

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SESSION 1962

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Friday Tuesday 20th March, 1964.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 1 p.m. o'clock today.

PRESENT

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

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER: Again, I have to apologise to hon. members in that the Minutes are not yet ready. There are now unavailable the Minutes for the last four meetings of this House.

MESSAGE *re* REPLY FROM THE QUEEN TO ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to present Message No. 6/1964, conveying the Reply from Her Majesty the Queen to the Address of congratulation passed by the House of Assembly on the 17th March, 1964, on the birth of Her son.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, again on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to lay the Administration Report of the Comptroller of Customs for the year 1962.

ABSENCE OF ORDER PAPERS

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret to inform hon. members that it does not appear that there have been any Order Papers printed for today's meeting of this House. I apologise to hon. members for that matter.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair, and the House resume Committee of Supply in order to continue the consideration of the Estimates for the year 1964-65.

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

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

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

HEAD 24 — MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND FISHERIES

Head 24 — Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, there are a few amendments which I would like to make to this Head. In connection with Item 73, "Advisory Services", I am asking leave to delete the amount to be voted, \$5,245, and to substitute therefor the amount, \$8,045. Then there is Item 99A, which is a new Item, "Assistance to Fishermen". The amount we are inserting to be voted is \$10,160 and the note is to read as follows:-

"Assistance to fishermen whose boat tenders or fish pots were damaged or lost as a result of rough seas caused by Hurricanes "Edith" and "Flora".

Mr. Chairman, I think that, at this stage, before I actually set out to make the motion or to explain anything further, I should crave the indulgence of hon. members to offer apologies for certain things in the notes which need to be explained. The amounts in connection with the Items are quite in order, but the explanations to the notes in many cases are not in order. In other words, it would seem that the explanations in the Notes were in error copied from the old Estimates of 1963-64, and were mentioned as increases that applied to last year's Estimates and not to this year's Estimates. As I say, Sir, those explanations are not in order and I crave the indulgence of hon. members to bear with me when I attempt to put those explanations in the Notes in order, so that this entire Head of these Estimates might be regularised. I think that certain hon. members would have a knowledge of what I am trying to say.

1.25 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, under Item 54 — Sugar & Fancy Molasses Production and Export Control Act, 1940 — I am asking to delete the words "Increased emoluments to staff". There was an increase last year, but none this year.

Under Item 56 — Water Board — I am asking to delete the words "Increased provision for travelling", because there is no such increase this year.

Under Item 62 — Printing and Stationery — I am asking to delete the words "Increase due to rise in prices and increased use of stationery". That explanation was appropriate for last year, but not this year.

Under Item 63 — Water, gas and electricity — I am asking to delete the words "Increase due to increase in consumption of electricity as a result of increased activity in the research divisions and increase in rates for gas".

Under Item 66 — Office Expenses — I am asking to delete the words "Increase due to increased prices and demand."

Under Item 73 — Advisory Services — I am asking that the amount to be voted in the Estimates be increased from \$5,245 to \$8,045 to meet the expenses of the Marketing Adviser, and the note to be added is to read "And also to meet the expenses of a Marketing Adviser."

Under Item 76 — Pine Plantation — I am asking to delete the words "Includes the cost of the Livestock Insemination and Pig Breeding Scheme" as well as the words "Increased due to increased wages of agricultural workers."

As I mentioned, Mr. Chairman, these were explanations given in last year's Estimates, and although they were amended, some of them have inadvertently appeared in this year's Estimates, and they are not appropriate in that there are no such increases. I am sorry I have to tarry the House this way.

Under Item 79 — Mental Hospital Farm — I am asking to delete the words "Increase due to increment" and substitute the words "Increase due to inclusion of provision for increments to workers".

Under Item 84 — Upkeep of Laboratory — I am asking to delete the words "Increased to provide for the continued expansion of investigational work".

Item numbered 111 should be numbered 112 — travelling — and the note reads "To cover cost of visits in inspection of Markets".

Under Item 116 — Travelling — I am asking to delete the words "and the Eastern Caribbean (Windward and Leewards) the latter in connection with the reorganisation of the observation network in those islands".

Under Item 122 — Equipment — I am asking to amend the note to read "To provide for purchase of two Land Rovers, one x 5 ton Diesel Truck with platform alterations to Wheel tractor; one bull exerciser, one Dry Ice & Frozen Semen Storage Cabinet, one Scale beam, one motor mower, one Rotovator for use in Market Gardens, Saran netting (for protecting growing crops), pneumatic spraying equipment and the cost of building a storeroom for tools".

Under Head 47 — Subsidies and Grants — which we will come to later on, there is another amendment which I will move.

Hon. members will remember that I asked for an amount to be moved in connection with providing fishpots and repairing fishing boats which were damaged by hurricane. We are just following the regular practice which was adopted when Hurricane "Janet" struck, and we are hoping to assist fishermen and fishpot owners in particular in replacing their pots. I will give the necessary break-down later on if necessary.

I beg to move that the sum of \$1,102,809 under Head 24 — Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries — as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. COWARD: Mr. Chairman, under Head 24, Item 55, I have noticed it is for a Standing Cane Fire Board, and the sum of \$2,363 is to be voted. It is "to pay fire-watchers; and to meet expenses of the cane fire prevention Campaign."

I think a lot of discussion has taken place about these cane fires earlier, but I do not know if hon. members realise that there is a Standing Cane Fire Board. Not gradually, but rapidly, cane fires are increasing. They are increasing with amazing rapidity and the state of affairs is causing considerable anxiety to the community.

I would be grateful if the Hon. Premier can tell us the plans of the authorities about this Standing Cane Fire Board. As a matter of fact, I am wondering if the control of cane fires is as realistic as it should be. I think it is time that a secret private department should be set up to assist the policemen in this respect because I do not think it is fair to depend on the policemen to carry out this campaign when we have a Standing Board to do something in this matter.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, under Item "Vegetable Research and Marketing," I see that you are going to introduce Saran netting. There are lots of problems created in growing vegetables in Barbados. You hear from visitors to the Island that our vegetables are not of good quality. The Ministers have personal experience in this. There are many factors which cause this, such as extreme droughts on the one hand torrential rains on the other. At another time, you find with the growing of vegetables that just overnight they are destroyed by pests. Take the tomato crop. A vegetable grower would have a lovely lot of tomatoes coming on, and it is estimated that one-third of that crop can be lost through birds.

Sir, I am glad to see that you are beginning to have the reverse to hot beds for growing vegetables by direction of the elements and prevention from birds. I have spoken to some of the officers of this Department and they said that the scheme should be tried so as to encourage other people to try it. Government should set the example to establish suitable houses with Saran netting and let light come in to see what improvement there can be in the growing of vegetables. Both the private sector and the Government sector have had these same hazards. I would like to see this scheme intensified and established as soon as possible. We have to depend on outside sources for lots of our vegetables. We have now developed a Marketing Corporation to help sell our products, but unless you have a good source, we will have to continue to import from outside. Unless Government has something in hand, it is time that they be given to the intensification of something new. A good crop can be destroyed overnight.

Sir, I do not want to say much on this great number of cane fires, but I know that everyone's attention is drawn to it. I do not know how the Government is looking at it, but it is a very serious thing and it can reduce our economy considerably. With all our good marketing conditions, we are going to lose many tons of sugar, this opportunity which we are getting now is not going to last very long. It is a disgrace and people from outside are starting to think that the stability which they thought that we had is going for nought.

I will also like to know if the Minister can say anything about the Rodent Expert who is here now. I know that he was only here about a month or two, but if the Hon. Minister can say anything of what he is doing, I will be glad. I understand that that expert is paying attention to the agricultural areas and is trying to find out if these rats migrate into the City at evening time or if this is not so. I do not know what his findings are, but if the Hon. Minister has any light to throw on that, I will be pleased to hear.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with Part 3, Co-operatives and Friendly Societies. This is an old song which I sing all the time. I feel it is time that the Government should declare their policy as regards if it is their intention at all to refund the loss of money caused by one of the officers of the Nugget Friendly Society of St. Sylvan's

Village, St. Joseph. I raised this question some time ago and I think the Hon. Minister is somewhat acquainted with the case. I would like to know from him what really is the position because I believe that they must have arrived at a decision by now. Since then, I have understood that some kind of money was found somewhere in a safe, marked "Nugget Society". I do not know if the Hon. Minister knows about that. Well, Sir, it is high time that the members of that society should know something definite as to whether they are going to get this money or not.
1.45 p.m.

The Officers are always asking me, and the members also, but I am not in a position to tell them whether they are going to get it or not. I may be wrong, but, in my opinion, the Government would be responsible for the answer. If it is the negligence of that particular officer which has caused the loss in the particular department, the Government should set an example by refunding the money. I have noticed somewhere in the Estimates that provision is made for certain shortages; in other words, if the cash is short, provision is made for it. I do not think that that is done in private businesses. If a Cashier or whoever is responsible for cash finds himself short of that cash, then he has to pay the shortage. I am not saying that these people in these offices find themselves short of cash and they have to pay it, but so long as they make provision for shortages, I cannot see why the Government should be shirking their responsibility for paying out this money on account of the negligence in some way of their officers.

Mr. Chairman, I know that if my chauffeur goes up the road and damages anything, I am responsible for the damages although I am here in the House of Assembly. The Government is therefore responsible for their officers; and as to the members of the Nugget Friendly Society, you must know how far out they are, because they have had to dissolve the Society. If they could pay their bonuses as usual it would not be so hard on them, but the members who are still alive are still waiting for the money which is due to them. I hope the Hon. Minister will be able to tell us in one way or another if it is the intention of the Government to honour the loss or not.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Chairman, Under the Head "Co-operative and Friendly Societies", there is one thing which is worrying me. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister if Warrens, the Barbados Co-operative Cotton Factory and the Barbados Progressive Bank are strictly registered under the Co-operative Act, 1949. I should like to know if these three Companies are really working according to the provisions of this Act. (Asides) For the benefit of the Hon. Minister, I will repeat the question. I would like to know if Warrens Co-operative Factory, The Barbados Co-operative Cotton Factory and the Barbados Progressive Bank are strictly working under the Co-operative Act, 1949.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Before we go any further, Mr. Chairman, apparently, through an oversight, we omitted to move the suspension of the appropriate Standing Orders in order to permit the uninterrupted flow of Government Business today. At this stage, therefore, we have to ask that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again. We have to make that motion so that when His Honour the Speaker returns to the Chair, the necessary motion can be made for the suspension of the appropriate Standing Orders for the remainder of today's session. I therefore beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

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

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

The CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER who took the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, unfortunately during the time for the giving of Notices we omitted to move for the suspension of the appropriate Standing Orders, so that we could have an uninterrupted flow of Government Business today. As you are aware, Sir, during Budget time it is our policy to utilize the entire day's sitting for nothing but Government Business. In order to do this, I beg to move that Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 be now suspended in order to facilitate the uninterrupted flow of Government Business today.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not sure in this case because I do not have my Standing Orders with me; but I am sure that under the last Standing Orders, if you wanted to move the suspension of any of these Standing Orders, you would have to do that before the business of the House started. I am speaking under correction, and I am asking Your Honour for your guidance and your ruling in this matter. Would the motion for the suspension of the Standing Orders be in order at this time? I know that under the old Standing Orders, it could not be done. The Clerk of the House would be able to help us much more quickly than any one of us could do at this time.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the hon. member has been in here long enough to recall that, on numerous occasions, we have done this. There is no point in the hon. member pursuing any obstructionist tactics in this matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will both hon. members take their seats? I have decided to rule and nothing said by any hon. member will change my mind now.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I made a motion and the hon. member objected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will both hon. members sit? The question is that Standing Orders 5, 14, 16, 18, 40 and 45 be now suspended. Hon. members in favour of that will please say "Aye", those against will please say "No". I think the "Ayes" have it. These Standing Orders are now suspended for today's sitting.

REPLY OF HER MAJESTY TO CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, during Notice time Message No. 6/1964 was received from His Excellency the Governor in reply to an Address which was passed by the House to Her Majesty The Queen on the 17th March, 1964, conveying the congratulations of the House on the birth of Her son. At the time when the Notice was given, the actual text of the Reply was not received; it only came down subsequently. I am now asking leave to read the actual text of the Reply from Her Majesty The Queen.
1.55 p.m.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon. Leader of the House is asking leave to read the text of a reply from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and in the absence of any objection, leave will be granted.

Hearing no reply, leave is granted. Let the Hon. Minister proceed.

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

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor has the honour to refer to the Address from the Honourable House of Assembly dated the 17th March, 1964, and to inform the Honourable House of Assembly that the accompanying Address was forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen.

2. His Excellency has received the following reply from the Secretary of State for the Colonies —

"I am commanded by the Queen to ask you to convey to the House of Assembly Her Majesty's and the Duke of Edinburgh's sincere thanks for the kind congratulations on the birth of their son."

HOUSE RESUMES COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House resume 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. DEPUTY SPEAKER left the Chair and the House resumed Committee of Supply, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I will deal first with the last question which was raised by the hon. junior member for St. John in connection with the propriety or otherwise of the names which certain limited liability companies carry. He wanted to know whether they function under the Co-operative Societies Act, 1949. I will tell the hon. member that as far as I am aware, they do not function under the Co-operative Societies Act, 1949, but that these are terms probably of inconvenience, if anything; they are limited liability companies in their own right. Warrens Co-operative Factory is a limited liability factory just like the Barbados Co-operative Cotton Factory Limited; so the emphasis is to be placed on the word "limited" which is the operative word. The word "Co-operative" is not exactly a misnomer, but it is not very far from being. The Barbados Co-operative Factory is a Co-operative to some extent, but it is a limited liability company and not a Co-operative Society as such. The Barbados Co-operative Bank Limited is also a limited liability company, and so is the Searles Co-operative Sugar Factory.

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph also wanted to know the fate of the monies which are tied up in the Nugget Friendly Society. This matter has been undergoing the attention and consideration not only of this Government, but of the last one, and at present no decision has been reached. The matter is under active consideration in another Ministry, because you will realise, Mr. Chairman, that this is a financial matter, and it will be subject to the scrutiny and study not only of my Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries under which it falls normally, but also of the Crown Law Officers, and as it is a financial matter, it has to be considered by the Ministry of Finance. I regret being unable to give any more information in my reply, but I give the assurance that I will follow it up and see that it is brought to a proper conclusion satisfactory to all parties.

As far as cane fires are concerned, that is such a big matter which has been debated here at length, that I hardly think it is appropriate at this stage for me to renew the debate, because the question of cane fires engaged the attention of this Chamber only on Tuesday for about five or six hours, unless the hon. member wants a repeat performance. I do not know which hon. member wants to take the lead, but it is a very tragic thing not only for the revenue and economy of this Island, but tragic in that it will hurt each and every person who works and lives in Barbados, and not only the workers in the sugar industry, and whoever is responsible for such mad advice or leadership should be dealt with very seriously.

Mr. COWARD: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, what I want to know, after discovering that there is a Cane Fire Board, is how many members this Board comprises, and whether the Board is still functioning. I do not think that needs any debate. I want to know how many fire watchers there are.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I was merely prefacing my remarks before answering the hon. member. I am Minister

of Agriculture and I must be granted some sort of liberty to make a comment on cane fires generally. I intended answering the hon. member specifically, but in doing so I was merely giving a preamble and an expression of my opinion for what it is worth.

The Cane Fire Board is still functioning, and the three persons who are employed receive \$24 each per week. They each work eight hours per day covering a twenty-four hour watch daily. Their look-out point is at District "C" Police Station in St. Philip which covers a large part of the Island.
2.05 p.m.

The Board is comprised of the Chief Agricultural Officer who is Chairman, the Labour Commissioner, a representative of the Barbados Workers' Union and a representative of the Barbados Sugar Producers' Association. This Standing Cane Fire Board was first established in 1954 and its functions are as follows:-

1. To organise an educational propaganda campaign;
2. To examine new techniques or machinery for fighting cane fires;
3. To consider suggestions for the control of cane fires as these are made from time to time;
4. To examine data relative to cane fires and advise the Minister on success or failure from any measures which may have been taken with the object of controlling cane fires.

The number of cane fires, as we all know, have increased rapidly this year and we have heard certain explanations for this increase, to put it quite mildly. We heard explanations only last Tuesday which were entirely new to us.

I shall quote a record of the number of cane fires over the years since 1961. In 1961, there were 509 cane fires and the acreage burnt was 5,851 3/4 acres. In 1962, there were 290 cane fires and the acreage burnt was 1,304 acres. In 1963, there were 385 cane fires and the acreage burnt was 3,196 acres. In 1964 to the 17th of this month, there were 296 cane fires and the acreage burnt was 3,490 acres. Therefore, there was a drop in the number of cane fires in 1962 and also in 1963 although there was an increase in the acreage burnt. Although the number of cane fires in 1963 was 385 as compared with 296 this year, the acreage burnt was not as substantial as it is this year.

