank hon. members who have supported this Resolution. In so far as the amendment to the Resolution is concerned, it does not do any damage to the Resolution but, in my view, that was the function of the Government and I did not regard it to be necessary to set up a Committee of employers' and workers' representatives. The only thing I would say about workers' representatives is this: I do not have any objection to using anybody when it comes to the matter of workers' representatives; some politicians, however, have the idea that the Trade Union is not the representative of the workers but that a canecutter in St. Lucy who is known to hon. members is such a representative; therefore, you put on a Committee that worker and you do not put on other people. You can bring Joseph Babb from Pie Corner when you want to escape an organisation. There has been a classic example of that. Instead of going to an organisation for a representative of its own, somebody found somebody else's name from the country and said that he is the person chosen. That is the sort of thing you get. A worker's representative can mean a man who is a canecutter from St. George. You can say that he is a worker and therefore you ignore the organisation. I heard the Hon. Leader of the Government say that when they put somebody in the Senate they know better than the Trade Union itself. They feel that they know better than the Trade Union, but that is all right when you are talking to somebody else. I do not know that anybody could know better about my organisation that I know myself. I do not meet the Leadership of the Government when I am dealing with the Governor. I want to meet the Governor. He is the Head of the State, and therefore I will ask him which Minister I must deal with. I do not go in for that sort of tomfoolery. I will not be hoodwinked into that sort of behaviour so that anybody can come by any circuitous route and do what he thinks because he wants to do it that way.

It is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, that I do not understand the meaning of this amendment because it is a departmental matter. If you have Ministerial Government and you pass a Resolution, it is for the Government to determine the best means of implementing the Resolution if it has not been stated. I do not see the idea of having it stated in this Resolution. In any case, it was a private Resolution, and I do not see to what extent the Minister could be asking us to tell him how he must set about to deal with this Resolution. However, Sir, I thank hon. members who have spoken on this matter. There is not much in this amendment for one to move the rejection of this Clause, but if the Government wants to implement this matter in this way, I have no objection in having a tripartite committee to deal with it. I believe in the tripartite form of committees in dealing with these matters.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Resolution, as amended by the words proposed to be inserted, and as

has been moved and seconded that this Resolution be so amended, do now pass. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. I now declare this Resolution to have been duly passed.

RESOLUTION *re* BEND AT EDGEHILL ST. THOMAS

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas:- To move the passing of a Resolution *re* the bend at Edgehill, St. Thomas.

Mr. BATSON: Mr. Speaker, This Resolution is a rather simple one.
4.25 p.m.

This is a simple Resolution, Mr. Speaker, because all hon. members of this Chamber must have had the experience of driving along the same highway, and it is for that reason that I feel that this Resolution can be approached in a simple manner. This Resolution, though simple, has a very big background in that it does not only affect vehicular traffic, but pedestrians alike. The text of this Resolution, Mr. Speaker, is as follows:-

WHEREAS the bend in Edge Hill Road in the parish of St. Thomas is very dangerous to vehicular traffic;

AND WHEREAS several vehicles have overturned at the said bend already;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House request Government to set about either widening the said road or extending the guard wall around the said bend to avoid any further accidents.

The bend, as you know, Mr. Speaker, is a very sharp one. There is no wall at the major portion of the bend to protect vehicles as they descend the hill, and even pedestrians in passing through the same highway will no doubt be subjected to a great disadvantage. In the past, Sir, several vehicles overturned at the said point, and it is fortunate that no life has been lost; but who knows if in the not too distant future some catastrophe may befall not only people who traverse the road but also vehicles which use the road? When loss of life is involved, that makes the situation more serious. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that Government will not be called upon to shoulder much of the burden in this respect in view of the fact that there is a guardwall there already.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that is the end of Private Members' Business. The hon. senior member for St. Thomas may resume his address on the next occasion when Private Members' Business is before the House.

The first Order under Government Business 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 grant of sums of money for the service of the Island.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

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

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

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1964-65 No. 7

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I am asking leave to deal with this matter which stands in the name of the Hon. Premier.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to deal with the Resolution and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

Hearing no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of $35,888 to be utilised mainly for the provision of a new aerial survey of the island. It has been pointed out that this has become necessary in order to complete land use survey work more effectively. The last air coverage which we had done was as far back as 1950, fourteen years ago, and obviously, Sir, it is now very, very much out of date. It has been found that apart from the actual value of new photography from the point of view of our overall Development Plan programme, this new aerial photography may be useful for the development control and general registration purposes.

Now the necessity to deal with this matter urgently springs from the fact that there is now in the Island certain aerial equipment available, and naturally, Sir, if this had to be taken from the island and brought back, additional costs would be involved. If you look at the Addendum, Sir, you will see that Messrs. Hunting Survey Corporation Limited of Toronto of Canada have quoted a price, for which the Resolution calls, for a photographic survey which will provide requirements for both Land Valuation and Town Planning, and that aircraft and other equipment are available now so that the assignment can be commenced immediately As I said, if we allow the equipment to leave the island and come back, it will cost more. The actual cost is set out in detail as follows:- (1) Photography at 1.5,000 scale – Mobilisation .. $4,000; (2) Stereo pairs of approximately 50 square miles (urban and coastal development area) comprising original and 2 sets of prints .. $4,500; (3) Mosaic of area covered by (2) to scale of 1/1,250, comprising original and one print.. $9,000 and (4) Photography of whole island at 1/10000 – Stereo pairs, comprising originals and two sets of prints ... $5,000, making a total of $22,500 Canadian or $35,887.50 West Indian, and the Resolution before us calls for this amount.

A rough survey has already been made by Hunting in order to enable them to come up with an accurate estimate of what would be the final cost involved. Now in addition to the general utilisation for the Development Plan Programme, and for development control and registration purposes, we now have in the island Mr. Copes, United Nations Land Valuation expert who has been attached for a short period to the Town and Country Planning Department.
4.35 p.m.

He has been advising the Government in connection with the extension of the Town and Country Planning, and in the exercise of his duty contemplates the utilisation of large scale aerial photographs or aerial photography maps so as to assist in the planning of properties and for other purposes. Therefore, that is an additional reason for the expenditure proposed, and an additional reason why we regard the proposed photography as urgent at this time.

Mr. Copes is here for a period of twelve months, and the earlier we get the aerial maps, naturally, the earlier he would be able to get down to the basic assignments of communications.

I think, Sir, they are all the details for the requirements as to what is to be done. The cost involved has been set out very carefully in the Addendum, and hon. members will therefore have prior communication in connection with what is to be done and all the conditions which would accrue in this field of development and planning.

I have therefore pleasure in moving that this Resolution do now pass.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, I can see from the remarks of the Hon. Minister of Trade that this is certainly not his portfolio and it belongs to someone else. However, Sir, I cannot see the value of these maps purely for Town Planning. We have had aerial photography taken of the Island in 1950 and I have seen it. It is a very nice map; but I wonder of how much value it was to us and if we have got back the value from what we spent in 1950 on that.

This island has not changed very materially since 1950 except in areas of Christ Church where there has been development. Let us take the plantation areas. They have not been cut up and, as a matter of fact, because of the efforts of the Town Planning Officer there has been a holding back of development. We get the complaint that we cannot develop as fast as we would like because of the formality which we have to go through before we are able to develop.

Are we going to have this over again in fifteen years?