The efforts of the Cane Fire Prevention Board, I am afraid, have not been very successful on this occasion and it may be that the Board and the Act governing the prevention of cane fires — that is to say both the legislation and the machinery for dealing with cane fires — need reviewing because in my opinion the members of the Cane Fire Prevention Board should be given more authority. They should be given power to act more forcibly in order to assist in curbing these fires. It may be that the Act needs reviewing and that members of the Board should be given greater powers under the Act or that the constitution of the Board should be enlarged to give them powers of arrest and prosecution. It may be that it should be a bigger Board to handle this very big and important problem.

The hon. junior member for Christ Church touched on cane fires and he asked a question as regards the Rodent Expert. The Rodent Expert has been working in close collaboration with our Entomologist. It is true to say that the expert has started his work in the country areas. His first phase of work is trying to find the origin of these rats and how they germinate. He is attempting to strike at the root of the problem: so the hon. junior member for Christ Church need not have any fear that the commercial houses and the warehouses in this area would not be considered. The expert has made a start, and with the assistance of the Entomologist he is laying the ground work for this rat control.

The hon. member also made mention of Item 122 dealing with Saran netting, and the hon. member actually explained himself that it was for the purpose of perfecting growing crops. He seems to be very conversant with the

work of this netting. It is true to say that this is a means of improving growing crops and we are trying it out for the first time now.

I would also like, before I sit, to ask hon. members to re-insert the words "two Land Rovers". My notes called for two and I am asking that "two Land Rovers" be inserted instead of "one Land Rover".

With this explanation, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,102,809 under Head 24 — Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would not like to keep back this Head. I have heard the Hon. Minister speak about the Cane Fire Board and some hon. members have asked something about it. As an hon. member said, it is not my intention to re-open this matter about cane fires, because we have had a long debate on it last Tuesday. All that I would like to say is that it does not matter what power you give to the Cane Fire Board or the Inspectors because you are not going to get cane fires minimised as long as you have a conspiracy of silence amongst the community and they allow the mischief-makers to go around this country and give them what they call freedom to create mischief and then to pay for it. Why is everybody putting their hands in the air now and saying "cane fires! cane fires!" When you realise that we allowed the people to create the mischief? They run around the country infuriating the mind of the community and they even wanted to have a Victory march.
2.15 p.m.

It is their own creation: and for all who silently aid and abet, that is the price which you are now paying. I knew that that would have happened. You expect to have months and months of nefarious indiscipline and lack of integrity by the community, and then suddenly you expect the community to react with a sense of responsibility. This is the creation of the mischief-makers and that is what the community is now getting. As long as the sugar industry can be used as a political football for politicians so as to maintain a seat or to get a new seat, you will get this sort of thing. It is not important what power you use; a new gimmick will come up next year and they will start the sugar industry under any barrier. What has been designed in the sugar industry this year is what would have been established in that branch of the industry with the nonsense which you have here. There have even been Contributory Pension Funds to workers, and people stand by silently and allow a bunch of rogues — political and otherwise — they allow roguish newspapers to print a lot of vulgar articles and you sit down on this. This is what businessmen adorn their offices with, and this sort of thing that they advertise is what causes the community to pay this price. If you did not have these rogues in this community and the conspiracy of silence by supposedly respectable people, this thing would have been rounded up and the situation would not be what it is.

That is the price which you are paying for fright, and aiding and abetting people. Now that the thing has come on the same rogues, they are putting up their hands and running. Too many people are always afraid of these things. Sooner or later Barbados will have to face all of the things which other people had to face. I believe that I have been subjected to more of this sort of thing than anybody else. I have a lot more to say, but I have to say it in stages. Why do you think that we have had so many cane fires and why do you think that we have had them with this rapidity this year? You are going to have other acts of indiscipline too.

When I come to speak on the Head dealing with the Labour Department, I will say something more. I realise the problem which we are going to have, because where employers themselves subscribe to indiscipline through the lack of positive integrity, they create something for the whole community which will work like a snowball. This is only going to be the beginning of a lot more serious

disruptions. Employers and rogues together have demonstrated in a manner that even the decision of the Legislature can be rejected by mob rule. There is not anything which has been done in an unconstitutional manner or under the table, and there are lots of people who have since encouraged that sort of conduct but who did not think or expect that serious damage to our economy would have taken place. If the situation were the reverse, if this damage had taken place and the decision of the Legislature had not been taken, they would have said that this is the result of your not paying the people their money.

It is a question that you have so infuriated the minds of people by gross misrepresentation, that that has seeped into the minds of people encouraging them to be roguish, crude and coarse in their behaviour, and these things have a way of multiplying. Everybody is now looking for an answer; I am not a witchhunter, nor do I look for scapegoats. I like to analyse the situation and I have no heartburn in the sense that this is something which has surprised me. I am shocked, but I am not surprised, in the sense that you will expect acts of indiscipline to create other things. I take my responsibility seriously. If the Government is not watchful, I am saying that other acts of indiscipline will take place. As long as you have and you allow the worst elements in our community to be utilising all the processes of democracy and mass media as the means of informing people, what sort of community do you think you will have? We are now spending \$1 million on Education. There is no colony in the West Indies which has any vulgar newspaper such as the one we have here called the "Truth". No newspaper would dare to print, or no community would stand the vulgarity which is found in that newspaper. If a person parks a motor car somewhere, that is the substance of the vulgarity known as "Minding my Business". That sort of vulgarity has been created, and people are putting their hands around the shoulders like that and making these people believe that they are respectable citizens in a community, when in truth and in fact, they are undermining the character of the community.

Anybody could say anything of any man in public life, and no man should be afraid of his public life being the subject of the broadcast scrutiny, but when you have the most corrupt people in the community, you should not give them the licence to undermine it. Where you have respectable men at the various institutions, the Hospital, doctors and so on, their lives have been made a misery. I have had the sad experience of people working in establishments and they have been encouraged to be disloyal to the place in which they are earning their living. I do not want anybody to be disloyal to his employer and then expect the Trade Union to underwrite his disloyalty. If a man cannot give honour to his own staff, what is going to happen? What do you find? You get the worst elements in business, and somebody says that you have done something in some Department and he is going to the "Truth" for you. That goes on, and then you will get law and order broken down.
2.25 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, you do not know where you are with the jury nowadays, because these people feel they can undermine the substance of our society. We are hugging up these people, and that is the price we pay for courting rogues and villains and the worst elements in the community.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the Minister explained to the hon. senior member for St. Joseph that there are three fire watchers and he said that one is stationed at District "C" Police Station. He did not say where the other two are stationed. However there is one at District "C" Police Station which covers a large area, and he is being paid at the rate of \$24 per week.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, all three fire watchers are stationed at District "C", and they work in turns of eight hours each around the clock. There is only one outpost and not two or three as the hon. member may think.

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Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, if there are three men stationed at District "C" being paid at the rate of \$24 a week, then that money is being wasted. When I used to travel to District "F" Police Station, a sentry used to keep guard both day and night, but I do not know what is done now. If these men watch from District "C" to see when a field is lit, I take it they still have to report to the Police. I feel that those three men should receive a bicycle allowance for patrolling the particular parish. It should be the sentry's job to watch for fires and let these three men patrol the area. The money that is being spent on them could be put to better use by calling on these men to patrol the area. I am in agreement with the hon. member that the Fire Board needs reviving, but I would suggest that you go into the matter and, if necessary, get a few more men to patrol the districts. If I am a fire-bug and I know there is a fire-watch at District "C", I can go under the hill and light a fire and he would not see me; but if he is riding around I am not going to take the chance, because I may light the same bunch in which he might be hiding. We are only therefore wasting time and money paying these men at the rate of \$24 a week to watch the station, because you already have a sentry there.

I am sorry the hon. senior member for St. Peter is not in his place, but the inference he made is that because these people got their money, that is responsible for the fire. That is one of the most simple arguments I have ever heard. Imagine you and I having a case and neither of us would give in, and we take the matter to the Law Courts. Do you mean to say that if I win I am going to come to your home and kill your donkey, sheep or dog or light your house or canes? I would be looking for you to do that because you have lost. The man that wins has no grouse; but the one who loses cannot feel happy and will do any wicked thing. I do not believe therefore that the people who got their money are responsible for these fires. I believe they would rather grow more canes and would do anything to prevent others from lighting them.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I should like to say that it is people like the hon. junior member for St. Joseph who talk about winning that cannot face up to their own winnings. They now want to attach the blame to somebody, but I am not attaching blame to anybody. I am saying that the acts of indiscipline produce these things. Do you think the hon. member could ever win anything like what has been won? He would not know how to calculate the money or even where to pick up the idea, or what projections or arguments to use. He could use the easiest argument that any fool who has not been to school could use, and that is to give them all, though they do not know what is all. The hon. member has joined with others to create for this country a situation with which he is incapable of dealing and for which he has no answer; so he is throwing up his hands and talking about those who lost. Do you expect that those people who project something can be losers? You can only be a loser when you want to grab something from someone and you do not get it, not when you can project. In 1961 the organisation to which I have the honour to belong said that there should be a National Committee to examine cane fires. In 1962, we said you could do nothing in this country if you were going to lose income, and last year at our Annual Conference our organisation spoke about the incidence of cane fires, saying that we regretted them and that we were going to join arms.

2.35 p.m.

You cannot do anything at all in this country if you are going to lose income. Every year, my organisation at Annual Conferences has been speaking on cane fires and regretting them; we have not made idiotic statements like what the hon. junior member for St. Joseph made. Workers have an interest in the prevention of cane fires, more so, than insurance companies because the total income of workers is lost to them. The Party to which the hon. member belongs is out to win, and anything which they regard as a victory, they are out to do; they do not care if this country is destroyed. I repeat, we, of the Union, do our bit. The hon. member is a member of the House of Assembly. He is lacking in propriety to be able to say what is right from what is wrong.

A thing like this took place at the dock of Bridgetown, but nobody raised any hue or cry saying that the dockers would be robbed. Did anybody say that the workers in Jamaica was being robbed? But because it came from a force and they realised it, you get this joining of people in joining to make people believe that the sugar industry is a fragile industry. And what do you find? You find a man like the hon. member who ought to be in the vanguard to help the sugar workers to redeem themselves and not to be in a position similar to their foreparents telling the people that they have won. What have they won? Nothing, but looking to every plantation owner and going to him to find out when he has a day's work to give them. The sugar workers should be able to say when the next sugar factory closes down: "This is what we can do; this is what we have." Is it too hard for the average worker?

Hon. C. E. TALMA: It is very surprising that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, when a fire epidemic is raging and which is a tragedy to our economy, wants to attach blame to the Fire Wardens. It has been said that these cane fires are not occurring in the normal circumstances. They are abnormal, wicked and everything that is bad. Here, we had a demonstration last Tuesday when a leading member of the Barbados Labour Party, a Parliamentary member, for the time being, demonstrated for all that he is worth and said that the cane fires were of a political nature.

These Fire Wardens watch from a vantage point which gives them a good lookover a big panoramic area. How can they ride around too? They are doing their work properly, and the hon. member is making a scapegoat of them and the Ministry.

These cane fires have been organised by very wicked people in the hope of destroying the economy of the Island. It is all political. These three Fire Wardens are not politicians. You would want 300 Fire Wardens with the necessary equipment; three would not be able to do it. You would need about 300 Fire Wardens properly armed in order to fight the campaign now.

Mr. SMITH: I thought that I was trying to help the Ministry because I am not attaching any blame to the Ministry of Agriculture or to the Cane Fire Board. I was talking facts and any colossal idiot that has been referred to by other members could have understood what I said.

I said that you have three men at District C Police Station who change off watching for cane fires. I went on to say that Policemen live at the Station and, as far as I know - I do not know for District C; I know for District F - this station carries a sentryman changing off every three hours. What is the use of having an ordinary layman watching for cane fires from there when the sentryman, who is a policeman, can do the watching and thus let these three men go all around the country on bicycles? In other words, as far as they can see with their eyes from District "C", let them travel around on bicycles. That is all that I said. I do not attach any blame to members of the Cane Fire Board because members of the Cane Fire Board are not responsible for the fires; and even if they had canes themselves, they would not get up out of their beds to watch them.

I said that it was a waste of money to pay \$72 a week to men to go to District "C" to watch for cane fires only. Go further than that; give them bicycles and let them travel through the areas. The mere fact that the fire bugs know that these men are travelling around - they are not going to take the chance to catch a fire. I am not accusing the Cane Fire Board or the Ministry of Agriculture. What I have said is commonsense. A colossal idiot would understand what I have said.

I have not won anything. It is not that I won and they lost or they won and I lost. I have not won anything at all. If those people did not get one cent, I would not have won because I still have to go and work hard, day and night, for money. If they got every cent, I would still have to work hard; and if they did not get one cent, I would still have to work hard because I am not a "Sweet Skin Bucky".

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Mr. CORBIN: Mr. Chairman, I have risen to say nothing against the Cane Fire Board, but just to say that I have heard lots of arguments concerning the cane fires all over this island. This Cane Fire Board is an important Board. It is a Board. It is a Board set up to prevent cane fires. The three Fire Wardens have a job to do and I am sure that any human being would realise that they are serving a good purpose. I want the whole community to realise that not only is the Government responsible for the community, but the citizens are also responsible.
2.45 p.m.

It shocks my modesty when I see that a wonderful crop, which God has sent upon the earth to help the poor people of Barbados, is being destroyed. This crop is the chief one of our economy and I see that people of Barbados are going around and lighting these canes afire in various places. Mr. Chairman, you should know my feelings. There are places in St. Andrew where no cane fires have occurred, and the people in St. Andrew have asked me: "Homie, why have we not got any cane fires in St. Andrew?" I told them that wherever there are fires in Barbados, they affect me because they affect the economy of Barbados. All those who advise such an evil as to light cane fires in Barbados to weaken the economy of the island, I say that they are in the bond of iniquity and in the gall of bitterness. They will never get rid of that.

Mr. Chairman, I would not try to slay a man so as to take his possession; I always await my consolation. I am asking the Barbadian people to join heart and hand and cease catching cane fires. Let them avoid doing that; it is the destruction of humanity. We should not make a sacrifice of what God has given us; what is the cause of all this? The beast would not do it. I am sorry to see that mankind is so reckless and wicked to himself. I trust that they will resign to God and await their consolation. Let them not try to slay people and take their possession. Mr. Chairman, I am hoping for better.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I think I will leave the cane fire argument to those hon. members who know more about it than I know, and direct my remarks to the Ministry which is responsible for this portfolio of Agriculture. I am speaking now on Item 70, "Propagation of Trees" and Item 71, "Tax and subsidy payments for cultivation of trees". I think the Hon. Minister will agree with me that I have the right to speak on this matter. I am becoming more than worried, and any interested person in this community must be worried, as he considers that all the natural spots of the creation are being taken up by people who have money. It is not that I am opposed to people who have money using their money to enjoy some of the luxuries and pleasures which nature may provide. The note to Item 70 as to this sum of \$1,500 says this:

"Includes purchase of pots and refunds of deposits made on pots and other expenses in connection with the Cultivation of Trees Act." Human nature is entitled, during the 24 hours of the day, to some rest. We take eight hours' work and medical science says that we should have eight hours' rest; then the psychologist says that we should have some hours of pleasure. In this country, all these places of recreation have been taken up and bought. Many years ago I suggested that the people in this country should be allowed to enjoy that stretch of beach at Sandy Lane which nature has provided and which is surrounded with trees. At the time when I made that suggestion, I met with stubborn opposition; at that time this Government was not in power. I am not opposed to what is going on at Sandy Lane, but if it goes on in this way I am wondering what will happen. A commissioner of parks seems to be necessary for this place, and if that name is unsuitable, I hope the Ministry will find a different name for it. Just as people see fit to preserve, for the purpose or benefit of posterity, old homes, mill walls and gullies which they make into beauty spots, other people have been enjoying places like the Animal Flower Cave, River Bay, Cherry Tree Hill and Morgan Lewis. In a community where you have 240,000 people and there is one open place in the City for nearly 1,000 people, people must go out in order to have fresh air.

Mr. Chairman, you, Sir, as a Schoolmaster know that you have had to take out your children, and you had to go cap in hand and beg people to allow you to use some of these beauty spots. I have never had to ask permission which was refused me; but when you have several buses leaving Bridgetown so that people can go and have recreation at one spot which they cannot claim as their own, I feel that the time has come when the Government should give very careful consideration to this matter. It is not always possible for the Government to buy land on the beach where people can go and bathe. It is all right for the Hon. Minister to talk about an open space, a twenty-foot right-of-way at the beach, but I think we should get these scientifically trained men to find the type of tree which will grow at Roaches, at the Animal Flower Cave, at Cherry Tree Hill and at River Bay. I say that we should acquire Cherry Tree Hill; there are some places which must be acquired by the people, and there is no justification for this Government, as a Socialist Government, to sit idly by when this matter has been drawn by us to their attention or vision.
2.55 p.m.

It must go home to the heart of the Hon. Minister of Education that there are thousands of children in the Municipality who are taken out on a tour, and they must either sit in the bus or stay in the sun, unless they ask somebody to allow them to use these spots. Now that these spots can be bought at a reasonable price; it is time that you acquired them and not wait until persons from abroad come in and see the beauty of them and purchase them. I have been in the real estate business for over 30 years, and I can well remember when nobody thought of the St. James coast.