When it comes to the question that it would be of value to land valuation, how are we from aerial maps able to determine the land valuation to take place? Only last year, we had a valuation of this thing. Are we going to start all over again to revalue land for the purpose of taxation? It seems to me that there must be something more to it than that, because I wonder if these maps are going to be put to so much use as to warrant this large expenditure. It is nice to have it, but has the Island changed so much to warrant expenditure at the present moment on it? I do not see it.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I would like some explanation from the Hon. Minister of Trade as regards the question of the reason for this aerial photography at this present moment. The hon. member who has just sat down, put the reason on various uses for it and land valuation.

There are a number of little things about it. The total cost of this aerial photography is $22,500 (Canadian). That would come to $35,887.50 (West Indian). The Addendum to this Resolution is not in keeping with modern surveys by aerial service for land use. It is not strictly correct. The Addendum states:

"It is essential to have new air photography of the Island in order to complete land use survey work effectively. An air survey will be of inestimable value both to the Town and Country Planning Department and to the proposed Land and Surveys Department."

4.45 p.m.

There are a number of factors in this matter. However, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what is exactly meant by this Land Valuation. I believe that it is only for registration purposes. I do not think that there is any authority or Government who could determine the changing value of land in any country. There are so many other changing factors that I do not think there is any known authority which would attempt to say what is the changing value of land in an island like this.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that the hon. junior member for Christ Church was more concerned with an indirect slant at the Town and Country Planning Department which is not, in reality, based on the Resolution which is now before the Committee. In other words, the hon. member may have had some slight reservations with regard to the necessity for this expenditure, but he could not resist the opportunity to get off his chest a criticism which he wanted to make with regard to the Town and Country Planning Department. The hon. member went so far as to say that, from his own experience, the Town and Country Planning Department rather than aiding the development of the country was actually retarding it. Well, Sir, I do not think that that is a fair comment to make. Even if it were correct to say that there was a time when the machinery for resolving disputes in respect of land acquisition was inadequate and the Town and Country Planning Department did contribute to retarding the pace of development, I think it is generally conceded now that, with the provision of this machinery and the overall steps taken by the Government to have applications made to the Department attended to and to resolve matters of opinion between applicants and the Department - it will be conceded that these steps have minimised, to a considerable extent, the delay which previously existed. I do not think that there is the same kind of complaint made as that which used to be made, perhaps justifiably so, in the not too distant past. The Government would be very grieved to think that the comparatively recently established Town and Country Planning Department, instead of accelerating development was acting as a brake on development. I do not think that the hon. member had in mind any case of recent occurrence which would justify his allegation. What the hon. member has said is just a hold over from the reputation which was earned, erroneously or not, by the Department apparently in the past, I am sure that the hon. member who is charged with the responsibility for Town and Country Planning would appreciate any assistance which the Department could justifiably get in the running of the island where development is concerned.

With regard to the proposal before the House itself, I am surprised to think that hon. members do not appreciate the fact that the rapidly changing pace of the island merits the proposals for having aerial photographs taken. Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that there is nothing which I can add to what I have already said, except to re-emphasise that the only United Nations Land Valuation expert who is now in the island for a short time himself contemplates the utilisation of large-scale photographic maps of land for further periods. If he says that he wants to have these large-scale photographic maps and if he is not to be impeded in the functioning of what he has been actually brought here to do, it seems to me that the endorsement of the proposal in this Resolution should be a matter of immediate concern to hon. members in this Chamber.

In response to the query which was made by the hon. junior member for St. George, the information which I see here is that land valuation maps will be a mosaic of ownership in which each parish of the island will receive a number of recordings on the map itself. The actual method of arriving at land valuation will be considerably facilitated by the utilisation of these large-scale aerial photographic maps. It is a happy coincidence that simultaneous with the arrival in the island of the United Nations expert, we should also have aircraft and the equipment in this island for providing these things. This is purely coincidental. The Government's reason for urgency springs from the fact that we are faced with this request, the equipment is here and if we were to allow the aircraft to leave the island and then have to bring them back here, the cost to us will not be $35,000 as mentioned in this Resolution which is now before us, but it will be $35,000 plus the additional cost of the return to the country of the aircraft and equipment which are actually here now. I sincerely hope that the hon. member is satisfied with the information.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, as regards what the Hon. Minister has said, I might say that I have never personally suffered through the Town and Country Planning Department, but it is still the general feeling that this Department is holding up development. I was told so yesterday. It has been said that the number of applications which are in the office is a very large one and that is detrimental to the island.

4.55 p.m.

That is generally understood, but I have never had the personal experience. Personally I think the Town and Country Planning Officer has been doing a good job, but I think he is a little severe. He may be looking fifty or one hundred years ahead and is going on that, but I am still not satisfied that these are going to be absolutely necessary for this planning. We have seen a few houses going up, a few industries are coming in, we have industrial sites at Grazettes and I am told that Fontabelle is another industrial area, but we have been promised a zoning map to show where industries can be sited, and it has not yet come through. No matter how wishful we may be to get these things here, it is going to take time, and circumstances will determine whether they come fast or otherwise. Our agricultural lands have not changed in the last ten or fifteen

years; you know what is rab land and what is good cultivable land, and they will remain so. We know that without a map; but if they want it, I only hope that when they do have the maps that they will put them to some productive use. I wonder if the last set of maps has been put to its full use.

Mr. MILLER: I am taking this opportunity to say on the question of the mosaic which is the most costly item at $9,000 that this could not be done in Barbados by air photographs. That will probably be copied from the individual plots by number or name rather than by aerial survey. The Minister said that there is some expert from the United Nations who is here on the Island, and probably together with the equipment and what not, you may have a better idea on what he has to say on Town and Country Planning, but a mosaic of the area cannot be done by aerial photography.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, there are only two points I want to make. The Minister who is charged with the responsibility for this portfolio is the Hon. Premier himself, and as is to be expected he brings the highest sense of responsibility to bear on matters under his control. Personally I have no doubt at all in my own mind that since the hon. junior member for Christ Church normally is not a member who makes wild and irresponsible charges, and since he has seen fit again to repeat this allegation, I am sure the Minister in charge will immediately ask for a full report on the actual work of the Department; that is to say, a report on the number of applications sent to the Department; the dates on which they were sent; the state of processing, and in case of delay in the processing of one or more, the reasons therefor.

The hon. member for Christ Church can rest assured that any substantiation of his allegation would receive prompt and effective treatment, because no minister of Government is prepared to sit and allow the work of the Department so to be obstructed as to merit a charge that instead of facilitating progress, it is actually retarding it. The Government is firmly committed to this policy in all fields of endeavour, and therefore it must take very seriously any charge such as that enunciated by the hon. junior member for Christ Church. I myself will make it my business to report it to the Hon. Premier, and I am sure that he will need no advice from me in the determination of ensuring that these charges are not founded, and if they are to any extent justified, that immediate action is taken within the shortest possible time.

With regard to the mosaic, I have already said that the United Nations Land Valuation Expert himself regards this land scale aerial photographic maps as useful and to some extent indispensable in the discharge of his obligations while here. This is what he said at one stage: "Valuation could proceed without this photography, but with the presence of the aircraft on the island, the value of the use to which the photographs will be put in parcel indentification is likely to exceed their cost placed at $5,000." Then with specific reference to the point made by the hon. junior member for St. George, he had this comment to offer. He said that 'a further important aspect is the need to tie the mosaic into the existing map and grid system. We have an existing map system, and the mosaic to which he referred at a cost of $9,000 is needed to be tied into the map system. We have the opportunity to get them, the expert is here and says they are useful, and the Government cannot be charged with not acting on the most expert advice in this matter. 5.05 p.m.

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. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Resolution in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

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

ORDER NO. 3 TAKEN

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

RESOLUTION *re* COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT COLLYMORE ROCK

Mr. SPEAKER: Accordingly, the next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church: To move the passing of the following Resolution:- Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of land situate at Upper Collymore Rock, St. Michael, for Highway improvement.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as the Resolution sets it out, we are asking the House of Assembly to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, of the land described in the Schedules to this Resolution for the following purpose, that is to say, Highway improvement for the use and benefit of the public.

There are two parcels of land and there are situated in Upper Collymore Rock. In the First Schedule, it is:

ALL THAT ceratain piece or parcel of land situate at Upper Collymore Rock in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island containing by admeasurement forty square feet or thereabouts Abutting and bounding on other lands of one McClean on a public road called Princess Royal Avenue and on another public Road called Upper Collymore Rock or however else the same may abut and bound.

In the Second Schedule, it is:

ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land situate at Upper Collymore Rock in the parish of Saint Michael in this Island containing by admeasurement one hundred and twenty-six square feet or thereabouts Abutting and bounding on a public road called Princess Royal Avenue on other lands of Robert Tubbs on lands of one Clara Holford - and on a public Road called Upper Collymore Rock or however else the same may abut and bound.

The usual formalities have been gone into and the price has been accepted of 40 cents per square foot. This has been accepted by the Valuation Officer and by the land owners. This land is at the juncture of Princess Royal Avenue, and it is for the purpose of improving the roadway at that juncture. The Addendum sets out the land described in the Schedules and the reason for invoking the Land Acquisition Act is in order to remedy the defects in the titles of the land, and to give Government a good and marketable title.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to second that.

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

RESOLUTION *re* COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND AT HALLS ROAD

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church: To move the passing of the following Resolution:- Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition by the Crown of parcels of land situate at Halls Road, St. Michael for the purpose of the canalisation of the Constitution River.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, in this case, it has been found necessary and essential to acquire various parcels of land in the Halls Road area in order to complete alterations and to continue with the canalisation of the Constitution River.

The various parcels of land are set out in the eight Schedules and negotiations have been entered into by the Crown Solicitor. The titles in some cases are affected and it is for that reason that Government is seeking permission under the Land Acquisition Act to fix the titles.

In the First Schedule, it is:

ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land (being part of a larger area the property of Nathaniel Ince) situate at Hall's Road in the parish of St. Michael containing by admeasurement 13,419 square feet or thereabouts Abutting and bounding on lands now or late of the Estate of W. St. C. Hutchinson deceased, on lands of Queen's Park, on lands now or late of Ida Fletcher hereinafter described and on other lands of the said Nathaniel Ince or however else the same may abut and bound.

In the Second Schedule -

Mr. SPEAKER: May I venture to suggest that it is hardly necessary, unless the House gives the intimation to the contrary, for the Hon. Minister to read those eight Schedules. It would be very trying to the hon. member, although I know that he likes to do his work thoroughly.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I am very grateful to Your Honour for that hint. The various parcels of land are fully set out and in respect of the owners, their names are listed. The negotiations have been gone through and the price has been settled and there have been some arrangements made; but the question is that in most cases, the title deeds have been lost as well as other papers and the Government in its wisdom is seeking the right under Section 5 of the Land Acquisition Act in order to acquire a good and marketable title. I am asking the House to approve of these various acquisitions of land under the Land Acquisition Act.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I beg to second that. 5.15 p.m.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Speaker, before you put the question, I am wondering if the Hon. Minister would tell us if the price of this land is the same in all cases and what it is.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: In connection with this compulsory acquisition of land, I do not know if this was during the Hon. Minister's time, but only this year there has been a general widening of certain roads in St. James and there has been the fullest cooperation from persons. I do not know if the Minister is aware of the fact that there is a particular spot in Baywoods, St. James, where an attempt was made to widen this particular road where there is a kind of rock which is jutting out. It comes under the heading of land and the owner is making certain objections about the acquisition of this land. I am saying, Sir, that anything which could be done by way of acquisition would ease the problem.

Mr. SPEAKER: I should like to inform the hon. member that I have been looking through all of these Schedules and I do not see any reference to any land in the parish of St. James.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Speaker, I was speaking generally. I was saying that where the Government wants any land for the purpose of development, that does not apply to any particular parish, but it applies to the island as a whole.

Mr. SPEAKER: In that case there will have to be the appropriate Resolution placed before the House.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: I am just saying that the Hon. Minister does not know about this matter and I am just drawing it to his attention.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, I would again like to congratulate the Government on the canalisation of the Constitution Swamp and on the acquisition of land. I do not know what are the plans – and the Hon. Minister can say – but some years ago it was decided to take over the land in Roebuck Street from where the Old Combermere School was up to the Gully House. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, in fact, I would like to tell him that it would be a good thing if the whole of that site could be acquired instead of leaving those houses there which do not seem to be in good shape. If we are carrying out this canalisation of the Constitution River, I would like to see this area improved from the point of view of the appearance of the City.

In a general way, I say that the Government is tackling the canalisation of this River, something which was spoken of from the time when I was a boy and that was a long time ago. I would like to see similar treatment given to the Salt Pond in the parish of St. Peter. This area is regarded as a national nuisance, and some method of canalisation should be carried out there. I am submitting that there should be steps taken not only to canalise the Constitution Swamp but also to deal with other aspects of canalisation so as to give this island the appearance which it should have. Something should be done by way of contributing to the aesthetic value of the area surrounding the Salt Pond in Speightstown.

Mr. SPEAKER: As it appears that no other hon. member wants to contribute to the debate on this Resolution or even on kindred Resolutions, the Hon. Minister may exercise his right of reply.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, as far as the last point made by the hon. senior member for St. Peter is concerned, that area is included in our programme and it is receiving consideration. In connection with the point the hon. member made relative to the land at the Gully House, these parcels of land are at present being negotiated for. It is the outer ring road which the Government is considering. In reply to the hon. junior member for Christ Church, who raised the question about the price of land, I should like to inform him that in the case of the larger lots the price was set at a little lower figure of five cents per square foot. When it comes to the smaller lots the price went as high as ten cents a square foot, in those cases where they are more to the front abutting the front road. In one case an economic rent was received for the land. This was front land abutting the public highway and the price was fixed at twelve cents a square foot. Hon. members will therefore see that the price of these lands ranges from five cents per square foot in the case of certain large lots of land situated in the back of the road to twelve cents per square foot. The price of the land is therefore five cents in the case of certain large lots, ten cents in the case of small lots which are near the road and twelve cents in the case of another lot of land which was bringing an economic rent.

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

5.25 p.m.

RESOLUTION *re* TELEVISION STATION

Mr. SPEAKER: The next Order of the Day is to resume debate on the passing of a Resolution approving the guarantee by Government of an amount not exceeding $510,000 for the purchase and supply of Transmitter and Studio Equipment for the establishment of a Television Service.

When this debate was previously taking place, the speaker was the hon. senior member for St. Peter who had moved that further consideration be postponed, and that motion was seconded by the hon. junior member for

St. Lucy. The hon. senior member for St. Peter has intimated that he proposed to continue his speech. He is now at liberty so to do.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Speaker, on the last occasion I made myself clear on this matter that, so far as television is concerned, it is a matter of judgment and in the Government's judgment they considered that television was high on their priority for communications, I said I did not agree with that because I did not consider that the radio development had taken its form yet in that we needed excellent script writers to give our own image of Barbados, so that we would have on the radio a feeling that Radio Barbados was something that you could look to and something that would indicate something of Barbadian indigenous life. For that reason I considered that your radio broadcasting was in its embryonic stages and should be consolidated.