Mr. WALCOTT: On a point of order, I do not want to cross the hon. member, but we are dealing with the Estimates and the hon. member is making a point that comes under Social Services. I am sure that the hon. member could not insist that the propagation of trees would be for the purpose of recreational spots. Whilst I agree with him, I do not see how he can develop that point under Items 70 and 71, no matter how careful he tries to be, because I do not see for the life of me how the propagation and cultivation of trees could be connected with what the hon. member is now speaking. If you read the note to Item 70, you will see that it says "Includes purchase of pots and refunds of deposits made on pots and other expenses in connection with the Cultivation of Trees Act." The note to Item 71 reads as follows:-

"Authorised by sections 4 and 5 of the Cultivation of Trees Act, 1950-22. Includes provision for payment of subsidies on fruit trees."

I do not know how the hon. member can develop the point of acquiring land for when people go on an excursion.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not paying any attention to what the hon. member has said, and it is for you to rule. I believe that if you thought I was going wrong, you would stop me. You are not going to sit there all the time and allow people to try to do this sort of thing to you. I feel that you really would have stopped me if you felt I was doing something wrong.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is correct.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I was suggesting, Mr. Chairman, that this matter might be taken up both by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education. Only yesterday a school had to go on an educational tour, but it could not do that unless permission was sought to go on some person's land. The question I am raising is in regard, not only to the propagation of trees, but to the acquiring of lands and planting the type of trees that would grow around the seashore. I can say from my knowledge of real estate for over 30 years that nobody acknowledged the beauty of what is now known as the "Gold Coast" along the St. James Coast until people came from abroad and saw what it had to offer. I think it is time for Government to acquire some

of these spots. If anybody had told me or the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that a place like Maycock's Bay would have attracted such distinguished visitors who purchased it, we would have laughed. During my youth it was a place where people would go and spend half holidays and have fun. What I am throwing out to the Minister is that merely to get an entrance to the foreshore for the people of Barbados while the land is owned by other people is not good enough. I have taken the opportunity to speak on the matter under this Head, because I am not thinking only of these spots, but I would like to see them planted in trees for the benefit of the people, and I hope the Minister will give it consideration.

Mr. LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support my colleague and to point out that in a country as over-populated as Barbados is, - some 1,400 people to the square mile - the need for recreational centres is even greater than it would be in other adjacent West Indian lands. We know that we will be told that the Government cannot afford it, but I would like at this time to point out the means whereby these recreational lands might be acquired. The Government has always shown a certain amount of resistance to the payment of a poll tax, a tax which is imposed in many countries. You have to pay in London 12/6 before you catch the bus to go to London Airport. If you go to Trinidad, you have to pay \$1.00 before you leave, and in Guatemala the Guatemalans before they go abroad have to pay a tax. These are countries which have seen the need for the imposition of such a tax. If even Government does resist the imposition of this tax as they have in the past, why could they not consider the imposition of a tax such as the one imposed in Puerto Rico where tourists have to pay an additional ten percent on what they pay for a bed? If they are living in a hotel where they have to pay \$20 a day, there is an obligatory ten percent added on automatically, and it has kept no one away from Puerto Rico. That is one means which Government can use for the provision of recreational lands for the population.

It is true, Mr. Chairman, that the Government has so far not been able to provide all the necessary bread, but they could provide the services and that is one method of financing it. It is to be hoped that whichever Minister is responsible - and I hope to bask under the same umbrella of tolerance that you granted to my colleague, Mr. Chairman - that this matter could receive the very serious attention of Government.

Mr. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I should like to assure hon. members that a start has been made in this direction. (hear! hear!). In the first place, nurseries have been established at Haggatts Agricultural Station, at Jerusalem, at Joes River and at Morgan Lewis for the propagation of trees.

3.05 p.m.

As the hon. member has said in reference to the Act itself, under Section 4 and Section 6 of the Cultivation of Trees Act, 1950, certain payments are made to owners of land who plant certain trees like mahogany, casuarina, and so on. That is under the Act now; but Government is now taking active steps in the propagation of trees and has established nurseries in many places in the country districts.

In so far as the other points raised by the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown, I would like to let him know that I agree with him entirely that at some subsequent date we will have to set up a department of parks and open spaces and have it properly organised; but we first of all have to establish these places, and Government has to take steps to investigate the possibility and to select sites at the following places: (a) Bathsheba where the Government owns land already, but we have to wait on the Soil Conservation Officer; (b) at Martins Bay where we have commenced negotiations; (c) then there is Consetts Bay in St. John; (d) the Crane and Foul Bay in St. Philip and (e) River Bay, St. Lucy. Those are the sites which we have looked at. We have others to look into, but we have made a start and there is a Committee which has actually gone on these sites, with

the exception of River Bay. Therefore, to say that nothing has been done is not correct and it is just that we have not yet been able to do anything tangible. We have to negotiate for the land. A start has been made and I would see to it that the matter is expedited in order for something concrete to be done.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to add my short quota to what the Hon. Minister of Agriculture pointed out. You will remember in the last Development Plan, Government made provision for the erection of workers' resort houses; but having gone into that and explored all the possibilities of providing the workers with resort houses, we have discovered that there was a greater priority than providing workers' resort houses and this priority was the provision of recreational centres at various excursion resorts where the average workers assemble on bank holidays or other times, when they feel to have a picnic. Some of those sites have been mentioned by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and they have the necessary recreation facilities such as baths, sanitary conveniences, etc.

The Hon. Minister has already pointed out the plans which are in progress. These things will be provided, and we are actually working on this scheme as a priority one to the establishment of workers resort houses. I think that I made some mention of it before.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, if I may be permitted, I would just like to say that a remark made earlier in the day by the hon. junior member for Christ Church has struck me as deserving of some attention by the Government. In fact, all the other remarks are deserving of attention; but in this particular remark, he said that the current circumstances in this country has given rise abroad to doubts as to whether or not we in Barbados are maintaining our position for stability and sound orderly Government and respect for law and order.

It is quite true that people are prone to exaggerate a position like this. In highly civilised countries in Europe and the United Kingdom strikes and such things occur very often, and nobody has anything to say about lack of stability in the country. There are strikes in France almost every week. There have been electricity strikes in which doctors at the operating table could not operate because they had no current, and yet nobody says that France is a country in which law and order are not respected.

But the position is that we have always had in this country a reputation quite unlike that in many of the neighbouring territories, and I am still of the opinion that this community is quite sound and a good one. Nobody in his right senses, neither foreign or otherwise, would say that the orderly progress of this country would not be maintained. It is quite true that current events have raised a little feeling of doubt and may continue to raise doubts as to what is happening in the Island, but the answer to that is that the Government is preparing for the challenge. We sat by, it is true, for the last two or three months and allowed the situation to go by; but, as far as I am concerned what has happened is this. There was a Government in office for 15 years and it was thrown out of office. Some of the members of that Government were responsible people and have their sources of livelihood; but some of them have no source of livelihood and they have been prepared to go at any length to harass the present Government and, if possible, to regain the political power which they have lost.

There is a limit to everything. In the ordinary course of democratic procedure and in the normal manner in which the Party in opposition is expected or allowed to harass the Party in office, certain things are permissible; but when you have now a bunch of unemployables going around the country and defying law and order, abusing the Police Force, the Commissioner of Police, Government officials and everybody who stands for anything decent, obviously the time has come for the Government to take action to stop this state of affairs. Furthermore, as the hon. senior member for St. Peter pointed out, there are cancerous

bodies at work, and they are undermining the very existence of the body politic. Therefore the Government would not be conscious of its responsibility or would give the appearance of being unable to discharge the office if it does not take proper steps to eradicate this unsavoury behaviour. I want hon. members to know that from now the challenge has been thrown down to the Government and the Government is prepared to face up to it.
3.15 p.m.

From now on the Government has decided that there will be total war against these disruptive and unsavoury forces in the body politic. If people think that they will go around the country now, because there is freedom of speech and abuse, malign, slander and endeavour to destroy everything which we have built up in this island for centuries, then they are sadly mistaken. There was a meeting in one of the parishes at which I understand that some of the members of the opposing Party were so ashamed of themselves, that they left because there were not prepared to remain there to be associated with the type of behaviour and the type of attitude and the sort of slanderous, scandalous speeches which were being made. Even members of that Party were revolted at what was going on. The Government intends to take action to put an end to this state of affairs. I am sounding a warning now so that nobody can say that we have not allowed this thing to go as far as we think it could possibly go, and we have allowed people to undermine and destroy the freedom of democratic Government.

Now that law and order are being undermined and the economy of the island is threatened, and the Commissioner of Police is the target for slander, the time has come to put a stop to it. If people cannot talk without being slanderous or subversive, then they will not be allowed to talk. We do not care how many Unions want to organize themselves so long as they do it in a lawful and subjective manner. We, ourselves, have been in the Opposition; we have had to approach the Government and fight all sorts of issues, economic, political and otherwise, and we have done all of this and maintained still the traditions expected of us in a free democratic society. We should be less than worthy of assuming office in this country if we were not prepared, now that the time has obviously come, to see to it that the principles which we have maintained and supported while we were in the Opposition — that those same principles will be held, maintained and supported in the Opposition now. In view of the remarks made by hon. members today and on Tuesday, the Government is fully conscious of its responsibility in this matter and is prepared to accept the challenge which has been thrown out to it to cope with the situation as it obviously deserves to be dealt with.

The question that the sum of \$1,102,809 under Head 24 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 25 — MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS WORKS AND HOUSING

Head 25 — Ministry of Communications, Works and Housing — was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$145,338 under Head 25 stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$145,338 under Head 25 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, you must look in this direction.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I have been looking in both directions.

HEAD 26 — HOUSING

Head 26 — Housing — was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$45,000 under Head 26 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. MILLER: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give us further information, which is not set out in the Estimates, on this question of Housing. What have they got in mind as to the plan for the continued construction of houses and the interest on Public Officers' Housing Loans?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, will you please ask the hon. member to speak through the microphone?

Mr. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I apologise one hundred times to the hon. member, (*ASIDES*) (A MEMBER: You do not have to apologise so many times.) I apologise one hundred times to the Hon. Minister. I am wondering if the Hon. Minister would give us any information as to the number of houses they have in mind to build, and I would like to know if there has been any change in the interest rate of Public Officers.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. member speaking on Item 1?

Mr. MILLER: I arrived late after most of the important Heads had been passed because I had other responsibility. I want to know today whether the Hon. Minister could give us the number of houses which they plan to build under the scheme, although that was not included.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member pretends that he was a Minister, (A Member: He was a Minister) and he should know that in framing the Estimates you have capital and recurrent expenditure. What the hon. member is asking will be coming under the Head of Capital Expenditure.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I can tell the hon. member, in connection with Public Officers' Housing Loans, what the amount of the interest rate is. The interest rate on the loans is 4 1/2% and this amount, which is included here, is to make up the difference between the rate of interest to the Public Officers and the difference between the rate paid to the Banks. This is a subsidy on what is paid by the Public Officer and what is paid to the Bank.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I should like to ask the Hon. Minister something. Am I to understand that you will continue to borrow money at one rate of interest and lend it to Public Officers at a cheaper rate?

Mr. MILLER: That has always been the policy.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I say that it is a wrong policy whether it be a Civil Servant or otherwise. You cannot penalise people in order to do that. You are picking out and selecting people of this island..... (*ASIDES*)

Mr. WALCOTT: You are wrong.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, will you ask the hon. senior member for St. Peter to keep quiet?
3.25 p.m.

Mr. WALCOTT: If the hon. member would give way, what I was pointing out is that any money which the Government borrows for loans through the Housing Authority would be given at a lower rate of interest than what they borrowed at. When you borrow money to run the Hospital, you are not getting it back at a rate. What happens is that you have fixed a rate at which they are to pay back the loan they got from you, and you would not turn around and say you could not treat them as if you were borrowing money specifically to lend them. The hon. member should bear in mind that housing loans to Civil Servants originated out of arguments concerning the question of the Widows and Orphans Fund to which they were paying four per cent.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, that is not a point of order. The hon. member has already had a chance to speak, and I am having my say. I have served on the Housing Authority Board and I realise what you had to do. When I posed the question that you were borrowing money to lend Civil Servants and people in the higher income group at a reduced rate, I heard a *sotto voce* remark that this is done at the Agricultural Bank. That is not correct.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I should like to remind hon. members of Standing Order No. 28.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If they were borrowing money to lend at a lower rate, I would have to know, but I will just wait to hear what is the true position from the Minister.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, this is not a matter for the Minister, because it is not his private affair; it is a matter for the House. I do not take these strong views, like the hon. senior member for Bridgetown, that it does not matter about Civil Servants voting. Civil Servants have as much right to a loan at a cheap rate of interest as anybody else, because they are paying back the money; but as I said some injustices are meted out because a Civil Servant may build a house better than another person. What I want to point out to the hon. member is that they do not borrow all the money one time. Even with the Agricultural Bank they have to borrow money at 6 1/2% from which to make loans to the Agricultural Society at 6%, which is half per cent lower than what they borrowed at.

Mr. MOTTLEY: On a point of order, I did not say anything about the Agricultural Society. I said that the Agricultural Bank loaned people money to operate plantations. I see nothing wrong in borrowing money to lend Civil Servants, but not at a reduced rate. I said the Government would be the security for Civil Servants who would borrow money, but I could not see Government borrowing money at 6% and lending at 4 1/2 per cent. If he is paying the same rate of interest, all well and good; but you should not be borrowing and subsidising.

Mr. WALCOTT: The hon. member did not understand me when I drew the instance where the Agricultural Bank was borrowing money at 6 1/2%, but they did not increase the interest rate to the people they were lending to 6 1/2%, because all the money they were lending in that year was not liquidating all their money. It means, therefore, that if they had \$1.00 they would lend that \$1.00 in order to maintain their rates at 6%, which meant they were not then making as much money on their transactions as they could have made. You have to bear in mind that if you regard Housing as a social matter and you are going to make a contribution, whatever is your borrowing rate to the Civil Servant or any person else, that is the contribution you are making as against giving a man a direct gift, because instead of making a loan you can give a man a gift equivalent to 1% or 2%. You say I am borrowing money at 6% and am lending it at 4%, which means I am making a direct contribution to the Civil Servants Loan Fund, and that is all the Government is doing. The Government is making a contribution to the Civil Servants Loan Fund in a similar manner that it is making a contribution to the other loans for Housing, because the whole basis of lending money for Housing in this country is a social low rate business. Nobody can borrow money in Barbados at the rate at which Civil Servants can get a housing loan from Government.

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member looks at his Development Plan, he will see that it included Housing; so he has to look at it in a capital sense. The loan which the Government floated on the London Market last Thursday was for what the Government proposes to do in its 1962-65 Development Programme. This was approved by the House in the Development Plan, and as the Hon. Premier has said, future generations will have to be paying back for some of these things, because the contribution that you make to a man's house today is the contribution he is going to make to society in future. The hon. member cannot put down this loan which you are making to Mr. A, because you are getting money for him which he could not get, and you are getting it at 7% and lending him at 4%. It cannot be narrowed

down like that when it comes to Civil Servants loans, because this is a policy which has been erected for Civil Servants to borrow money from Government for housing loans, and under this policy the rate of interest has been laid down. The Government therefore says that wherever they get the money from, whether it is Loan Funds or any other funds, they are going to make a contribution. 3.35 p.m.

It is a contribution which they make to the Civil Servants by giving them a loan at a cheap rate. It is not a loan from you to me and you give me at 3% less. Nobody would have a system like that. It is something which is included in your general fiscal policy; and when you talk about the cost of living, you forget that there are these invisible contributions to the people's economy which cannot be reflected in the cost of living index.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, I have seen the hon. member's point. The Hon. Minister pointed out to the hon. member who asked the question that this is 4 1/2% on loans to Public Officers. I understood the whole situation relative to the Development Plan with respect to Housing Loans. This is a set plan which they have of loaning money to people in the Service at 4 1/2% at the time when they said that we borrowed this money at so much per cent and lend you at this rate. This entire situation has changed. If you are paying more, how can you loan them at 4 1/2%? The hon. member says that I do not understand.

Mr. WALCOTT: I rise on a point of order. The hon. member said that I did not understand him and I replied by saying that he did not understand me.

Mr. MOTTLEY: If the Agricultural Bank has \$X invested and they had to lend out more and had to borrow that money, naturally, what they have always been doing is to say that we give you this at so much per cent, but we have to borrow this at so much; therefore, we have to lend you that at so much per cent. Certainly the Agricultural Bank was not going to Barclays Bank and say: "Lend us money at 7 1/2% and lend it to Mr. Julian Mahon at 6 1/2%". I do not know, but I do not think that has ever happened.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: I rise on a point of order. I do not want to stifle debate on the matter before us, but I just want to point out that we have not yet done any work and there is a lot of it before us.

Mr. MOTTLEY: The Hon. Minister ought to be the last person to say that we have not done any work yet. You must have tolerance enough to know that there are those of us who would do nothing to hold up the work of this House. I am sure that the Hon. Minister will agree with me that if you have to pay more money on the amount which you are borrowing, you will have to lend it out at a different rate.