Now that does not mean, Mr. Speaker, that if you introduce television people will not watch it. You have your cinemas here and people go and watch films. Some are shoddy and worth nothing at all, but there are some people who still enjoy them. They enjoy people moving on celluloid no matter what they are doing, and for that reason we do not want to stop people enjoying themselves. But what some of us are worried about is that in television we do not want to create an atmosphere in which you make spending take place in a community on items that cannot be regarded as first concern. I do not take seriously the remark that was made by a speaker last time about people not coming into the 20th Century, because that has no logic in it. That is a statement which some people overwork now, I do not think he would have used that statement in relation to television in the Barbados context, because I would say that electrification of this country is of great concern.

What I am willing to admit – and what the Introducer of this motion is going to say -- is that this is not going to cost the Government any money, or that it is not money which the Government is taking up and lending these people. From what the hon. member says and from what the Resolution states, you are guaranteeing the loan, but they are going to pay back the money because they are going to make money. Of this I have no doubt in my mind. There is, however, one technical point to which I would like Your Honour to give some serious consideration. This Resolution is an abstract Resolution and not a money Bill or money Resolution, because you are not taking money out of the Treasury by this Resolution; you are only agreeing to the Government's guaranteeing this money. I should like to draw Your Honour's attention to paragraph 4 of the Addendum which says: "This Resolution seeks the approval of the Legislature for Government to guarantee the payment of the principal and interest on the authorised borrowings." What I am submitting to Your Honour is that when this House agrees to this Resolution, it is agreeing to give the Government of Barbados the right to guarantee the payment of this interest and loan. This Resolution is to approve the guarantee by the Government of the payment of principal and interest on authorised borrowings, and when we pass this, the Government and the Attorney General can be sued, and this money will be collected whether or not a Resolution for the amount is passed. The Crown will have to pay the money, and I am submitting as a technical matter that this is....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I think the hon. member is probably under some misapprehension. The Resolution which is under discussion is the second one, that is, the Resolution for the guarantee of an amount not exceeding $510,000, and it has a different Addendum from the Resolution which we have already dealt with.

Mr. WALCOTT: I thank the hon. member. I read the wrong note, but the body of the Resolution is the same as that for $510,000. This states "Resolved that the House of Assembly approve the guarantee by Government of the payment by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation of an amount not exceeding $510,000 for the purchase, etc., etc." Well, the point I am making is that this guarantee that we are giving for this amount of money, Mr. Speaker, places the Government in the position that it can be sued for this money, though we are not voting the money today. My point Sir, is that there can be no refusal on the part of the Government to pay this money after we pass this Resolution. Therefore I am submitting that technically this is a money Bill and not one of those abstract Resolutions which of necessity must come here for you to get money out of the Treasury. The Government can be sued for this money now, and if we come here and do not pass a Resolution, that does not mean that the Government is not duty bound to pay the principal, because we are by this Resolution making the Government the guarantor. If this went to a Court, I am sure no Court could rule that the Government is not bound to pay the interest and principal of this loan; therefore the Attorney General will have to pay the money or be sued and the money collected.

5.35 p.m.

It is a technical point. The reason why I say that is because if this House went into Committee of Supply, in Committee it would clear this matter up because that is my view, and I would like Your Honour to give us a Ruling on this abstract Resolution because if this matter goes to the Senate, Your Honour under our constitution has to determine what is a Money Bill, while the Other Place does not have to do so.

Sir, I humbly submit that these two Resolutions are, technically, Money Resolutions, because in this case it imposes on the Government the charge of guaranteeing these payments, and we cannot come back subsequently although we are not now paying the amount. I think this is a little different in substance to something which we would agree to for a token vote or an abstract Resolution like a Civil Establishment Order. This is a Resolution in which we are making it an Act of Parliament that the Government has a right to be guaranteeing these amounts. In my view, this is a Money Resolution with this narrow distinction that today we are not voting any amount of money, but we are voting by agreement that the Government is bound to pay any amount of money that comes from this Resolution.

I am submitting that the Government can be sued if this Corporation does not pay this money because we are giving the right to this Corporation to go to the bank and get this money; and if we are giving them the right to underwrite that, the bank is going to give them with the knowledge that it is backed by the Legislature, and all that is necessary, if the bank does not get back its money, is to sue the Government. There is no escape from that. In my view, we are involving the State automatically in the loan arrangement. If the lawyers disagree with me, they would have to show me a lot that this is not a Money Bill.

Sir, it is not now an abstract Resolution when money is involved. Of course, no money is involved from the point of view that no money is coming out of the Treasury, but we are committing the Government to spending money. We are making a charge on the Treasury in an intricate manner. In my view, it is a Money Bill, and it should be treated as such. But I leave that to Your Honour's ruling.

The other point which I want to raise is as regards the Hon. Minister's statement about political broadcasting. I did not hear him on that matter. I do not know if the hon. member was making a solid statement then, but I do not agree with what the hon. member was reported to have said. I know that the Hon. Minister is not against analysing or re-assessing his own statements, but it seems to me that if you are going to have a political broadcast on the basis that those Parties already with representation in the House of Assembly would have the right to purchase time, then I would say that it would be grossly unfair to any political Party which is not represented in the House of Assembly. If I do not belong to any Political party, should I not have the right to retain my seat in the same manner as any member of a particular Party has the right to retain his seat? If they can purchase time, why cannot I purchase time too? I think the Hon. Minister has to amend that. I will agree that the organised Parties

would have more claim to have that free time than all and sundry. But if you belong to a Party which has no representation in the House or you are seeking opportunity to become a member, surely, you should be able to buy time.

Mr. Speaker, you have one-man Parties; those of us who have strong convictions about political matters would rather be independent members — and there again, there is not a conclusion of ideas which comes from a Party.

Sir, we do not have any one-Party state. At least, not yet. And the composition of this community is one which it is alien to what this community likes. You have some communities in which you cannot get out a Party so easily. If that attitude of only giving the right to Parties which had representation in the House existed before, well, the very Government in power would not have got into this Chamber because they started as a Party outside of this Chamber when it was formed. Some of the members of it were members of another Party and they had no Party inside the House then. You will get the position in which the three political Parties that exist will always exist unless you get some cooked-up arrangement where the ones inside the House will form another Party. I, therefore, think that the Hon. Minister should have another practical method to that arrangement.

Political programmes should be dealt with in a sort of form and not on a partisan basis. I think that British Broadcasting Corporation has given enough for anybody to look at; and if you follow the B.B.C. which is run by a Corporation, you will do well. The B.B.C. is run by the British Treasury. It is what the British Government pays for, and I do not find that there is any difference in England between the political Parties. I think excellent use is made of the B.B.C., and I do not think we should worry too much about political broadcasting.

In my view, radio has become a very important medium of communications, and television would become one in the process of time in Barbados. What I would say is that Barbados is still 166 square miles: and apart from the propaganda which radio would give, I doubt very much, although I am likely to be wrong, that the day would come in Barbados — if it still remains the size that it is — when a man would get a seat in the House of Assembly based on a radio programme. Barbados is a place where you have to go out and see people, and Barbadians are so funny that if you go on the radio and speak to them and do not come out and visit them and talk to them, you do not come up to their mark. Therefore, I think that you should view political broadcasting on the radio in a broad light. I do know that some people have held the Hon. Minister of Education up to ridicule: but all I say is that the hon. member should not take the same example from the last Government in power on political broadcasting.

The last point which I would make on this matter is that I do not subscribe to the view that the Government is not spending money on T.V.
5.45 p.m.

I am not saying that you should not spend money on T.V.; what I am saying is that T.V., in my view, cannot be regarded as a priority where Barbadian needs are concerned. If you were to encourage the people of this small community to expend money too readily on some of these things, you will then find that the economic growth of the community is not as fast as how the people are frittering away some of their earnings on the fringes of life, whereas they are not spending enough on the necessities of life. I do not think it is worthwhile for a community which still has such a low *per capita* income to regard television as a matter of priority in its programme. As one hon. member has said, if you want to play politics, then TV is the easiest thing to play politics with. Which hon. member on the Government side would go to the Country and make people believe that a member of this House can lose his seat for providing T.V.? That is no use because you cannot get that done. When I go down to Bawdens and ask people if the Speaker or any Minister has electric light and where he will plug in his T.V. — there is no electric light down there. I want to keep a meeting in Crab Hill....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has my permission to do so.

Mr. WALCOTT: Yes, but I cannot do it because there is no electricity in Crab Hill. I am merely putting these points as I see them. It is not that you can get electric light everywhere so that you can get T.V. If you say that you are getting people into the 20th century by giving them T.V., I will say that there is no electric light everywhere. I do not believe that the Government is projecting T.V. as such; if this consortium could not absorb T.V. through its financial ramifications, then the Government could not force it to do so. This consortium is doing this business because they have the ability to do it. I am saying that this should be looked at from the background that it is not a top priority like education. If it were so, then the Americans would have been the most educated people in the world because almost every person in America has a T.V. set in his home. The first time that I found myself sitting down to a T.V. set for a long period was in the month of November when I was in the United States of America, and the funeral of the late President Kennedy was taking place. I watched it for three and a half hours because if I had visited anybody at that time it would not have been of any avail since everybody would have been watching T.V. then. However, that is not the thing by which you can get mass education; it is not the education which will take the place of what is taking place in the schools. The Hon. Minister cannot project that radio or T.V. could take the place of education. We have to watch these things. Television will mean something to the higher income group people, but they are always quarrelling when they want more money. The Teachers and the Civil Servants are not satisfied; they think that they are not getting enough money; but if you provide TV there are many people who would get this service.

I went to look for one of my colleague's children in London and he had a T.V. set. I might say here that I do not know what the rental of T.V. is, but I know that it is not anything like Rediffusion; it is not going to cost anything like $2.50 a month. I doubt very much that you will have T.V. at $2.50 a month, as in the case of Rediffusion If you were to do that, then you will have murder taking place at night. That will stop people from sleeping for a month because they will be watching T.V. Moreover, in the case of Rediffusion, you can have a set in a house in which there is no electricity. If you can make these things cheap, you can provide them: but if it is a question of its being costly, then that is a different matter. Nobody would be opposed to any normal development as such. I am not opposed to anybody owning a Rolls Royce motor car; but if you were to tell me that the Ministers must have Rolls Royce motor cars, then I would say 'No' to that. I would be opposed to that because you can get a car at a much cheaper cost than that of a Rolls Royce.

I think that I can remember some of the members of the present Government, who were then members of the Opposition, speak in the course of the debate in connection with Olds Discount. When these hon. members were in the Opposition. I can remember them speaking about cheap or easy loans becoming very expensive, and they were saying that that was putting the community in extreme debt. Those hon. members spoke against that state of affairs. Well, Sir, I am not speaking against the introduction of Television, but we have to take account of the relative situation in Barbados to absorb TV which is now coming to us.
5.55 p.m.

We do not know what it is going to mean, and for that reason my caution has been along those lines. I feel, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that you should give us some guidance on this Resolution as to whether you feel it is a money Resolution or merely an abstract Resolution where no money is invloved.

I should also like the Minister to re-examine his statement about political broadcasting and the idea that you must be an organised Party before or be in the Assembly. To my mind that is moonshine. If that had operated before, his

Party would not now be in Government because they would have been precluded. You will always get Parties in this island at election time, but they may disappear after election. Those are the accommodations we have to live with in a democracy. If this is going to be on the basis of buying time, I would say that any fool who wants to run a campaing should be permitted to buy time if he has that money to spend. Any fool now who can find £30 can run for the House of Assembly without any restriction, and if you have people willing to add more to the Treasury, why stop them? If there are people who are willing to add more to C.B.C. by paying for political broadcasting, the more stupid the man is, the more money he will spend because he would not be writing the script and there will be professional script writers.

There used to be a time in this Chamber, not necessarily inside this hall, Mr. Speaker, when people used to read speeches when they come to the House of Assembly. There were some professional writers who wrote speeches for members who were not like me, and they sounded very well. By removing that, these script writers do not make any more money, because no speeches are written today. You would not therefore allow a member to go on the radio without submitting a script, and the Government in power always has that authority. I have to prepare a script for every broadcast the Union makes, and it has to be submitted to the Minister; so he knows what I am going to say. I have never had any of mine rejected. I am subjected to that rigour, and I feel that all Governments want to have that in small communities where you submit your script to the Minister for approval, because it means that a person cannot say anything too harsh about the Government that he is opposing. When an election is taking place, your opponents should be able to say what they feel about the Government in power outside of slander or libel, and no Minister of any Government should prevent his opponents from saying what they would like to say about him. This was done in England after the war. Both Churchill and Attlee were members of the War Cabinet, and Attlee said that Churchill was not a suitable person to be Prime Minister of Great Britain. That was said and I do not think he was beheaded, because he did not regard himself as a traitor to his country, and I believe that Churchill as an individual had done as much for Britain and the world as any one man could have done in those circumstances. That did not prevent Attlee from saying what he did, and he proved his case because Churchill was not elected in the 1949 election; the Labour Party won. If I am not mistaken, the Hon. Minister of Education was living in England during that same period. I would like to see more of these broad, democratic principles practised here and not regard our area as being outside these things. If people abuse them, you can deal with them accordingly; but until people abuse them, I feel they should be accorded.

On political broadcasting, therefore, I would suggest to the Minister not to restrict broadcasting to organised Parties within the Legislature at the time of election. If you are going to give free time, it should be free to all persons, and if it is going to be buying time, the limitation should be only as to how much time you would allow; otherwise the rich would take up all the time. Do not let anybody make you believe that this is all right because you are in power, because somebody else will get in power and will use their power to clamp down on you. That is why, on political broadcasting, I would like to see a more liberal approach. I would like to hear political subjects coming over the radio - not necessarily from politicians, because I would say in fairness to the members of this Chamber that there are many people in Barbados who are more politically aware of informing the public on political subjects than some members of the House, because they take political subjects in their broad light, while members may take them in their narrow light in order to get back in the House of Assembly. A member may be interested in something in his own constituency, while a political scientist may be interested in something for the country as a whole, and I do not feel that intelligent discussions should be precluded from the radio by people outside of Parliament who would discuss these matters objectively. I think it would be an excellent thing.