The question that the sum of \$45,000 under Head 26, Housing, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 27 — PUBLIC WORKS

Head 27 — Public Works — was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: There is an amendment under Head 27, On page 62, Item 26, the Note is to read: "Maintenance of mills and pumps at Government Institutions. Includes provision for minor replacements. Work to be done by Department of Highways and Transport."

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$580,868 under Head 27, Public Works, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, Item 46, is District Post Offices, and the Note to it reads: "For repairing and extending District Post Offices:-"

(a) Repairs and alterations to St. Andrew Post Office; (b) Converting a room at St. Peter Post Office into a toilet for postmen."

Now, Sir, I am not going to say anything much on this. I am only going to invite the Hon. Minister to have a look at the St. Thomas Post Office and then have a look at the other ones which we are going to vote money for repairs. I am sure that he will stop repairing them and repair the St. Thomas Post Office before them. I am not saying anything more; I am only inviting the Hon. Minister to pay a visit to the St. Thomas Post Office.

Mr. WALCOTT: I would like to know what is the significance about the St. Thomas Post Office when there is a Post Office in St. Joseph.

The question that the sum of \$580,868 under Head 27, Public Works, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 28 - PRINTING OFFICE

Head 28 - Printing Office - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Under Head 28, there is an amendment. On page 66, Item 24, Electricity, delete amount to be voted \$2,500.

I beg to move that the sum of \$79,247 under Head 28, Printing Office, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 29 - TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

Head 29 - Town and Country Planning - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Under this Head, there is an amendment. On page 68, Item 19, Furniture and Equipment, delete amount to be voted \$360, substitute \$936. Note to read: "To purchase a Plan Printer and Developer and one Card Index Cabinet; two water cans, one fan, one drawing board and miscellaneous drawing instruments for D.C.O.; also one drawing desk and stool for Town and Country Planning Officer."

Also on page 67, Item 14, Incidentals, delete amount to be voted \$337, and substitute \$297.

I beg to move that the sum of \$37,019 under Head 29, Town and Country Planning, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am speaking under Item 18, Appeals. I am not one of those members who object to a certain amount of democracy in Government Departments, but I am opposed to democracy being denied in such places where the citizens are served. I am saying this in a general way. If there is not relaxation in the attitude of the Town and Country Planning Office, then it is going to stultify development in this Island to a stage where we will have a lot of dilapidated buildings hanging about Bridgetown.
3.45 p.m.

I have been noting for some time that there has been this stage where I see that people are becoming afraid even to start to do anything on their premises, because this fear has spread that you cannot touch your building or do anything to it where there is not much scope for these rigid regulations. Barbados is a small place, and nothing we do can do much to improve that. What we have to aim at is to allow people to live decently and comfortably within this island. There is no point in asking or telling a man, who has a little palisade at his door, where he has a little front

step and he tries to move that front step and put in a front window, that he must pull down his paling; at the back of his premises there is somebody's pig pen and he cannot take in anything more. On the other hand, you have some of these places, some of these walls like Da Costa's where you can lean until you go a long way. Whenever these people start to fix anything, they have quite a lot of room. I am thinking of the case of a man at Ashton Hall; he had enough room at the back of his premises; he is adding to these premises and he is going to erect something on his little porch which is on the windward side. There is no problem, and he is told that there was a problem about the water.

Mr. Chairman, in a community like ours where you have so much unemployment and underemployment, it is inevitable that you will have an army of self-employed people in order that they can eke out an existence. A husband is working as a mason or a carpenter and his wife is trying with some sweet drinks or something of the sort so as to make ends meet. There is a lot of unemployment, disguised, technological and otherwise. People should not look at Barbados as one of these large areas in the world where we want these broad highways. We must be content with narrow streets. Do not let us be fooled into the idea that we will have wide streets in an island like this. The people of this country must be educated to narrow streets owing to the formation of the country. Do not let us get the idea that we will have driveways and carriageways. In San Juan, the capital City of Puerto Rico, in some streets in that City itself, no two cars can pass one way. These are the streets which we have, and they may have been so at the time of the buggies; but I do not think you should tell people that they cannot repair their premises so that they can have room on two sides.

You will go along a road which is parallel with canes. You are not sending back your canefields and the canes are growing dangerously near the road. These canes are not far enough from the road; sometimes they go over the road and they could be turned from one side to the other quite easily. These canes are really dangerous from the point of view of traffic. You take the road coming down from Searles to St. Patricks, and on the Lodge Road there are canes growing in such a way that you cannot see the signs; these signs are hidden, and if you are not familiar with the road, that is a very serious situation. I do not suggest that you should curtail the acreage of the island, but I do suggest that our streets should present an easy pathway so that we can see the traffic and thereby the number of accidents will be minimised.

As to the repairs of premises, great care should be taken not to stultify such repairs. Some one has told me that there are too many unnecessary restrictions in connection with the construction of houses here, that sometimes there are too long delays; and if something is not done in the matter, we will find that hundreds of people who are waiting to build houses will not be able to proceed with this work. In a place like Barbados with all of this unemployment, we cannot afford to do that. This is not a criticism of the Ministry or of the Department as such, but it is a point of view which I am expressing in the interest of my own country. I feel that everything should be done in order to facilitate people in building houses and in giving assistance to poor people. I feel that as to these poor people with their chattel houses with a valuation limited to \$5,000 or \$6,000, there is no point in being rigid with these people if they want to give themselves a little improvement. Let us help these people to help themselves. This is the core of our society, a citizenship which we should try to help. It would seem to me that as soon as a man is in that category of life where he cannot buy any spot of land where he wants to be dignified, you want him to live under this standard for ever and ever; and although he is trying to improve the situation, you want to keep him to what was always his position. I do not think that that is good enough; I think we should try to help these people.
3 55 p.m.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I rise to support my colleague wholeheartedly on this matter. I am not here for vituperations or criticism, but I should like to suggest to

when there will be no standpipes at all, but at present I am asking the Government to make the distance shorter. The people in the Joes River Tenantry are not going to instal water in their homes; so an ordinary half an inch pipe can be run from the main road into the district. The same thing can be done in the Airy Hill District and similiar areas all over the country. In some areas you have to carry a four inch pipe of cast iron, and in others where people are not able to instal water, they would appreciate a standpipe being installed inside the area. There is no place in Barbados where the Government would not be able to carry water to the people. They have carried water to Hackleton's Cliff, which is up a hill and down a cliff; so I hope the Minister will take note of what I have said and do his utmost to carry water to these people, and do away with the old time method of allocating two or three pipes to a parish each year.

Now, Sir, Item 39 — Purchase and Maintenance of Meters — is a very sore question. This matter was one of the planks of the present Government's platform which caused them to use the broom among the last Government by telling the people that the Government was bringing in meters, and they would not be able to give their next door neighbour a bucket of water because they would have to pay for it. What has become of these meters? I would like to know if they arrived and where they are that this Government has to be voting money for more meters. If you had listened to the talk at that time, Mr. Chairman, you would have believed that the island would have been flooded with meters. I should like to know if these meters were purchased at all and what has become of them.

Another question, Sir, is that increase in water rates. We cannot get away from the law, but we can amend it. You are carrying out the letter of the law by rating according to the value of property, a system which was used in those days when very few people had properties, and if they had, they were small ones.
4.55 p.m.

Today, every little chauffeur, every little butler, every little mason, every little carpenter, has erected a property and is trying to make it better, and that has caused that property to be of greater value than what it was before. Places which were valued at \$1,000 have a valuation now of \$10,000. That carries up the value of the property, but not the consumption of water. For instance, I had a property for the last twelve years and at the time the valuation was \$1,200. Today the valuation is \$12,000. As things go up, so does the valuation of houses go up: but no more water is used.

That law really needs amending. The Hon. Minister will get up and say that that is the law, but I want to ask him if it is a wise thing. I know of a woman who has made improvements to her house. Her husband is out of the Island and she has one little boy residing with her. She goes out to work at six o'clock in the morning and the little boy goes to school. That house is closed for the entire day. The value of the house has gone up, but nobody is living in it, so to speak. As a result, her water rates have increased from three dollars to nine dollars. Yet she is using less water.

I want the Hon. Minister to look into this matter. I will not talk of my own because that has gone up by leaps and bounds. The Government may be afraid to put meters in because they told the people that we were bringing in meters to kill the people with water rates. I am sure if meters were put in, the people would pay less. Everybody is saying now that they would have preferred paying by the meter system, but they are only saying that since the rates have gone up. To meter the water used is essential to the Government because if you use it, you pay for it; but if you do not use it, you do not pay for it. In this case, the method is that if you do not use the water, you still have to pay for it. It is not fair. I call that high class robbery. According to the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, that is robbery with a capital V. You are robbing the people because you are calling upon the people to pay more money while they are using less water. I pay less money for consuming water at my garage than at my home, and what I use at home is less than what I use at the garage.

I would say that you should put in meters if you want to be fair to the people. On my part, I would pay the price of a meter and pay for the service to instal it and I know that I would still win. If you do not wish to instal meters, well then, amend the law. You have to do one of the two things. It is not fair for people to pay three and four times more for water rates and yet they are using less water. The value of properties today has gone up. You have a wife and two children living at your home. You have a house valued at \$1,000, but as time went on, you improved it and it is valued five times as much as it was. You pay your water rates on the value, but there is no more consumption of water. There are the same number of people living in that house as before; yet you have to pay more on the house and more for the consumption of water. That is not fair. In some cases you are paying the tax on valuation, but you are not living in the house or renting it out. You are paying income tax also and now your water rates have gone up. What will you call it? Surely it is robbery with a Capital V. I hope the Hon. Minister will go into it and do something to relieve these people.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister for dealing with Items 30 and 48, Mains and Hydrants. A few weeks ago, when I complained about the absence of a water supply in certain areas, particularly Thorpes Village and Rock Dundo, the Hon. Minister assured me that every attempt was being made to either repair or instal hydrants. I know that the Hon. Minister does not make promises which he does not see his way to fulfil, and he acts expeditiously. I know how the people of these areas will be relieved to know that something will be done and that that state of affairs will be corrected in the very near future.

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I would certainly like to draw to the Committee that we are spending \$1,581,945 on water and we are receiving \$888,541. In other words, the taxpayers are paying by way of indirect taxation \$683,000 to subsidise water. You say that, because of the re-valuation of properties, you have received an increase of revenue to the amount of \$116,000; but then your expenditure on Waterworks is \$168,000 more: therefore, you are still further subsidising your Waterworks this year.

Those are facts which hon. members should know, because it is so easy to make out one side of the picture, especially on a platform. You cannot give one side; you must give both sides. The taxpayers of this Island are subsidising water to the tune of \$683,000 and I am sure that the Hon. Minister would have said that.

As regards the hydrants, that is a system taken over from yesterday. The Government has always called on Local Government Councils and asked them each year which areas they want water extended to, and it is up to the Local Government Councils to say that it wants a standpipe here or there.
5.05 p.m.

If the main is there, it does not cost a fortune to put in a standpost, because it will be the duty of the Local Government Council to provide the platforms at a minimum charge for the installation of the water, and they also have to see that there is a proper drainage to take off the water. What the Government asks is this: "Let us know what areas are thickly-populated and in which there are no water mains, so that we can extend our mains as a matter of priority". We would furnish about sixty districts in which we would like to see standposts erected, but they will give us seven, eight or ten; however, in the long run, the Government will find themselves spending large sums of money for the installation of water. Where the villages are most thickly populated and where the people are far away from the standposts or the mains, that is what we have to consider. I want to correct the impression that, because of the increased valuation of property, one will have to pay more for his water. The water could not cost more because of the re-valuation of the property.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the hon. junior member

for Christ Church, I would say, however, that the situation is a little worse than that. I am not now defending the Hon. Minister, but it is about some \$800,000 which we receive in revenue from water, and you could deduct about \$260,000 from that for plumbing. The point which the hon. member has made is one of those political points which you must understand a politician is at liberty to make. What disturbs me is what our politicians are projecting in 1964. In the mediaeval times, water was the only thing that politicians could think about in trying to get a vote. I want to say, Sir, that there should be a complete reorientation of the thinking of members of this Chamber about the question of the utilisation of water. I am not a stand-pipe politician; I do not believe in the bogus idea of wanting a vote as a result of where I put a standpipe. We want to get away from the position of people who are living away behind the canes, and you have to lay down mains in order to carry the water services to these places where the people have been landed. You have to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to carry the water service to them. It is either a question of Mohammed coming to the mountain or the mountain coming to Mohammed.

Another point is that you have this sort of low thinking. There is positively too much low thinking in Barbados, and hon. members of this Chamber should encourage people to have a higher perspective in the pitching of their sights. I am satisfied in my mind that this donkey-cart thinking must cease. There are people in the metropolitan area and in the suburban area who cannot afford to have water installed in their places; they have grown up with the inferiority complex that this water was not meant for them, and they congregate at the standpipe, which is a nice meeting place for them. We are raising the standard of living of the people. I do not subscribe to the view of the hon. junior member for Christ Church, looking at this matter as how he looks at it. There was always an illogical system of valuation, how much you are going to pay for water. The valuing of a man's home is not a scientific basis as to how much he will pay for his water. That was the premise in the old days; it was not a question of the number of people who had property, but it was a question of those who had water. The valuation was according to the number of people living in the property.

The position is different nowadays; at any point nowadays water is cheap. The installation of water costs more per unit than the installation of electricity having regard to the number of water services being used. If you compare the use of units in gallons and the scientific use of electricity, you will find that the cost per month in any man's home for electricity is more than what he is paying for water. I will tell the hon. junior member for St. Joseph that if you had to pay the capital costs together with the recurrent costs in the whole system of water, you would be astounded as to the cost.

Mr. Chairman, there was a time when I had to pay for bringing water to my home, and it cost me more money to drink larvae than when I was getting water installed. In a remote area, you would either have to bring the water yourself, and I may say that certain wives will not bring any water. You have to get up at 4 o'clock in the morning and pull your hat down over your face, as my colleague has said, *(Laughter)*. I saw somebody one morning fetching water; he did not expect to see me at that time and he tried to reverse the car faster than how a Jet goes forward. *(Laughter)*. He did not consider that I understand the economics of life.

5.15 p.m.

If a man had four or five children and his wife had a baby, he would not want to be asked to go and bring water. That is a peculiar thing about life. If a person had a pipe in the yard and it was 500 yards away, he would walk that distance any time, but he would not go 10 yards across the street. Again that is part of the system of slavery. I think the past Government helped people to instal these services, but I do not think that you can regard these charges as exorbitant. I think at one time people paid 5/- a quarter, and nobody can get that kind of service for less than one penny a day. That is why I said not to put into people's mind the

idea that they are paying a lot. The hon. member says we should bring in the meters, but I can assure him that if that is done it will add to the cost of collecting money, because they have to be paid for by somebody. People complain that there is a meter rent for electric meters.

Mr. Chairman, I suggest to the hon. member that the valuation on houses is not a scientific one, but I do not think you can get down to a scientific valuation in our context; you have to be arbitrary. What I think people should be encouraged to do is to put in more water. I am really opposed, Mr. Chairman, to this idea of perpetuating this standpipe outlook and of people trekking or wending their way to pipes. It looks primitive to me, and the time has come when Governments must be bold enough to tell people who are building houses, whether small or large, in places where water services are available, that they must put a tap in the place as part of the building. If they continue living in these 18' x 9' houses, in the next fifteen years you are going to have a lot of trashy buildings; so you have to change people's mental outlook in this island. Let us take the Foul Bay Road or some of these streets in the country where water services run alongside people's doorsteps. Can you tell us in a general way what really prevents people from putting in water in some of these places? Is it really costs? If you analyse it you will see that a man who smokes cigarettes or a man who drinks spends more than \$1.25 a quarter; but it is a condition of the mind. If a man regarded smoking as something for the big man to do, he would abhor it; but he gets this idea that services like electricity and water in his house are really not for him. There must be a complete reorientation to make people understand the value of these services which are available to them.

Now we know, Mr. Chairman, that it is not easy to get these services into all the areas, because some people live in remote tenancies, and this tenancy system is inimical to the growth we are talking about, because it perpetuates the additional cost that we cannot afford. Each time you have some outlandish tenancy that you cannot find, you have to travel long distances if you want to carry the services to these people. For an example, there is a district in Kendal, St. John where you have to drive through Kendal Factory, and you ride for long distances, and when you come to the other end, you are in St. George. It is just like West Berlin which is surrounded by the Russians; so you can only get into West Berlin if you go through one of these areas or you use a helicopter and come down from above. I have been up there to some meetings, and I will say to the hon. junior member for St. John, whose constituency it is, that it is atrocious. These people are completely cut off from the two areas of life that exist in St. George on one side and St. Philip on the other. To carry services to that area, you would have to build a new town behind the canes, and then there would be the dangers when you have fires.