Mr. Speaker, I heard a discussion last week in my own organisation by people outside my organisation on the question of Federation, and the whole of Barbados should, in my view, have heard what they said. A lady was included in that, and I would say quite frankly that they gave an exposition on the question of Federation without any frills better than any I have heard by any politician, because they were not looking for a vote at the end of their discussions. They felt that what they said was from a purely intellectual point of view. I do not feel that the community should be deprived of persons like that expressing themselves, because it enriches our life and makes it better and not worse. Precluding such persons from expressing their views on radio or television in my mind is weakening the community and not giving us the substance our community should have; so I do not subscribe to any rigid method of political broadcasting. I feel that political broadcasting should be as liberal and functional as it possibly can be without the narrow, partisan cheap, soapbox elections entering into these things, where the narrow personalities play too much an important part in our political life today.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, on the question of a television service for Barbados the Barbados Labour Party is bound to be in agreement. As a matter of fact, I had much to do with all this in the last three years in my Ministry as Minister in charge of the files resting now on the tables of this Assembly. It happened that broadcasting was a subject in the Portfolio of Communications, but it was shifted to Social Services because I had some special knowledge of radio and electronics generally, and it was the then Premier, Sir Grantley Adams, who requested that the whole movement of broadcasting and television be sent to the Ministry of Social Services.

6.05 p.m.

It was subsequently sent back on return when I had completed all that was necessary. As a matter of fact, on this side, we made a request to Rediffusion and they got the equipment in from the United Kingdom and we had a demonstration in this Island of television. This was just prior to the final planning.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that you will remember that the Federation of the West Indies was in operation then, and the Federal Minister of Communications who I think, was Mr. Andrew Rose, had put up a scheme to the Federation about television and broadcasting. I think it was St. Lucia which went about with its own scheme and it resulted in a major row, but the people of Barbados were persuaded to hold a truce on broadcasting and await this matter of the Federal Government's scheme. Barbados has a fixed dignity in all matters political; therefore, we were willing to honour the recommendations of the Minister of Communications in the Federal Government. Sir, you will remember when the Federation of the West Indies was dreaming of having a national carrier of its own that B.W.I.A. was thought about, and it was finally purchased by the Federal Government of Trinidad from the same Minister of Communications. As I have said, Mr. Speaker, we were persuaded to hold horses and await this new scheme on broadcasting and television. It was unfortunate for us because it pushed us back.

In an emergent community, you must admit that the family unit, its little cottage no matter how dilapidated, forms the society. All the members of the Barbados Labour Party informed the Government that we were concerned about television - and not only concerned about it, but what we said was that we knew the value that television was going to bring to the Island. If we should consider this, I have never heard before that one set of people was concerned in the growth and development of society. Every Government should make sure that it is kept within the region of the common man, and to attempt to hold the society down on the ground of the wild use of money is unfortunate.

There is so much you can say on television. To make us believe that you will suppress television because it is going to be costly is brutal. Sometimes, we fail to understand what is going on around us. We have elements around here which own expensive yachts, and, as hon. members know, the upkeep of them is costly. Some of us own buildings which occupy several acres of land, and some of us are land hungry. It is a question of the community and the society. It may do

a lot of good for us to see what is taking place in the United States and the United Kingdom. Television starts by holding families at home. It prevents the husband and the sons from going into pubs. The beer shops in England have lost business because the men prefer to stay at home and watch T.V. It is not only of entertainment value. We must remember that a society is fabricated from its peasantry and, unfortunately, as some people may think, it has a way of its own. We have a society which still bears the marks of slavery and the roots, ugly as they can be, of it. It still has the relics of them and of man's inhumanity.

Sir, I am not worried over this Resolution for $510,000. If the Hon. Minister would look on the file, he will see the marks which I have on it. I used to derive a lot of fun out of this thing. This is only for a guarantee and I do not think we need fear this. When you are a Minister, you are more careful in spending the taxpayers' money than yours because you feel you owe a responsibility to them. When you know you have a responsibility, you go very carefully. This is only a guarantee and they are fortunate. And if you tell me that C.B.C. is going to pay this in four annual instalments, I think you need have no fear.

I would like to say that although you have had a number of foreign companies willing to establish a Radio Broadcasting Station and T.V. here, you want to show that this is not a case of emergency. You are dealing with something with which the Commonwealth are in touch. I am not unhappy about guaranteeing this; I do not think we need to worry about this. This is a growing society where some people can afford to own two motor cars and probably buy the third. Some people own several properties. As a matter of fact, we have some individuals who own more property than the Governor-in-Executive Committee.

I do not think that you want to worry about this thing. To have the opportunity of bringing in television is a fine thing. As I have said, we have had a company which gave a demonstration of the equipment. You must give up something to have something good. There was a time when there was the old lady and you saw the sign "Piano lessons taught here". There you had some old girl playing "Nellie Bly" and so on, and getting some money from some pupils. If you fail to understand these things, you fail to understand our society.
6.15 p.m.

You will find adults sitting with children. *(ASIDES)*. We do not understand that we talk a lot of foolishness too. They used to do a lot of unnecessary padding and they talked about Parliament overseas and that sort of thing. Are you telling me that you will teach an adult the wise use of money? A radiogram will cost you about $1,000, and there are some adults who would be in trouble to pay $2 a month to Rediffusion. If our society is to keep up its social dreams we must do this. A lady gives her daughter a Panama hat and a blue suit and the lady opposite says "I must have that too for my child". And, Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to deny her that. You have people who own four and five motor cars, and the old scout on the other side only has a bicycle with both wheels in his hip pocket *(Laughter)*. You can go down town in New York or in Harlem and you will see that things are thrown out. You see the debt collectors are at the door. Today an expensive radiogram has not come down to the man in the street. You will see a man with his family who can afford 24 cents a week and who will walk half a mile to a grog shop and put five cents in the slot of the jukebox; that is our society. There is nothing like having a little choice of your own and that is the difference between a radiogram and Rediffusion.

Mr. Speaker, if these people have any business acumen at all, they will extend a little credit on these little units. In this way you will be able to keep your family at home, and if you move on to educational programmes you will be able to keep your family home the more so. If we want to have television, we are going to ask how much it will cost. If the Hon. Ministers were to refer to the file, they will find that we were pressing like Miss Batson's dog to get television. If you were to look at the file, as I say, you will see that. There was this huge magnificent plan coming in from the Federation, and in the file you will see an application at which you would tremble, and if you look at the bottom you will find F.E.M. the signature of the old scout. Do not let us spend the whole night with Andy Capp and Flo or Flora. Anyway, Sir, this is all on the humorous side, but let us talk things seriously.

Perhaps, Sir, I might want to say things in a more dramatic way. I would like to see some horses, but when it comes to a family there is always sure to be uniformity. There was a little boy who had a television set and his mother was in trouble to get that boy to attend to his homework. Where are we going with television? Heaven knows: but in the United States of America and in the United Kingdom it is a colossal asset to any growing society such as the one we have. I would object to having a wired system; that would be brutal. We would not want to ask the taxpayers of this colony to honour any guarantee if you are going to discriminate in this matter. In the United Kingdom there is a system where you have a wired broadcast, but that is a vastly.....

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

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was saying that I would like a guarantee that we would not agree in Barbados to any wired system of television. I know that the objection to a wired system was so strong that at one time the opposing parties gave a cocktail party which I did not attend because it was said that it was too hostile to have that system. I do know that there was some attempt to have this wired system, but that would be a wicked thing. *(Asides)*. We have a responsibility to the people, which is followed in the community more so than in the North American States.
6.25 p.m.