What I think hon. members should aim at, Mr. Chairman, is to try to encourage a completely different thinking among people in their outlook about service and stop this low thinking and dragging of feet, and not thinking in terms of improvement. If we can make people spend some of their money in some of the services they require in a community, that is one of the greatest contributions we can make to the economic life of this community, because the money would be turning over profitably in the services that mean something to the community as a whole. When the hon. member says that these services are robbing the people, I believe he is gearing for a political campaign and he is using the epithets that are appropriate to slate his opponents, such things as robbing, carrying away and withholding. When you are spending \$1,500,000 on a project from which you are taking back from the community something like \$600,000, you cannot be accused of robbing. The hon. junior member for Christ Church would tell you, if you were running this as a private enterprise, what would happen. What I should like to draw to the Minister's attention is that his water policy in a general way should aim at densities of population, and endeavour to see what he can do. People come to all of us making requests for water services. He knows we have the problems in St. Peter where certain areas are regarded as not being suitable for extending water services owing to the physical arrangements. I be-

lieve it is going to tax this Government a bit to work out what they are going to do with such areas. Are you thinking of a sewerage system that would be suitable to their needs? I do not think you can go in for removing the people in these areas to new areas.
5.25 p.m.

What are you thinking of? I would say if you are thinking of these things, then I would say a sewerage system would be of some use. I am aware of the high cost which a sewerage system would cost, but I think, may be for your own future plans, you may have to do it. What extensions I have seen in Barbados, this is where we should commend the Government. There is no other public service which is more important, because water is more essential to life than any other service. The Government has extended our water service to some of the remote areas of this country, and similar services have not been extended by other companies which run public utilities; and when it comes to the cost of water service to people, it is as it should be. It should be at its lowest point; and if now the people are being called upon to pay for these things, I would say to the hon. member that he should not get the idea that you are paying for the water which you use because a lot of people who have not a domestic service in their houses are actually paying for it and you are getting yours supplied to you in your house.

Mr. YEARWOOD: Mr. Chairman, speaking on Items 48 and 49, I am bound to commend the Hon. Minister for his foresight because where water hydrants are concerned, you will recall that a few weeks ago, I had to draw it to the attention of the Government, especially as regards parts of St. John. I am particularly happy to see that the Hon. Minister is making sure that of the \$8,000 to be spent on hydrants, he intends to put them throughout the Island.

One of the things which I noticed is that we had a fire in Claybury about two weeks ago and in the tenantry itself they have two water hydrants. Can you imagine that the Fire Service went through that tenantry and not one of those hydrants could be used? What I discovered was that while the tractor or something like that was ploughing the land in the immediate area, they shifted the case which protects the water hydrants and they were left like that. At any time, the hydrants are damaged by the people of the estate, they should pay for them; but rather than pay for them, they would not even notify the Waterworks Department so that the Department could have them fixed. We could have had a number of houses burnt down as a result because two houses caught fire; and if it were not that the tanks of the Fire Service Vehicles were filled with water, they would have been more houses burnt. Therefore, I think that it is a good thing to have a regular inspection of these water hydrants, and in case that they are in disrepair they should call on the Waterworks Department to have them repaired.

Another thing, speaking on Item 49, on which I find that the Hon. Minister in charge has very much foresight is that of providing water tanks. Just three nights ago, we had a very bad burst main at Society, St. John, and it cut away the supply to the Lodge School which is an institution with 92 children boarding. You can imagine what it would have meant if 92 children at that institution had to go to bed without water. It caused a bit of alarm and I had to get in touch with the Department to see what could be done. Eventually, the Chief Engineer made it possible to get a tank of water up there at 10.30 p.m. that night. I must commend the Hon. Minister for that because at 8.00 p.m. when I rang the Waterworks Department, I was made to understand that they had only one water tank in service and it was in St. Andrew without a fan belt; so it could not come up the hill. The efforts made by the Chief Engineer to the Lodge School were very commendable and I must commend the Minister for his foresight in bringing down another \$2,000 to get another water tank.

On the other hand, I have always heard the hon. senior member for St. Peter, whenever he has to talk of a tenantry which is so cut away from the sight of the public, talk about the tenantry at Kendal. What I think happens is that when the hon. senior member for St. Peter goes to

Kendal, he does not know the direct route. If he goes from Halton, he will find that getting to that tenantry is very easy; but if he goes from Woodland, he will find it impossible to find the place. I am not suggesting that Kendal is what it should be because we have a lot of development to do there. We had a road constructed there last year which caused the people to be happy, and one of the things which we must have there now is electricity; but, in my opinion, if you were making a comparison of Indian Ground and Kendal, there would be no comparison because sometimes I wonder how I could live in Indian Ground. Nevertheless, I must commend the Hon. Minister for making available these needed services.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for Christ Church as well as the hon. senior member for St. Peter have pretty well answered the question which I would have to answer for the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. But I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member a couple of things with regard to his thinking of the water service. It is unfortunate in this Island that every possible thing which this Government has done to lift the standards of the past, the hon. member gets around to make capital out of the ignorance of the unfortunate people in this Island. Just as the windfall which caused the destruction of the canes in this Island, the same thing is happening with the water services; and if the water service was something to catch afire because of the increased valuation of properties which has caused the people to pay more for their domestic supply, the Waterworks would have been burnt down too. I say that without any hesitation. The days of stand pipe politics are over. The days for fooling people that you put a standpipe in that district for him are over. This Government has no intention of introducing standpipe politics to the people. We are not building any standpipe monuments to the memory of the Democratic Labour Party.
5.35 p.m.

We want to see every individual citizen in this country with a pipe in his yard. Imagine this Party offering free Secondary Education in the Government-aided Schools; and some of the parents of these children would find out that, with the last valuation of property, the rate is \$1.25 per quarter for water. The hon. member has just mentioned somebody paying \$9.00 per quarter for water. Well, Sir, I want to say that nobody can get anybody to bring sufficient water to last him for a day at the rate of ten cents per day. In Curacao you have to pay ten cents for a gallon kerosene tin of well water, whereas people in Barbados are running around with a human cry asking: "What have you done with us?" A man came in to see me and when I worked it out with him that for ninety days he was paying three cents a day for water, he went out of my office a happy man.

We do not want to have people going out into the road for water. When we came into office, there were twenty-nine hundred outstanding applications for water and we had to try to carry out a crash programme. Now they are running around telling people that we are trying to increase the water rates. The highest valuation is about \$900.00. Mr. Chairman, I went into this matter very thoroughly and the rate would not be more than 16 cents a day. I objected to the matter of metering water because a man who would pay an average of three cents a day might find that, with eight or nine children, if each person uses thirty gallons of water at 8 cents per thousand gallons and \$2.40 meter rent a quarter, you will find out where that poor man would be. He would be in a very difficult position. A man whose house has a valuation of \$900.00 is in a far better position than a man who has to pay three or four cents per day for his water. We had to instal 2,900 water services as I have already said, and that was a back log of applications which I came into the Ministry and found. Nobody cared whether the particular class of man referred to had any water in his premises or not.

I want to assure hon. members that this Government is doing everything possible in the matter of providing water services. In a district where less pipe is run and more people can be served, we have to serve them within our financial resources. Just one week ago I had a meeting with

a representative from the World Health Organization in connection with borrowing money at a low rate from the World Bank, to finance our water development programme. It is the intention of this Government to get water into every possible house that we possibly can, and do not let anybody get away with the idea that we will put a stand-pipe in the district in which such-and-such a person lives. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph need not worry about that, or about the matter of metering water. The fellow in the highest bracket must pay for the fellow in the lowest bracket who cannot pay. That is my theory about it.

In these modern days where health and sanitation have been lifted far above the standard where it was ten years ago, more water is used. Within the last five years, the amount of water consumed is five million gallons more. There is a big programme for getting money to buy areas of land in Ashton Hall. We have just put down new wells in New Market and at Hampton, and there is a whole big programme for sinking more wells in order to try to facilitate people with water. As far as water is concerned, the people need not fear; and as far as the price they pay for water is concerned, I say that they are lucky to have it. I told a man this; "Every evening you go home, put down the five cents which you would pay a little girl for bringing water for you, and at the end of the quarter you would still be able to take up some of that money." It is time that people live and have pride and decency in themselves, and realise that it is better to pay for something than live without something. Too much lobbying has gone on, and people lose too much of the pride in themselves, something which has been imposed on this country for the last fifteen years by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and his Party.

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

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, do you think that I could allow the hon. member to wash out his mouth on me and I do not say anything? The Hon. Minister is one of those for whom I have a high regard and respect. I never expected that he would have tried to go into the gutter in order to reply to me, but the Minister knows that if he goes down there, I can go lower down than he and get up quicker than he and I would stand up on him too. The hon. member began by saying that hon. members like me, and if the Waterworks were like the Windfall for which.....

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: On a point of order, I did not say members like him, I said members of his Party, because he was not a Minister or anything of the sort.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member is learning how to do the twist, but that dance is too old. Well, he said 'members of my Party', but if the Waterworks were like the Windfall, the Waterworks would have been burnt out too. He is one of those persons who believe that the Windfall money is responsible for the fires. I want to say, Sir, that if the hon. member is ready for me, I am also ready for him. I will get on top of him first because he is too small.
5.45 p.m.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: On a point of order, I should like to draw to the hon. member's attention that it takes a lot more than him to get on top of me. I am pretty fast.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, too much weight stopped a train. The hon. member admitted that people came to him. The hon. junior member for Christ Church got up and replied for the Government by drawing to the attention of the House the receipts and expenditure, but my reply to the hon. junior member for Christ Church is that everybody is paying for water, because as soon as a person drinks half a gill of rum, he is paying for it.

Mr. GODDARD: On a point of order, that is exactly what I said. Every taxpayer in this Island is paying for that service, including myself.

Mr. SMITH: When it comes to water, Mr. Chairman, you have to forget the cost. If water was to be a paying con-

cern, the Government would not have had it at all; it would be in private individuals' hands and we would not be able to drink it; so that is one of the commodities that belongs to a Government. The Government therefore should expect losses when it comes to water; so the hon. member should not argue about receipts and expenditure. All I am asking the Minister is to change the system whereby people are rated on the valuation of their houses. If you want to make water a paying concern, say so and charge to suit; but do not make such large increases on people who are not using it. Under the present system, if I use one gallon of water, I have to pay at the same rate as if I use ten. The Minister said that my Party is responsible for all these things, and whenever his Government tries to do something, my Party is criticising them. The Minister is not a politician yet; he will begin to learn politics from the next election. He was not here to hear the members of his Party putting forward points for the people of this country. (*Cheers!*) A member of his Party brought in an old basket with a butter tot, lard oil bottle, salt fish, rice and other items and emptied them on this Table. If the hon. member had seen that he would have run out of this Chamber.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: On a point of order, that was the occasion when the hon. member voted against an increase in Old Age Pensions.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member was short, but was that a point of order? The Minister must regard his post when he is doing these things and set an example. He should leave that for the hon. member at his left.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am still listening to the hon. member on this water talk.

Mr. SMITH: The members of his Party argued in here and kept me in the Chair from 12 o'clock one day until 7.30 next morning. They are laughing now, but at that time they were arguing their points and representing their people. What does the Hon. Minister want me to do? Does he want me to come in and sit down like a colossal idiot as I am usually called and not represent the people of Barbados? One will say I am catching votes, but the time for catching votes has passed. I have them now and my hands are tightly folded. (Mr. MOTTLEY: Tom will take them from you.) I do not know who is Tom. I know Tom had a big dog. However, Sir, I am surprised at the reply which the Hon. Minister tried to give me. Anywhere you go in this country and open a tap, water comes out; so I am saying that it is still free in the true sense of the word. You can draw as much as you want from any pipe, and no one is there to call for a penny or six cents. The increase now, however, is too great in relation to what the charge was before, especially since you say that the last Government wanted people to pay too much for it.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, the payment for water is not when you go for it, but for when it is brought to you. Standpipes are still in the road and there is absolutely no charge on them; but the difference arises when water is brought into your place, and there is the increased cost of bringing it.

Mr. SMITH: Comparatively speaking, Mr. Chairman, even with the increased rates, I am getting it free at my home, if you think in terms of its value and cost. Nobody is paying for it if you think of it in that term and in the true sense of the word.
5.55 p.m.

As the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown said sometime ago, if you want to know the real value of money, let it be that you want to borrow some. Let it be that you want to buy something; and even if somebody wants to lend you and you make the necessary arrangements to go and get it, when you go, the person tells you "No". You must feel that you are something less than a human being.

What I am saying is that we are paying for it already. I am paying either \$9.00 or \$10.00 a quarter for water in my home. I am already paying for it. There are other

avenues of taxation. Let us take it in that light. The Hon. Premier said yesterday that only 10% of the people are paying taxes. In his way, that is how he takes it. Every living human being in this country apart from the ones in the almshouses are paying taxes, and some of the small people pay more taxes than I do. Comparatively speaking, they may be paying more in their private capacity than the hon. junior member for Christ Church.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. As I understand the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, he says that the Hon. Premier said that only 10% of the people in this country are paying taxes. The Hon. Premier did not say that. With respect to direct taxation and the yield from it, the Hon. Premier mentioned that percentage, but the Hon. Premier, as everybody knows, knows that everybody who is a consumer pays taxes.

Mr. SMITH: I was making a point: but every time the Hon. Minister gets up, I will go further. When the hon. junior member for Christ Church and other ordinary persons like himself meet and they are going to fire one, he knows that he is going to mix his rum and call it a cocktail and may be, it would only contain 2% rum. Now, Sir, when I am going to fire one, I am not going to mix mine with water; therefore, I am going to drink 100% rum. Put it together, I pay more taxes than he; therefore, do not think that because you are paying the big lump sum that you are paying more. I know of a man who gets up every morning and goes to Mrs. Foster's shop and says that he wants a "bishop". Every morning he drinks one gill. Those are the people who keep the country up. (Laughter) He drinks a gill every morning but I do not drink any. The Government gets four cents out of every half gill. Therefore, the Government gets eight cents from that chap every morning and it does not get anything from me. In the course of a week the Government gets 56 cents from that chap, and I have not taken one yet. In the course of four weeks, that must come to about \$2.24.

I want the Hon. Minister, therefore, to understand that whenever I get up and put a case, I put it for the people who have approached me on the matter. There are people in St. Michael who come to me, and I have never yet sent them to either one of those hon. members. (A VOICE: What do they come to you for?) Certain things which I would not disclose now. I have never yet sent them to the Hon. Minister or his colleague. Whatever I can do for them, I do; therefore, when you are a representative of the people, it is not that you are a representative of a particular parish. The hon. senior member for St. Peter does not represent St. Peter alone. I dare suppose that he does more for other people in the other parishes than he does for those in the parish which he represents.

Well Sir, I do not take the view that if you have to speak to my Party over anything in which members of my Party have acted wrongly that I care, because if I know that they have done something wrong, my mouth is wide and I will not encourage them to do anything which is wrong or unfair. If you want to attack them, attack them. But a Government member has no right attacking ex-members of the Government. They should learn to live like lawyers and doctors. Lawyers and doctors do not attack their counterparts on their professional duties. That is how Government members should live. What is the good of your talking about a Party which you have succeeded? As a matter of fact, I would not let any person hear me calling any of their names if I had succeeded them. It seems to me as if members of my Party are still hurting those people, and they believe that by saying these things about those people, it would prevent them from getting back in the saddle. They are even now accusing them about cane fires. Why should the Hon. Minister in his reply to me bring in the Windfall and the cane fires?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. The hon. member must have been absent from this Chamber last Tuesday. It was said by one of his Party members, and the hon. member disassociated himself from it. Do not think that I am suffering from a shallow memory. This is fresh in the minds of everybody and I think we should keep it fresh.

Mr. SMITH: The mere fact that I disassociated myself shows that I was honest to myself, my Party and the people. The hon. member had no right to mention it at all.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I mentioned it, but I did not associate the hon. junior member for St. Joseph with it at all. I said 'members of his Party'; I did not say 'the hon. member and his Party.' I said 'members of the Party of which the hon. member had the honour to be Vice Chairman.'

Mr. WALCOTT: There is something which the hon. junior member for St. Joseph has said by implication, and he does not mean all that he said. When he said that this gentleman who lives near him passes on mornings and goes to a shop and calls for a "bishop" and by that he makes an eight cents contribution to the taxes, then I would say if you have an inveterate drinker who consumes an unlimited amount of alcohol, he is making a contribution better than a respectable citizen who makes a contribution in other fields. Is that so? It is people who drink an awful lot who fill the Hospital; and when you look at the Hospital bill, you will see what those of us have to pay for the man who drinks rum to the tune of paying the Government 56 cents taxation.
6.05 p.m.

Mr. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the person to whom I referred I have never seen drunk; I believe that the alcohol has made him immune from sickness. That will allay the hon. member's fear that he will have to make a contribution by way of taxation to the Hospital for this particular purpose. For anyone who drinks his drink seldom becomes ill, and the undertaker get very little out of him.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, during the debate on this question of water, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph seemed to be rather severe on the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, apparently because my colleague, the hon. junior member for Christ Church, made the point that although you have an increase in revenue there is an increase of expenditure. The increase in revenue is \$16,000 and the expenditure is \$168,000. I got up primarily to make one thing abundantly clear. During the Election campaign, I joined forces with the present Government to offer opposition to the idea of metering every householder of domestic water service, and I still feel that way about it now. Happily, I see in the Estimates that meters will be used for gardening purposes and for industry. I understand from the Notes that they have abandoned the idea of metering the domestic service, that is to say, the service which is attached to every little house, and therefore that \$500,000 is abandoned.