You have a community in which you still talk about the underdog who is still scrambling for a boarded and shingled house. You have heard of the strides taking place in Africa. I was invited three days after I left the hospital to Labour Party Headquarters to listen to a recording by Tom Mboya making that same point. You have other countries enjoying television; so you cannot tell me that for some reason, because we are in the tropics, we can do without it. You should go to Rediffusion and ask them to play the recording made by Tom Mboya. When it comes to Barbados with an enlightened society which can teach a lot to those African States in community development, I have to agree with the hon. senior member for St. Peter on the question of paid broadcasting.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Government is still considering its policy for broadcasting, but nearly every afternoon you can hear the ruling Democratic Party and the ruling Minister on what they are doing, but no other Party can even buy time. I am asking you to observe what is taking place with the B.B.C., where the sum of $2.7 million is given to the Postmaster General to run it. Like the hon. senior member for St. Peter, I am not asking you to give all the time to those who can buy enough time to endanger the country, but I think an individual should be given time on the radio, because if you restrict it to organised Parties, that is going to be unfortunate. You can organise a Party with all the fictitious names, and if you have enough money you can buy time. I am not insinuating that it is possible here because fortunately being British, we have an opportunity to be educated in the ways of Government long before; but with the question of paid broadcasts, when the time comes, and the policy is laid down for other organised Parties to buy time, I wonder if there would be any time left. It is time that the Government should settle this question and let the country understand that there is a fixed policy, because it is still a one-sided affair since the Government in power uses the broadcasting station against the Opposition, and this has been going on since the inception of this Broadcasting Station. However you do it, it is unfair. If you said you were in a hurry and wanted to get the Broadcasting Station over, before you settle your policy, all you have to do now is to accept the B.B.C. standard and shape it. You have the B.B.C. after a century of trial and error, and you can benefit from that and use it for nothing; but all we have been hearing every now and again is that there will be a

policy. However you like to look at it, it is unfair, and I can probably use a more uncomfortable word which would be regarded as mean; but at the moment it is only fair to remind you that you may be hurting somebody else, because you are denying them an opportunity of access since there is no written or accepted policy for political broadcasting. I agree that you should not deny an individual but you want to be perfectly sure when you fix it for organised Parties, because you can have a Party financed from outside and you would not be able to deny them, although I must admit that all discretion should rest with the Minister to provide against such an emergency.

Finally, Sir, I need not say anything more on this other than that you should hasten the idea, and the country need not fear the $1/2 million in equipment. There are a lot of Commonwealth Corporations which would be willing, if you only say "yes", to bring $3 million or $5 million operations into Barbados with a view to supplying this country with television. The other point on television is that it must be maintained; and whether or not it is a commercial entity, it will make a contribution to advertising along with such other media as two daily newspapers, Rediffusion and the Broadcasting Station. It is not for a Government to consider these things; but as long as a service is brought to a community, it should assist in the essentials of education. The very least you can do is to support this, not only with all the language but with the best of intentions, and in the hope that it will come through against wired television.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: One of the interesting things, Mr. Deputy Speaker, about this debate has been, of course, the considerable amount of confusion which has emerged from speeches which we have heard on it from the other side of the House, and certainly more confusion than ever coming from criticisms outside of this House. We are in no better position after having listened to the hon. member who has just sat down, although I gather that he is in favour of the proposal; but he has argued in favour in such a way that it would only take the most discerning person to discover that he was really in favour of it.

Mr. MILLER: On a point of order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is not nice to imagine that the Hon. Minister would attempt to answer like this, and even at this stage I would hate to be rude to him. I made it clear that this matter was under my Ministry, and in the files resting before him, I was requested by the then Premier of Barbados, Sir Grantley Adams, to handle broadcasting as well as television, and through Rediffusion we had equipment brought here from the United Kingdom for a demonstration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister has given way, but up to the present I do not regard what the hon. member is saying as a point of order. What the Hon. Minister said is a matter of opinion; but as he has given way, I will allow the hon. member to continue.

Mr. MILLER: You cannot deny me an opportunity on a point of elucidation.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I made it clear that what the Hon. Minister said was a matter of opinion; but as he has given way, I will listen to you.

Mr. MILLER: All I am saying, Sir, is that everything I said pointed to the fact that television would have come to Barbados if it were not denied by the Federal Government which stopped it, and in my final remarks, I asked for haste and speed.

6.35 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am saying that we are now hearing for the first time that the Barbados Labour Party as long as fifteen years ago had an interest in radio and television. I am yet to see that; but even if it were true, it would be very strange on their part that Sir Grantley Adams when the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation was established condemned it on the ground that it was too premature. However, that argument will be taken up some other time.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not see any point of order arising out of that.

Mr. MILLER: If the hon. member is making that part of his criticism.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister was not criticising anything you said.

Mr. MILLER: He was criticising Sir Grantley Adams.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not see any point of order arising out of what the Hon. Minister has said.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Now, Sir, the point about this Resolution is that it diversifies both in scope and content from the preceeding Resolution which the House passed last week. In the Resolution last week, the House was asked to guarantee a loan which the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation was about to raise for the purpose of servicing both the Radio Station and the Television Station which is to be set up, and the Government in that Resolution was asked to guarantee the loan or the overdraft, as the case may be.

This Resolution is rather different from that. The position here is this. The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has to purchase a transmitter and studio equipment for television. It can only do it in one of three ways. If it had money of its own, we will not now be debating this because nothing would come before me, and nothing would be put before the Government, and nothing would be put before the House. Since it has no money of its own, it has two alternatives to go about it. It has to ask to borrow money. It is already raising a loan for the purpose of servicing the Radio Station and servicing the Television Station and, as hon. members know, servicing has nothing to do with capital installation. That the House should give a guarantee for television is the second alternative. As I have said, if it had enough money to make a down payment, this debate would not have taken place because it would have made the down payment and paid the rest of the money as it arises. Because it does not have to make a down payment, the manufacturers have said that "since you do not have to make a down payment, all that we are asking is that the Government of your country should guarantee this". If they had money of their own, this would not now arise. If they were permitted by a loan and overdraft and other things, this would have been mentioned in the first Resolution because this is an easy way of getting things without having to make a down payment. All the manufacturers requested was that your Government guarantee this and it is stated clearly in this Resolution that C.B.C. itself has agreed to pay for this transmitter and equipment at the rate of $127,500 a year in four yearly instalments. It is clear between this Resolution to purchase the transmitter and equipment and the other Resolution to guarantee a loan or overdraft for servicing the Radio Station and the Television Station.

Secondly, Sir, as regards the criticism against T.V., as I understood it, it comes under three heads. The first is that the time is not ripe. The second is that priorities are involved and the third is that it would be expensive because poor people cannot afford T.V. sets. There have been all sorts of extraneous and quite illogical matters brought into this debate which have nothing to do with it.

Let us deal with the criticism which comes from the charge that the time is not ripe. The time is not yet ripe for anything. The people who feel the time is not ripe for T.V. will always be those people who are telling you that the time is not ripe for anything.

We did not promise the people of this country T.V., but when we had gone in for the establishment of Radio, we saw that T.V. was feasible and the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation has power under the Act to run television. All of this debate would have been very welcome — and more welcome — when the Act to establish the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation was going on. After the Corporation said that they were ready, they showed good reason that they could deal with it: and so long as the examination of

these reasons convinced the Government, I would have no reason to withhold the recommendations to the Cabinet. Therefore, that the time is not ripe, I do not think is substantial enough to be dealt with in any seriousness.

The second argument against the project is the question of priorities. It is a fundamental misconception. You are talking as if the Government has planned to instal T.V. against something else. We do not work that way in the Cabinet. From week to week, projects come up for consideration. I do not know until I read my Cabinet papers what will come before the Cabinet this week from the other Ministries. I know that last month I was ready with my T.V. proposals: so it is not a question of the Cabinet having to decide between T.V. and other projects. I, therefore, do not find myself in a position to argue the proposals for a T.V. Station and push aside something else. To give you a comparable situation, from the point of view of transport, you have to say something like this. Suppose that at the time I brought my proposals to the Cabinet for T.V., the Minister of Communications had brought proposals to the Cabinet for improving the transport. Suppose the Minister brought in proposals for a new fleet of buses.
6.45 p.m.