Mr. Chairman, I hear a *sotto voce* remark, which might not even have been meant for my ears, to the effect that they were bound to abandon these meters or they would lose. That is an indication that they intended to use these meters. Under the Waterworks Act, the cost of domestic services is really fixed by rules and regulations made by the Governor-in-Executive Committee. I have stood up, not with a view of delaying the passing of this Head, but to make it abundantly clear — and I hope that the debate which took place on this question and the good mood which the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was in, would not prevent this matter from coming to the fore-front. Section 35 (1) of the Act says this:-

"(1) Water shall be supplied for domestic purposes at such rates as shall be fixed by the rules and regulations made under this Act."

Last week when we were debating another matter, I mentioned this because those of us who are in Local Government know how we are harassed about certain matters. I want to say that I feel that water is free to everybody and I quite agree with the Hon. Minister in that. Water is free to the extent that it is laid down that the Public Health Authorities shall erect public standpipes, but if you want the water service at your convenience and in your premises, then you must pay for it. I must say that our prices are cheaper than those which are charged in any of the neigh-

bouring colonies. It is true that we have a good water supply, and within the last twenty years or so, quite a lot has been done to improve the water supply. There have been many domestic extensions carried out, and the rules and regulations which exist today call upon people to pay in accordance with the valuation of their property. It must therefore be borne in mind that none of the Local Government Authorities is responsible for the water rates.

Mr. Chairman, I see that the Chairman of the Southern District Council is looking at me; I believe that he must have had enquiries made of him and he must have been harassed about this matter. I am saying, Sir, that none of the Local Government Authorities is responsible for the Water rates. I am not saying that the prices which are charged for water in Barbados are exorbitant; far from that, I say that the prices are reasonable. I want to make that point abundantly clear. I want to make it quite clear that no Local Government Authority is responsible in this matter. 6.15 p.m.

During the past five years you have had two valuations on property, the first being in 1958-59 which resulted in an increase of one's water rates on production of a tax bill. There has been another valuation of which I made mention when the Premier brought down a Bill to remove any doubt which existed in the minds of persons, because the valuation had not been published. I do not think the Minister of Communications and Works was here, but I mentioned that in keeping with section 35 of the Act prices were fixed in accordance with the valuation. I have no complaints, and I could not be dishonest to get up and say that people are overcharged, knowing what they pay in other colonies. What I should like to know is whether new rules will be made to further increase the water rates from the new valuation. Your new rates will bring you \$16,000 more; but you are still spending more for the improvement of this very necessary service. People must understand that, as has been told me by a very eminent figure, if they must have these important services to improve the standard of living, and they are not paid for by manna coming down from Heaven, all of us must pay. The Premier repeated what I said on another occasion, and that is that ten per cent of the people pays 90 per cent of the direct taxes, while 90 per cent of the people pays the other 10 per cent of the taxes. For some reason people thought that this metamorphosis in the form of Government would have found some rascals, that they would have collected so much more money through taxes, and that people would have been put in gaol. Through the very competent officers, some of whom are connected with the Income Tax Department with the eagle eye which they use to scrutinise these returns, such persons have been disappointed.

I feel, Mr. Chairman, that on this whole question of water, this Government can be commended for carrying out its policy of extension of the services, for indeed it is the ambition of nearly every householder, as soon as he can put his hands upon the money, to have water in his home for his convenience, despite the fact that water may be in front of his home. I see nothing wrong, therefore, if there is an additional charge. Now that the policy of water rates has been settled upon the valuation of property, I should like to ask the Minister whether on the new valuation there is going to be a further increase in water rates. I think I have been very calm about this question, and if the Hon. Minister cannot reply now, I will await the time when he can give us an answer.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: Sir, it is new to me that a new valuation list is out. I doubt very much that the Waterworks Department has completed sending out bills to people on the last valuation, because up to a month ago they were still sending out bills from the first valuation in 1959. But I would say that it would be a matter for the Accountant General because the Waterworks Department by law must collect taxes on the last valuation list; so I cannot see them doing otherwise. I should like to point out that this valuation is nothing that came up since 1961. If the Waterworks Department does not collect on the valuation, the Accountant General has the right to surcharge that Department for not collecting from the time the first valuation was

put on the House, and that is what a lot of people do not seem to understand. That has caused rumours and cries all over this island that we have increased the rates since we have come into power, and put a burden on the poor people, as they said about the poor man's rum and the poor man's beer. We had absolutely nothing to do with it. Since 1959 when a new valuation was put on properties, by law the Accountant General had the right to call on the Waterworks Department to collect the increase, and that is how it would be with any new valuation.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I thank the Hon. Minister for what he has said, but I want to draw this to his attention. The first valuation came out in 1959 and nothing was done to collect the increased water rates until recently, and when the tax bill was produced, you had to pay retroactively from 1959 until that date. The Hon. Minister is quite correct when he says that this had nothing to do with his Government, because properties were valued, and I mentioned throughout my campaign that more money would have to be collected from water rates. I am sorry the hon. member is not aware that three new valuations had been made since 1959, and therefore there will be an increase unless Government looks into the matter. What I am pointing out is that the average rate was 3/9 a quarter which was frightfully cheap, but in 1959 neither the Accountant General nor the Waterworks Department worried about it. Apparently they did not carry out their duties until last year, asking people to bring their tax bills when coming to pay their water rates. 6.25 p.m.

It does not seem to be the correct way. Let us say that no one was in the house in 1959 and 1960. There is no occupancy tax to pay; therefore, he pays his water rates on the old time rate. Tell me by what process are you going to collect from him for those two years. You must seek some other means. He has gone out of the Island for that matter. Nothing was done.

Sir, I do not want to give you a debate on this. I will discuss the matter with the Minister at some given time. What should be studied very carefully is that the case which I have raised with the Hon. Minister happens quite frequently: and now that these valuations are being collected and collected retrospectively, by the end of this financial year which is in another few days, a new valuation would be put on that place. This will be another increase; therefore, I am throwing it out to you that these small increases can cause some disruption in the administration of Government. Therefore, I ask if there is no other means of doing it.

Mr. SMITH: The Hon. Minister has forgotten to answer one of my questions as to what has become of the meters that were imported in the Island. Have they been sent back?

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: It is more likely that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph should be able to tell me about them, because after members of his Party started to lose so much ground over those meters, the hon. member must have had the good sense and foresight to tell the Ministers of his Government to cancel the meters. I never saw them.

The question that the sum of \$1,427,960 under Head 30 - Waterworks - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 32 - HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Head 32 - Highways and Transport - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON: I beg to move that the sum of \$2,208,227, under Head 32, Highways and Transport, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, a start was made a year or two ago with the improvement of streets and sidewalks, and I am particularly thinking of the work in the Hastings area. I am glad to see the sum of \$1,000 which

you have here, and I also know that you have the sum of \$200,000 in the Capital Estimates for this purpose.

I know that there are many persons who are only too willing to give up areas of land for this improvement and the continuation of work in the hotel area. I, myself, would make available six or eight feet off the front of Hotel Windsor and right up, may be, beyond Dear's Garage, you can get that for the purpose. It is a deathtrap as it is now because it is the place where cars start to speed up in both directions. It is a blind corner and there is no semblance of a sidewalk along there.

This should be priority number one, I know that the owner of the property next door my place is prepared to give up a similar width, and I am sure that the others can be persuaded to give up part of their property to make a sidewalk.

As I have said, I would like to see the Government consider that a priority. There is another area by Pavilion Court. I see a fence there and there is nothing behind it. I am sure the owners of that property would be only too pleased to give up some of that so that you can alter that bend and so that there would be less danger on that road. You carried out major works from Bridgetown beyond Speightstown over a period and it was very commendable I would like to see the Transport Department make improvements on this road going as far as Oistin because it is the most used road in the Island. It has the heaviest traffic and it is very dangerous. A lot of accidents take place up there and the cost is greater than what you have to spend.

6.35 p.m.

I hope, Sir, that in this year we will see a great improvement on the roads, improvement on the Hastings Road right up to the Airport. This is a road which draws all the traffic from the Airport down. Another important road is the one by Callenders and there is a very deep drain on both sides of the road; but Mr. Chairman, if they start from the Airport down, they cannot be wrong.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I know that the hon. member who has just sat down has won a lot of support because of that road. I think it is a good thing but it is one thing to beat at a thing and another to get it done. The hon. member is greatly responsible for getting that stretch of road from Seawell to Bridgetown repaired, and he has gained some achievement. This stretch of road can be very dangerous. If I were a dictator, I would deal with the stretch of road (ASIDES) I will say, Sir, that wise dictatorship is wiser or better than stupid democracy. I think we should have some windows made along the St. Matthias-Hastings stretch. The Government has acquired land at Rockley Beach. I would like to enjoy the use of the beach, but I would not like to carry my wife up there and then she has to use a car's door so as to be able to undress. (A MEMBER: Experience.) Mr. Chairman, beauty is something so behold, I feel that the females would like a little privacy, and I would like to see some modest beach houses erected in some of these places. I think, Sir, that we have grown accustomed to having a beach without erecting some place where people can undress in comfort. That is not like the Americans; here you have these beaches and you expect people to use a car's door for the purpose of having a little privacy in undressing.

I do not feel, Sir, that the owners of Broad Street should allow the pavements in front of their doors to remain in that way so that the Government can come along and repair them; I feel that the time has come when the owners of these stores in Broad Street should be able to put their pavements on the main street straight. I am ashamed when I come back to Barbados on occasions and see our main street, from the point of walking, in the condition in which it is. I feel that the hon. junior member for Christ Church and his family have done quite right in dealing with the front of their store as they have done. They have done something, not only for themselves, but also for the people. Normally, people like to go into a store which looks clean and which looks as if you are doing business. I say,

Sir, that this is a reflection on the things which you see in the City, despite the fact that we have a nice Port and a nice Harbour. There is an extremely dangerous curve between Fogarty's and what used to be Whitfield's. There was a time when people would be sliding there as if they were in a skipping ring. Pavements, or the erection of pavements, should be a matter of pride. I notice that some places are commandeered by the "Limers"; some of them say that they congregate in these places in order to see some of the beautiful ladies. Broad Street is our window, our Fifth Avenue. The brighter you make things around the City, the better you make the possibilities for business. I say that the businessmen should have the pride to realise that in making their stores attractive they are offering something for good business. I agree with the hon. junior member for Christ Church as to what he said about the Hastings Road, and we do hope that we will have some more windows rather than have these dilapidated buildings to deface what can be regarded as a beautiful city.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I should like to thank the hon. junior member for Christ Church for his ideas of side-walks. We have started on some of these already. Mr. Taylor gave us some land up there and we developed it; that is not only a great benefit to motorists but also to pedestrians. Motorists are helped because there is the pavement on which the pedestrians can walk and leave the road to the traffic; but where there are no side-walks or pavements for anybody to walk on, that is not only a menace to pedestrians but also to the motorists. Where you find a car parked on one side of the road and a wall is on the other side, a pedestrian cannot get out of the way of a motor vehicle, and where an accident takes place in a place like that, there will be certain death. I hope that many other people will be as generous as Mr. Taylor, and I should say that the hon. member has promised to donate to us a piece of land which would save us from acquiring the land. That aspect of the matter is of great assistance to the community as a whole.

When we come to Broad Street, the delay is not due to the merchants who do business on that street. It would be useless to construct side-walks which are not going to be on one level, and therefore the Director of Highways and Transport is aiming at making the sidewalks all on one level. The stretch from Fogarty's to Prince William Henry Street is not on one level and I feel that it would be nonsense to construct side-walks until all of them can be on one level, or until the whole stretch is made level. The merchants have agreed to contribute towards making Broad Street the City which it should be.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Hon. Minister for what he has said, and I withdraw the strictures which I have made against the merchants.

The question that the sum of \$2,208,227 under Head 32 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 33 - CIVIL AVIATION

Head 33 - Civil Aviation - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, in connection with this Head, there are some amendments to be made. In connection with Item 28 "Telephones"; the amount to be voted, \$6,800, is to be deleted and the amount, \$7,220, is to be substituted therefor. The Note is to read:-

"To meet cost of monthly service charges for P.B.X. of 50 extensions. Revenue estimated at \$5,132. Also includes cost of an automatic exchange and the charge therefor. Increased to meet cost of additional extensions, maintenance, and increased charges."

With those amendments, I beg to move that the sum of \$190,309 under Head 33 stand part of the Schedule.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: I beg to second that.
6.45 p.m.

Mr. GODDARD: I am quite happy to vote these sums for improvements, because if members would refer to the revenue from that Department, they will see that it exceeds the expenditure in any one year. Revenue from landing fees alone is \$315,000 and with rentals and other things amount to \$354,000 as against a total expenditure of \$259,000. In other words, it is earning its keep and providing the island with a very wonderful service. It is the gateway to Barbados, and it has enhanced the reputation of the island as a whole.

The question that the sum of \$1 90,309 under Head 33 - Civil Aviation - as amended, stand part, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 34 - ELECTRICAL INSPECTION

Head 34 - Electrical Inspection - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$11,948 under Head 34 - Electrical Inspection - stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$11,948 under Head 34 - Electrical Inspection - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 35 - LIGHTHOUSES

Head 35 - Lighthouses - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$33,940 under Head 35 - Lighthouses - stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$33,940 under Head 35 - Lighthouses - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (1) GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Head 36 - Ministry of Education (1) General Administration - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, on page 87, Item 27 - Electricity and Water - I am asking to delete the amount of \$2,120 to be voted as well as the existing note, and substitute the new Item "Water" and the amount to be voted is \$200; and the note is to read "to provide for water consumed at Headquarters." Under Item 34 - Teacher Training - I am asking to delete the provision of \$90,000 and to substitute therefor the sum of \$93,850, and the amended note is to read "Includes provision for temporary attachment of Training College Head to Erdiston College."

I beg to move that the sum of \$427,466 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education (1) General Administration - as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$427,466 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education (1) General Administration, as amended stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (2) ERDISTON COLLEGE

Head 36 - Ministry of Education (2) Erdiston College - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, under Item 23 - Travelling - I am asking that the note be amended to read "to provide travelling for Tutors and Students. Increased to provide for Principal and increased number of students and teaching practice."

I beg to move that the sum of \$35,624 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education - (2) Erdiston College, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$35,624 under Head - 36 - Ministry of Education - (2) Erdiston College as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - (3) TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Head 36 - Ministry of Education - (3) Technical Institute - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$66,375 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education - (3) Technical Institute - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to see that the Government has inserted this year \$11,000 to start hotel training. It should get off the mark this year although we have been talking about it for a number of years, and I know the Hotel Association has offered every co-operation by way of teachers and facilities and whatever they can offer. With the development and building of the Hilton Hotel, which will require something like 150 to 200 trained staff, it is not too early to start, because if you wait until they open, there will be a stampede for trained staff and Hilton may get three-quarters and the balance will be divided among the other hotels, and then the service which we have been proud to maintain would overnight come to a flop. I compliment the Government on the early start.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I should just like to tell the hon. member that the delay was for reasons he would appreciate. Until now there could have been no financial provision, and I have only just recently been engaged in setting up the Advisory Committee; so things will go on smoothly from now on.

The question that the sum of \$66,375 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education - (3) Technical Institute - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - (4) HOUSECRAFT CENTRE

Head 36 - Ministry of Education - (4) Housecraft Centre - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$12,222 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education - (4) Housecraft Centre - stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$12,222 under Head 36 - Ministry of Education - (4) Housecraft Centre - stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (5) SCHOOLS

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, under Item 22 — Examinations — I want to draw to the Committee's attention that the provision provided here is \$34,300. That is to be amended to \$49,950 and there is to be a consequential amendment to the note which will now read as follows:—"To provide the cost of public examinations to secondary schools including supervision expenses, entrance fees, fees for setting papers and marking scripts of Government Examinations". And then it will continue "Increase due to greater number of candidates taking examinations and the abolition of local fee. Includes provision of refund for examinations taken between July, 1962, and March, 1964."

That of course is the financial consequence of our recently announced policy about the refund of examination fees to successful pupils of the private secondary schools.

I beg to move that the sum of \$2,898,027 under Head 36 — Ministry of Education (5) Schools — as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$2,898,027 under Head 36 — Ministry of Education (5) Schools — as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

6.55 p.m.

HEAD 36 — MINISTRY OF EDUCATION — (6) INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

Head 36 — Ministry of Education — (6) Industrial Schools — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$47,837, under Head 36, Ministry of Education (6), Industrial Schools, stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, dealing with Head 36 (6) Industrial Schools.....

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. It would help me considerably if the hon. member tells me what item he is dealing with.

Mr. BOXILL: Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with Head 36 (6). I am a serious politician and I am not here to make sport. If anyone is here to make sport, let them carry on with their sport.

We are spending quite a large sum of money on the rehabilitation of the unfortunate children, but I like to be practical. I would like to know, in this modern society in which we are trying to push forward everything if we are really serious when we say that we send them up there for rehabilitation. Everyone knows that no matter how you change the name from "Dodds" to "Industrial School", all that that institution has done so far is to leave a mark on the children who happen to go there. No matter how high these children might aspire after they go from this school, in a modern community like ours people take pride in whispering: "So-and-So has gone up" and how pleased they are to see the progress he has made, were it not for that unfortunate term up there." When people ask, they tell you "Oh, he went to Dodds."

I am one of these people who feel that this school should not be a place for first offenders. Ask yourself this question, Mr. Chairman; which of us would be willing to allow our daughters to be married to one of these unfortunate boys or to allow our sons to marry one of these unfortunate girls? You are spending all of this money on that institution for rehabilitation; yet we are still out to ostracise these unfortunate children.

What I would like to suggest, I think, is too far afield. Instead of sending these children to Dodds, why not send them to the Army? I am speaking of the Regiment. You have in the Regiment good Sergeant Majors, and if you

send them there they would get good discipline and they would be able to learn something for their future; and when they come back to this society, they would be actually in a society without a stigma attached to them. Right now, I would say that the Principal at Dodds is doing a remarkably good job; but no matter how good he is doing his job, he cannot eradicate this stigma.

Mr. Chairman, you may not agree with me, but I think that it is about time that we start to think progressively. Do not waste time and fool ourselves. It is just like saying something with one breath, and in another breath, you are doing something else. If we are going to spend all this money on them to bring them back into society and ostracize them, I say, send them to the Army where they will be disciplined by the Sergeant Major and where they would learn quite a lot of things; and when they come out of the Army, they will not be left with any stigma. The same way you can send them to Dodds for five years, you can send them to the Army for three years, and when they come back into society, they would come back without any stigma.

Barbados is not like a big country. This is a small community. Barbados is not like the U.S.A. or the United Kingdom where you can leave one state and go to another and rehabilitate yourself. In a small place like Barbados, the only outlet that you have is to try and get out of the country.

Sir, a lot of children go up there because of misfortune. Many of us are fortunate because we could have been sent up there at some time or the other. I am therefore appealing to the Hon. Minister not to mind what people say, but to bear in mind that this is a progressive Government, and we are progressive young men; so we must think progressively. This institution should be opened as a Secondary Modern school; instead of sending children there as young offenders, send the boys and girls to the Army, and that would make them into good men and women."

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, I think I can thank the hon. member for having drawn these important matters to my attention, and I wish to tell him that this problem is one which the Minister keeps continually under review. The hon. member may not be quite too familiar with all that goes on at the Government Industrial School; so I will invite him to come with me at his convenience to see what goes on there. How much I may be interested in his point of view of putting these children into the Army, I must be shy about putting the girls there because I do not think we should encourage camp followers.

The question that the sum of \$47,837 under Head 36, Ministry of Education (6), Industrial Schools, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 36 — MINISTRY OF EDUCATION — (7) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Head 36 — Ministry of Education — (7) Public Library — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that the sum of \$63,016, under Head 36, Ministry of Education, (6) Public Library, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 — MINISTRY OF EDUCATION — (8) PUBLIC RELATIONS

Head 36 — Ministry of Education — (8) Public Relations — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that the sum of \$2,910 under Head 36, Ministry of Education (8), Public Relations, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 36 — MINISTRY OF EDUCATION —
(9) PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE

Head 36 — Ministry of Education — (9) Public Records Office — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that the sum of \$7,000 under Head 36, Ministry of Education, (9) Public Records Office, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 37 — ECCLESIASTICAL

Head 37 — Ecclesiastical — was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: I beg to move that the sum of \$85,668, under Head 37, Ecclesiastical, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

7.05 p.m.

HEAD 38 — MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Head 38 — Ministry of Social Services — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, in connection with this Head, there is a new Item — Item 13A (New Temporary Staff) to be inserted. The amount to be voted under this new Item is \$7,440 and the Explanatory Note will read as follows:—

“For temporary posts of Sociologists for one year (Renewable if necessary) with effect from 1st April, 1964, on a month-to-month basis at the rate of \$7,440 per annum.”

I may explain that this Sociologist is employed in the planning for the Social Security Scheme. He has to perform important duties with the Committee which is now appointed to advise as to proper plans for the implementation of a Social Security Scheme in this island. As to Item 23, “Tennis Courts”, on page 104 of the Estimates, I would like to make an amendment to the existing note. The Note reads “Includes water, electricity, repairs and replacements, petrol lime. The word “and” is to be inserted between the words “petrol” and “lime.”

In connection with Item 24, “Equipment and Office Expenses”, the Note reads: “Includes provision for Stationery and other office expenses, equipment and apparatus. The words “For sports section” should be added after the word “apparatus.”

With those amendments, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$36,519 under Head 38 stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say that this is a very important innovation which the Hon. Minister has indicated; it is that they are going to have a Sociologist for one year and the post is renewable, if necessary, with effect from the 1st April, 1964, on a month-to-month basis at the rate of \$7,440 per annum. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister why is it that he has used the qualifying words “If necessary” in the Note? And he

connects that with the work of Social Security. If there is going to be a Social Security Institution in Barbados, do you think that you should embark upon this matter without having somebody who is permanently employed? Is the Hon. Minister yet quite clear on that policy? If you are embarking on these things, then it is a very wise policy, and any Sociologist having a wide knowledge of Social Security would be included in that. I know that this Ministry has undertaken a lot of things in connection with sport. They have a Specialist Coach, a Cricket Coach, a Sports Officer, an Assistant Sports Officer and a Sports Assistant; I would like to say to the Minister that, in a developing country, it is not a bad thing to develop some of these things like sport. You have a large number of people in this island to whom, it may be, sport will be a useful pastime until they come into the full employment age.

The African communities have now given a lot of attention to these things, and in Nigeria the Minister of Labour, Mr. Johnson, has put a lot of energy in the organization of sports. It looks to me that if you spend this money and there is no permanent medium for people to work through, it will become very difficult. We need a Stadium and this is something which posterity will pay for. You can include a Stadium in one of your Development Plans. I am engaged in a lot of sporting activities. I feel that athletics of all kinds including football and cricket, should be pursued and more people are today engaged in outdoor activities than they have been at any time in the history of this island. When I was a boy, for example, basketball was unknown to Barbados, and so was netball; water polo was not a Barbadian game, but we will never have enough water polo games if we have not got good swimmers. You will get better water polo players in a pool because you do not have to fight against the waves as you would have to do when you are in the ocean. I know that a Council has been set up, and I would ask the Hon. Minister to invite various organizations to express their views in these matters.

7.15 p.m.

Without committing them to any financial commitments, Mr. Chairman, I can say that the Football Association is one of the better financial sporting organisations in Barbados, and I feel that these sporting organisations that would utilise a Stadiums would make a recurrent contribution for the convenience of having a Stadium. You should not wait until land becomes impossible to acquire or too expensive to get. I feel the time is ripe for building a Sports Stadium where you will get athletics and certain games held. I have seen the one in Jamaica which is a very elaborate affair, but we may not be thinking in terms of the one they have. I have seen a Stadium at the University in Northern Nigeria which is good enough, and the Nigerians are making a request for Olympic games to be held there, because it is capable of accommodating the Olympic games. We are not thinking in terms of Olympic games, but we are thinking in terms of our own national sport; and I think, if it is wisely constructed and administered, it can be a paying concern, and then Kensington Oval would be free to the cricket authorities. Kensington Oval is the Mecca of our cricket, but we have the situation where Kensington will not be available this year or next year because we expect the Australian Cricket Team to come here next year. I think the hon. member would agree that to some extent sport forms a very important national feature, and there is nothing wrong in having a Stadium.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for Bridgetown mentioned earlier today that some countries make tourists pay taxes and so forth. I am not suggesting a tax on tourists as such who come here, in the form of a head tax when they are leaving. As far as a tax on Barbadians leaving or coming into the island is concerned, you can see that for the future; but Barbados is far away from North America from where we get the majority of tourists, and I would not use the same argument as the hon. member in comparing Barbados with Puerto Rico, because you can go to Puerto Rico for 10 days and it would be less than what the passage would be to Barbados. The Stadium can make a change, and there would be no problem in collecting taxes for the use of the Stadium, because when you issue a ticket, the additional

tax could be five or ten cents. We must provide things for the community which the community must be made to understand they must pay for. When you build a Stadium, the idea of going to watch a game and stowing away or getting on the walls does not exist. I have been to Brazil, and nobody would think of getting on the wall of the Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, or on the Yankee Stadium wall. To get on the walls of the Yankee Stadium, a person would have to start off with a portable ladder. I know that in Barbados you would have to build it a formidable distance, because it seems that when games are on, people just leave home to go and get in. They regard it as a right to stow away. We just had a classic example in which a man beat one of the attendants at Kensington because he would not allow him to get a free pass. That man should be sent to gaol for a long time if he could be so outrageous as to beat somebody because he would not allow him to go in free of charge. These are things to discourage.

I think the Minister should look into this matter very vigorously because this country is in need of a national Stadium. We need something to demonstrate our national character, and nothing can do it better than a national Stadium. We have no national music, as I said already. We are very lacking in national pride. There is no place in Barbados as a national hall that we can say: "This is our national hall". You have to seek permission from the Mayor to use Queens Park. I think a Sports Stadium can demonstrate the pride a nation should have, and for the eighteen year olds that is one of the things we should dedicate to them as an indication that we really mean business, and that the Government is really seriously thinking about the young people.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, in reply to the hon. senior member for St. Peter on the question of the temporary appointment of a Sociologist to deal with Social Security, the hon. member is a member of the Committee which was appointed to advise Government on plans for the implementation of social security. He knows that if and when a Social Security scheme is implemented, it would most likely be run by a Board. Now if it is run by a Board, I do not say that the Sociologist will not be employed, nor do I say that he will be; but where employment under the Social Security scheme is concerned, the Board will be responsible for it. You will notice that this post of Sociologist comes under the "To be Voted" column, and is not appointed by Civil Establishment Order. It was thought that in view of the Social Security Scheme being run by a Board, the Sociologist should be appointed on a temporary month-to-month basis.

In reply to the question about sport, the Government does have under consideration the question of a Sports Stadium. We know that a Sports Stadium is necessary in any community which is advancing as rapidly in sport as Barbados is.

Mr. WALCOTT: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, that was the point in connection with what the hon. member was saying.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: We have investigated this matter before, and as a matter of fact we were even thinking of a site; and after the Water Board made its restrictions, we discovered that this site was in the Zone I area, and that it was near to one of the pumping stations from which we got the greatest supply of water. The hon. member knows, however, that Government is purchasing Husbands Plantation, and when that is done, consideration will be given to the question of a Sports Stadium. Adjacent to that would be the University, and it is felt that this area will be a good one when developed.
7.25, p.m.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, the only thing which I would like to say is that I represent a country constituency just like the Hon. Minister. I really do not want any country Stadium because we did not win any elections by any Stadium. Let us be frank. The majority of the populace of this country resides in St. Michael; and if you site a Stadium in the country area it is not going to be a profitable

concern. When you think of a Stadium, it must be placed somewhere where the population should radiate around the Stadium. Therefore, I would suggest that any time you are thinking in terms of erecting a Stadium, think in terms of erecting it where the population radiates. As it appears to me, you are thinking of building it where your University will be built; therefore, at least you will start off with the population around there. If you say that it is going to be near the University and there is where you have land available, I would say that a Stadium which would be out of reach of the people would make it very difficult. I do hope that you would set up a Committee of a national character and let us see what it is. From experience now, we play football at Carlton, Black Rock. Carlton is not as accessible as Queen's Park or Kensington Oval. Even the Garrison has some set backs. Hon. members ought to know that if you keep a dance at the Drill Hall, it is not as well attended as if you keep it in Queen's Park.

I am very thankful to the Hon. Minister for the information, and I am glad that they are thinking of erecting a Stadium; but I would say that a lot of that would have to be gone into, and I would not expect the site to be situated out of the reach of the people. Building a Stadium is like building a house. You have to look at all your plans; you have to tear them up and change them up; so I will admonish the Hon. Minister not to rush headlong into the matter. I will suggest that whatever site you get, get a proper site where the populace can radiate or do not worry with a Stadium at all. If you cannot put it on a proper site, do not worry with it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify what I said. I said that consideration is being given to the question of a Stadium in this area. I also would like to point out to the hon. member that a site for the Stadium will inevitably have to be a place with a large amount of acreage and there is no place in the City or within, let us say, two miles of the City that one can think of acquiring for a Stadium; therefore, you will have to look further afield.

The question that the sum of \$36,519 under Head 38, Ministry of Social Services, as amended, stand part of the Schedule, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 39 — MEDICAL (1) DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES

Head 39 — Medical (1) Director of Medical Services was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to move that the sum of \$78,256 under Head 39, Medical (1) Director of Medical Services, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 39 — MEDICAL (2) GENERAL HOSPITAL

Head 39 — Medical (2) General Hospital — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Under this Head, on page 15, I should like to add a Note to Item 125. The Note should read: "Replacement of an unserviceable ambulance." Under Item 126, a Note is to be added: "To purchase a lawn mower."

I beg to move that the sum of \$1,591,278, under Head 39, Medical (2) General Hospital, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 39 (1) RECOMMITTED

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to move that Head 39 (1) be recommitted.

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

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

HEAD 39 — MEDICAL (1) DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES

Head 39 — Medical (1) Director of Medical Services was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the numbering is 24 to 41 respectively.

I beg to move that the sum of \$78,256 under Head 39, Medical (1) Director of Medical Services, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 39 — MEDICAL (3) MENTAL HOSPITAL

Head 39 — Medical (3) Mental Hospital — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, under Head 39 (3), Item 54, on page 118, the words "Water Cooler" in the Note should be deleted, and the word "coolerator" inserted.

I beg to move that the sum of \$344,723, under Head 39, Medical (3) Mental Hospital, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 39 — MEDICAL (4) LAZARETTO

Head 39 — Medical (4) Lazaretto — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to move that the sum of \$19,665 under Head 39, Medical (4) Lazaretto, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

7.35 p.m.

HEAD 39 — MEDICAL (5) DISTRICT HOSPITAL SERVICES

Head 39 — Medical (5) District Hospital Services — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, relative to this Head, in Item 15, "Improvements and fixtures, \$500", the note to that Item should read thus: "To provide sunblinds at District Hospitals and Out-Patients Clinics", instead of "To provide for a sun blind". Then the provision against the Item, "Improvements and Fixtures", should be removed and the amount, \$500, should be inserted against "Furniture and equipment" and that is to be numbered Item 15. This was in the details of the expenditure column. In other words, we are deleting the Item "Improvements and Fixtures" and inserting the amount "\$500 against the Item "Furniture and Equipment."

With those amendments, I beg to move that the sum of \$25,800 under Head 39 — Medical (5) District Hospital Services — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 39 — MEDICAL (6) HEALTH CENTRES

Head 39 — Medical (6) Health Centres — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Relative to this Head, Mr. Chairman, I should like to have the figure "2" at Item 20 changed to the figure "1", and in Item 67, "Cleaning", the words "Item 36" are to be added at the end of the Note. With those amendments, I beg to move that the sum of \$220,908 under Head 39 — Medical (6) Health Centres — stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. GODDARD: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering whether the Government has increased the vote in connection with the eradication of the Yellow Fever Mosquito, which is Item 69. I know that an effort is being made to stamp out this mosquito and they are increasing the staff. However, Sir, increasing the staff is not enough. Last year, when Dr. Byer was here, he consulted with the Health Authorities in the Bridgetown City Council, the Public Health Committee, and we came to an agreement whereby he would use some of the funds which the Government voted last year for a cleaning-up campaign in the Municipality. We readily agreed that he would provide the funds for the extra labour, and we would put our scavenging trucks, after the day's work had been done, into the job, and the extra men who were brought out would be paid by him overtime. We would provide the additional gasoline and we would throw in our help in bringing out the tots and tins from the villages; but we found that the Accountant General would not authorise the payment of our scavenging personnel for overtime.

Mr. Chairman, that was an opportunity which was lost in our availing ourselves of help in the campaign. We have undertaken to carry out a cleaning-up campaign and we have been bringing the refuse, the tots and the tins, out of the tenancies. We would like to see them utilise some of these funds for payment in bringing out the refuse from the villages so as to eradicate this mosquito. We want to remove the nuisance; we want to continue to spray the garages and cellars where this Yellow Fever Mosquito would breed. We are paying an extra sum of money for this purpose, but I feel that, together, we could do a good job. I do not think that all of this money under the Item, this \$105,000, should be spent on the Inspectors. I feel that some of it should be utilised in the manner I have suggested. I feel that the Department should use some of this money in this way, and that would help in a very considerable way in the eradication of this mosquito.

Mr. Chairman, we want to see the island freed of this mosquito. The Visual Aids Section of the Department of Education has produced an excellent film in this connection, and it is being shown all around. We have been able to get on platforms along with the Inspectors and have this film shown, and at the same time, to talk to the people in villages on this question of the eradication of this mosquito; we want the co-operation of the Central Government in the matter. With these funds, you could probably amend this note whereby some of these funds, if the Director of Medical Services thinks so fit, could be handed over to us to pay for the overtime which it will be necessary to pay for the carrying out of this campaign.