At this stage Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: What I said includes the manufacturers' credit; and if a similar guarantee had been asked for in relation to the purchase of buses as for the purchase of the T.V. transmitter, and if the Cabinet had said that they would prefer to give a guarantee for television and not for transport, then there would have been some point in the hon. member's strictures. But no such thing occurred.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I made a passing statement. I said that you cannot in one breath say that you cannot give a guarantee to transport and in another breath say that you will give a guarantee to T.V. I did not dilate on that; I made a broad statement.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, that is why to have brought in the question of transport would not be relevant. That would only be relevant if an identical proposal in relation to transport had been put before the Cabinet and the Cabinet had selected T.V. for which to give a guarantee. There is not the same thing. Plans have been laid, proposals have been examined, the Cabinet pronounces on them and the Legislature gets to know about these things. I do not know what other project might be brought to fruition; what I do know is that this matter was brought before the Cabinet with some priority because it was argued on good grounds and it was ready. In that connection I would like to say this: I notice that it is quite fashionable to make references to the Thomson Group as if they were in some way pulling the wool over the eyes of the Cabinet. I said last week that the Thomson Group had been appointed by the Corporation for the purpose of setting up radio and television. Neither in the case of the radio nor in the case of television has the Corporation agreed that the Thomson Group have not honoured their pledges. That has not been so either in the case of radio or in the case of television. Our arrangements with them are purely on business and we have no reason to believe that we have been fooled or bamboozled by them. Naturally, this House cannot expect me to go into the details of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. If hon. members were to look at the Act under which this Corporation has been set up, they will be able to see that I am required by that Act to present an audited statement of the finances of the Corporation, and to lay it on the Table of both Houses of the Lesiglature. That will be done: but until that time comes, hon. members cannot expect me to go into the finances of the Corporation. It is a commercial undertaking; it comes under the same examination as the other commercial undertakings, and I do not think that I should disclose its financial statement.

Then, Sir, another argument is to the effect that the Thomson Group cannot make a profit on its undertakings until the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation makes a profit and in each case what accrues to the C.B.C. must be greater. *(ASIDES).*

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. Is the hon. member saying that one cannot make a profit unless the other makes a profit? Is it so that television cannot make a profit unless the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation makes a profit?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Speaker, some people take it that all the sweets will rest with the Thomson Group; but I am saying that the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation must also make a profit, and what goes to the C.B.C. must be greater because the C.B.C. are the employers and the terms are satisfactory.

The next major argument is the impact which the company will make on the community. Because poor people may not be able to provide themselves with T.V. sets, that is the reason why we should not venture on an undertaking like this! That is the point — or one of the points — made by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. His idea is that we should not enter upon a venture of this sort because poor people will not be able to provide themselves with these TV sets. I have not said that with the coming into being of T.V. it will necessarily be made possible for every single householder to have a receiving set. I have not said that everybody will be able to get a TV set; but you cannot argue that we should be cautious in this matter because everybody cannot have a T.V. set. I happen to know that plans are afoot for dealing with this situation which has been raised by hon. members. Hon. members must not suppose that in the same way that hon. members of this Government can ask our friends overseas for various gifts, we cannot also ask for some of these television sets. I may say that only yesterday we received two valuable gifts from the Canadian Government. I have already started to sound out some of our friends overseas as to the gifts of 100 or more receiving sets which, if I get them, I will put in the schools. Other people like Old Scholars' Associations and so on may also benefit from gifts. I do not think that I will get 200 TV receiving sets free of cost; but whatever number I get I will place in the schools. I have already worked on that matter. I do not claim to be very long in politics and I am aware of the fact that there is a lot that I do not know; on the other hand, what I do know I know as well as anybody else.

I should like to say this: if you admit that there are a lot of poor people in a community, and if you cannot have all of the facilities which they would like to have overnight, never use that premise to argue against any development. If some people can afford to have T.V. sets, there is nothing wrong in their allowing their neighbours to have a view with them.
6.55 p.m.

You cannot cure the selfishness and greed of the rich by encouraging the envy and covetousness of the poor, and you are only encouraging the envy and covetousness of the poor when you argue that everyone who lives in a house would not be able to have television. You are making people envy those who have more than they, which is very dangerous, and you are building a sort of proletarian society which makes the poor envy the rich. However, you should not throw down the proposal on the grounds that because everybody cannot have the facilities, nobody should have them. You cannot build a democratic society that way.

The last point I want to make is this: all that can be said in criticism of C.B.C. I am aware of. There are defects in the programmes; but tell which radio station after six months would reach any type of perfection. Why is it that people ask of C.B.C. what they do not ask of their very children? Any parent is pleased when his child starts to step, however halting or faltering the step. But no parent is satisfied until the child walks properly. There is a difference between being pleased and being satisfied. I am pleased with C.B.C., but I am not satisfied with it, and I defend it on those grounds. It is six months and I am astonished at the progress it has made. I know what is the matter with it, the Ministry knows what is the matter with it, and the Corporation knows what is the matter with it; and if I say I am pleased, I must not be taken to say that I am satisfied. I would express pleasure at the progress it has made and still be dissatisfied about the standard and capabilities generally.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend this venture to the House, and you can rest assured that under my directions, all the criticisms which have been made will be looked after, and I give the assurance that, so far as is humanly possible, my Ministry will see to it that TV will be a pleasure to enjoy and something this Island will be proud of.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, before the Hon. Minister sits down,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has already spoken. Has the hon. junior member for St. Lucy concluded his speech?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. junior member for St. Lucy has finished his speech.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member raises a point which can be disposed of in a minute, I will deal with it if the House gives him leave.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has already spoken.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have already spoken; but during my debate, I raised a question concerning the Addendum, and the hon. member is usually very courteous to answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition is now attempting to make a second speech. On what has the Hon. Leader of the Opposition risen?

Mr. MOTTLEY: I really do not want to rise on a point of order, but it is a matter for the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I unfortunately have no authority under the Standing Orders.

Mr. MOTTLEY : The question can now be put through you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a very simple matter for the Leader of the Opposition to send around a note to the Hon. Minister, but he may not say anything now since he has already spoken.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have never found the Minister discourteous in matters of this sort, and I thought he may have made a note on the point I made during the debate on the question of the financial arrangements.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition may not make a second speech. As soon as one rises, and does not preface one's remarks.....

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, at this stage I would ask leave.....

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not permissible; The Standing Orders do not provide for it. It seems that when we have a debate which takes two meetings, some hon. members forget when they have spoken at the previous meeting.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I have not reached that stage yet, and that is why I was referring the matter to the Hon. Minister, because I know he would not be so discourteous.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has already spoken. Only a Minister may ask leave to speak after a final speech has been made on a matter critical of the Government. If the Hon. Leader of the Opposition would send around a note or just walk around quickly to the hon. member, he may rise and speak again.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Speaker, if that is your ruling, it is, but I feel.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the Opposition is still speaking. I wonder if I have not made myself clear. These Standing Orders were laid in December, 1961.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I can hold up anything in here for a day.

Mr. SPEAKER: That would depend on who is in the Chair.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

I beg to move that this House do now stand adjourned until Tuesday, 23rd June, 1964, at 3 p.m.

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

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

7.05 p.m.