7.45 p.m.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, you have just heard the Chairman of the Public Health Committee whom I support, but I should like to tell him that in this political situation, he should never ask the Government to hand over money, because when that is done they feel they have given somebody some kudos. Government can keep the money, but we are offering maximum co-operation in this matter. There can be no borderline for the City or the North and South when it comes to the question of the *Aedes Aegypti* mos-

quito. The hon. junior member for Christ Church has told you what we have suggested; but whether you like it or not I am going to say that there are some pig-headed people who believe that the experience of a layman is worth nothing, and when I come up against these people I just smile and walk off. The Minister has been always willing to take our advice even if he did not work on it, and I should like to draw to his attention that there is no point in just hiring men for spraying who know that if they finish this campaign next month they have not got any jobs. Let us do a real clean-up. Just picture yourself, not as a Minister, but as an ordinary woman in the back street — Mrs. John Browne in the cottage or Lady Somebody in the mansion — and you hear or possibly read about the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito and yellow fever. Very few of us are aware of the destruction of yellow fever in this country and in Haiti.

What we have always argued is this: Sanitary Inspectors and young men who must go and spray may talk as they like to householders, but it will never be as effective as when your Medical practitioner gives his assistance in these campaigns by going on platforms and assisting in lectures. We, who have been in public life for a long time and know the danger, pledge our support to the Minister. You have voted a substantial sum of \$105,000 — an increase of \$45,000 — and therefore we know that you mean business. We know that only two weeks ago two deaths were reported in British Guiana from yellow fever, and we know the smallness of the world today with air transport. I myself suffered an attack of dengue fever which I am told is next to yellow fever, and if I was making peace with my Maker and getting ready to die, it was then.

Mr. Chairman, we meet every Friday morning to discuss this matter with our Inspectors, your Inspectors and your Public Health Medical Officer to see exactly the spots and how the campaign is going. During the dry season it has abated somewhat, but when the rainy season comes in, it will flare up again. We are not asking the Minister to give us the money, because it appears to most people that when the City Council asks for money, they want it to carry home. What we are asking you to do is to pay the labour, in view of the fact that we are offering you this co-operation. The late Mr. John Beckles introduced Health Week, and one or two members pooh-poohed it, but because of the economic position of people in this country, it became absolutely necessary to have a Health Week. If you have in any area 1,100 or 1,200 houses in which a majority of servants live and have to go to work at 6.00 a.m. or 7.00 a.m. in the morning and return late in the evening, they can only clean on Sundays, and that is why we have such a heavy garbage collection on Sundays. They have no time to clean in the week, and this is the danger. That is why we ask you to pay the labour if we make this clean-up. We will find the trucks and the gasoline which are supplied by the rate-payers in the Municipality; but as there is a line of demarcation, if you pay the labour you are helping the entire Island. I do not think the Minister could want greater co-operation than what we are offering, and we are asking him to try our way for once. Let me tell you this, Sir; we once had a Medical Officer here.....

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would give way, it is now five minutes to eight and we have been here the whole day.

Mr. MOTTLEY: I will talk for another five minutes.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I am listening to the hon. member.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Many years ago when World Health Organisation sent a Jamaican Doctor down here and we suggested making a certain approach that would appeal to the Barbadian, he listened to anything we said. You have a Medical Officer of Health who, I am absolutely certain, would do everything to co-operate with us as we will with him, because he is a man who will listen to reason and knows that our approach is the one which will appeal to people. All we are asking is to let your Medical Officer come out and let us have this big clean-up campaign. 7.55 p.m.

In other words, the hon. member who spoke last will tell you that we examine actual findings every Friday morning, and what we find afterwards is that if there are 15 cases the results are thirteen in the yard and two in the houses. In other words, you will find 98% of the cases in the yard. Obviously, we have put all the statistics together, and the true picture in the Municipality where you have a great majority of your cases is that they are found in the yard; therefore, if it is in the yard, what must you do? You have to concentrate on the yard.

There is a meeting every Friday morning on this. I am sure the hon. member must agree with us that these things are found in the yard in the majority; so the idea is to concentrate on the yard first. I am sure the Hon. Minister can depend on us for the maximum co-operation.

Mr. BOXILL: Put the question.

Mr. MOTTLEY: When I begin to talk, you stop me! Does the hon. member think he is up at Dodds?

Mr. BOXILL: You are only wasting time.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Does the hon. member think that I was brought in here on a wheelbarrow?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. senior member for the City is still in Parliament.

Mr. MOTTLEY: Mr. Chairman, the hon. junior member for St. Thomas thinks he is up Dayrells Road.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

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

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

Mr. CHAIRMAN reported to Mr. SPEAKER who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Sitting of this House be suspended for three quarters of an hour.

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

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

8.05 p.m.

On re-assembling.

RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Mr. SPEAKER: When the sitting was suspended, the House was in Committee of Supply.

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, the hon. senior member for the City asked some questions in connection with this Head, but he is not here for the replies to those questions. I am therefore suggesting that the question be now put.

The question that the sum of \$220,908 under Head 39 — Medical (6) Health Centres — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 39 — MEDICAL (7) MATERNITY HOSPITAL

Head 39 — Medical (7) Maternity Hospital — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$23,201 under Head 39 — Medical (7) Maternity Hospital — stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 40 — OLD AGE PENSIONS

Head 40 — Old Age Pensions — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$1,289,126 under Head 40 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 41 — SOCIAL WELFARE

Head 41 — Social Welfare — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, there is an amendment which I would like to make here. There is to be a new Item 3A, "Sports Officer", and the amount to be inserted under the Column "Fixed by law" is \$5,904. The note is to read "Increased due to upgrading of post of Sports Officer." With that amendment, I beg to move that the sum of \$22,406 under Head 41 — Social Welfare — stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$22,406 under Head 41 stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 42 — PROBATION SERVICE

Head 42 — Probation Service — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$5,282 under Head 42 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 43 — PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Head 43 — Public Assistance — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to move that the sum of \$4,055 under Head 43 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 44 — MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, INDUSTRY AND LABOUR

Head 44 — Ministry of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$16,514 under Head 44 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 45 — LABOUR

Head 45 — Labour — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to move, Mr. Chairman, that the sum of \$853,097 under Head 45 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 46 — CONTROLS, SUBSIDIES ETC.

Head 46 — Controls, Subsidies etc., — was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$173,652 under Head 46 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 47 — SUBSIDIES AND GRANTS

Head 47 — Subsidies and Grants — was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, in connection with this Head there are some amendments to be made. A new Item is to be inserted, Item 6A (New) Meteorological Services, and the amount to be voted is \$21,000. The Note is to read as follows:-

"Contribution to Headquarters Unit of Caribbean Meteorological Services, \$15,800, and for temporary contribution to Trinidad Government for forecasting services, \$5,400."

With those amendments I beg to move that the sum of \$1,821,255 under Head 47 stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$1,821,255 under Head 47 — as amended — stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

1. ANNEXED ESTIMATES — POST OFFICE

1. Annexed Estimates — Post Office — was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$489,059 under 1 Annexed Estimates — Post Office stand part of the Schedule.

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

The question that the sum of \$489,059 under 1. Annexed Estimates — Post Office, stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

ANNEXED ESTIMATES — PORT DEPARTMENT

Annexed Estimates — Port Department — was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, in relation to the Annexed Estimates, Port Department, there are a few amendments to be made. In connection with Item 35 "Uniform", the amount to be voted, \$9,000, is to be deleted and the amount, \$9,370, is to be substituted therefor. As to Item 54, "Pensions and Gratuities", the amount to be voted, \$64,780, is to be deleted and the amount of \$79,997, is to be substituted therefor. In Item 62, "Capital Charges", the amount to be voted, \$1,485,979, is to be

deleted and the amount, \$1,420,192, is to be substituted therefor. When we come to Item 65, "Marine and other Equipment", the amount to be voted, \$30,250, is to be deleted and the amount, \$90,450, is to be substituted therefor. An addition is to be made to the existing note as follows:-

"Also provides \$60,200 half the estimated cost of providing dock fenders."

Further with regard to Item 62, "Capital Charges", the amount to be voted, \$1,420,192, is to be deleted and the amount \$1,388,882 is to be substituted therefor. Relative to Item 63 "Static Facilities", the amount to be voted, \$32,498, is to be deleted and the amount, \$63,088, is to be substituted therefor. Then there is to be added to the existing note the following:

"Includes re-vote of \$31,310 unspent balance of provision to repair damage done to Bridgetown Harbour by rough seas."

With those amendments, I beg to move that the sum of \$2,291,260 under Annexed Estimates - Port Department, - stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

9.00 p.m.

PART II - CAPITAL

Head 3 - Development and Industry - was called.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$326,000 under Head 3 Development and Industry - stand part of the Schedule.

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

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I do not want the Head recommitted that leads to the question of labour and the Labour Department, but I am going to use the same remarks here because some of the things would come under this development. Now we are dealing with the largest amount of money under the Ministry of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour, that is \$2,096,000 and this Head deals with the Development Board, Administration and promotion expenses including Overseas Offices, and provision for factory construction and for the layout and upkeep of industrial estates. When you look at this very important part of the Ministry of Labour, what I find is that the Government or the Administration has not yet decided to fill one of its important posts in the Department of Labour, and it does not go well for industrial relations and the promotion....

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: If the hon. member would give way, perhaps I can answer the hon. member immediately and save his expansion on the point. The Ministry has been concerned with the position of the Labour Department both with regard to the necessity for an appointment to the substantive post of Labour Commissioner, plus the fact that the Department has been alleged to be understaffed. We got Mr. Hammond to go very carefully into the matter, and he laid a report dealing specifically with the necessity for appointing someone to the substantive post of Labour Commissioner, and also recommending the additional staff required. The report is being very carefully considered, and in the very near future implementation will be given to some of his major recommendations.

Mr. WALCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I am very thankful to the Hon. Minister for the information, because I would like to say that industrial relations matters are very important in this country. I believe they are going to grow worse this year, and it is very essential that you have these things. If I were here, I would have asked for this \$5,000 under the Head "Trade Disputes" to be increased, be-

cause from the trends I would like to see even a permanent panel of people appointed to deal with these serious industrial disputes. When they do occur, as in the case of which the Ministry is well aware, there is sometimes the difficulty of finding suitable people to undertake these tasks. You should not depend on getting people on an ad hoc or make-shift basis, but people who are trained in industrial relations disputes who can deal with these very difficult problems when they arise. I foresee that grave difficulties are going to arise, and that is why I say it is essential that this Department should be well geared in all aspects to meet these eventualities.

Another point I should like to raise which is connected with Item 2 is the promotion of these things in the Ministry of Labour. I should like to know if there is going to be a better integration of the question of Controls and Subsidies. From what has been passed you are going to spend \$173,000, and the amount of money you will use to subsidise things is \$140,000. The amount of money you are spending on the administering of that is \$44,000 which is an extremely high percentage, and in these days when Government is thinking about getting the best for its services, it does seem strange that this control of supplies has not yet been integrated into a Ministry, because if all the money we are going to have in food subsidies is \$140,000, it looks as if you will have to do some pruning and streamlining, instead of having a \$44,000 administration to spend such a small amount of money. I believe it is unnecessary, and I feel that a better administrative arrangement can be made than to continue with this situation. I am of the firm opinion that a top level Permanent Secretary in the appropriate Department should be capable of administering the Controller of Supplies Department together with his Ministry. Except for the Department of Labour, the Ministry of Development, Trade, Industry and Labour deals in the abstract, so to speak, and I do not see why this cannot be effectively administered from the Ministry of Labour. The Inspectors and so forth are becoming memories, because I do not think you want Control Inspectors.

I raised this matter under this Head, Mr. Chairman, because I think we can effectively save money if we take a strict and serious view of these things. In the matter of Administration and Promotion, Industrial Estates and Development Loans, I feel, as I said yesterday, that you are not going to get the maximum results until you throw your umbrella open.

9.10 p.m.

You have the Development Board, the Tourist Board and those other Boards, but I am of the firm opinion that they do not do it in Canada. Only today I was reading that when the new Canadian Government came into power, Mr. Lester Pearson set up a Canadian Economic Council. He did not do that to take away power from the Ministry. He set up that Committee of twenty-one people to look into Canadian development. I think that we are trying to have closer association with Canada, and I do feel when it comes to development of industry, that it is essential that we have first hand, outside of the Government, something in the nation which might be of the citizens of the country in order that we may get this new development. This is something which is going to appeal to many of us. Take, for example, this Deep Water Harbour Loans; these are things which have been dedicated to the nation and many of us hold some strong views about them; therefore we would like to know and give advice. These are matters which should be of a national character. This Committee can discuss what are the kinds of trends that best suit us. We will not be dealing with those things which are put up by the Permanent Secretary to the people in the Ministry. This would be an expression by people outside the confines of Government because in the final analysis the success of this economic development will depend on the nation as a whole. It is just as other nations do under United Nations.

I do not think that Barbados should regard itself as 'the odd man out' and think that those in Government possess all the ability to deal with these things. I think when it comes to the Development Board and the other Boards, such as the Board dealing with tourism, they

should be merged in a higher Council and there should be a national overall Council being able to give advice and make recommendations. This Council which I spoke of is not to be an executive body. It cannot be. It is good to have people interested in these things, and to have these things existing in a community — more so, in this community in this transitional change.

In so far as Mr. Hammond is investigating the needs of this Department, I think it is very important, and if I have to speak more on that, what I would say is that the buildings are not as suitable for these kinds of things as they should be. I know that at one stage, they have been talking about a merger of the Ministry of Labour. I know in Jamaica that there is a merger and that there is no Labour Commissioner per se and they still maintain the position. Both the Labour Commissioners which they had in Trinidad have left the Public Service and have gone into private industry and for some time now they have been thinking of streamlining this Department; so they may do so.

The development of this country is very vital and it can only have the acceleration which it deserves when it can make all the citizens of this country feel that the country should be developed. I am not one of those people who believe in the development of the country on any slave labour basis. There are some people coming to this Island who want to have this country developed, but want to develop it on the basis that they extract all they can; and if they are given pioneer status we do not know how far they would go. We have here the development of the Marfak industry and we have to watch these things. For example, we of the Union had to address the Ministry. When you do not have anybody sitting down and setting an example, you get the position where one industry ceases in its operations, and the workers in this industry are not going to be absorbed in another industry. We have had discussions with them; but you must have a society which would ask what would you do with this surplus that you cannot absorb but which you agree to take on. You cannot carry them and put them in another place. What are you going to do with people who have 15 or 20 years' service who cannot return to their own employer and say that "you have displaced us?" After all, he has not displaced them; he has moved into another industry.

The marfak workers are organised in our Union, but you cannot say that because you are organised you owe any allegiance to those other people. These studies are not made in Barbados and that is why we are getting this sort of dislocation. Nobody can give me an answer when these businesses are closing down. Haggatts Factory was closed down, and the Government was committed in buying it. If I were here earlier, I would have shown you a letter written since the 26th October, last, where I have workers coming to me asking me what happened with their money. I want to say this to the Ministry. All the hon. members must take some of this blame, and I am not satisfied with the delay which I have received at the hands of the Ministry. I am not satisfied to write a letter on the 26th October, when people are out of employment — and I say that a lot of this delay has been the crux of the lawlessness and the cause of the people now taking on other hands. That is why studies have to be carried on in a changing situation like this. That is why I say it requires a study and an appreciation of the situation when it arises, and as it is when it continues.
9.20 p.m.

This is not a matter for the foolhardy; this is a matter for people who have given careful consideration and study to all the implications of change. That is why I say it is a very good thing to pay attention to all of these very serious matters. We must have excellent staff to deal with all of these implications; otherwise we will get bottlenecks at the points which could easily create serious unpleasantness and a lot of industrial dislocation. We are on the threshold of a lot of industrial strife, and, therefore, it is necessary that, in effect, in all of these Development Plans which we are making, we must have the widest possible scope, and we must take in every possible eventuality. I have said what I have said quite seriously. The last Gov-

ernment, in dealing with the Deep Water Harbour, made absolutely no possible preparation for the consequences which would follow. The type of industries which you are creating now are not industries which will absorb much unskilled labour; we are really closing down these unskilled areas.

Mr. Chairman, let us take an analysis of the men who work in the Port. Although they work for high wages, comparatively speaking, in the Port, they were not technically capable. The Hon. Premier made a speech in Trinidad, something which he should pass on to his colleagues. I know, as a Labour Relations Technician, that when you take a man from one segment and you put him into another segment of an unskilled character, and he has to work for low rates of pay, his productivity will be perpetually lower than that of the man who remains in the other sector. He will suffer from the psychological difficulties that he is now doing a job, but his outlook is somewhat lower as regards wages and technique and the productivity he should give is not being given. You are not getting the maximum productivity and it comes as a matter of relief work. We cannot have these unscientific methods in our approach to these things; we should therefore pay attention to these things and stop this haphazard stumbling at something so that you cannot analyse anything which you are doing in the community.

Mr. Chairman, I hope I have said enough to emphasise all the dangers and the difficulties which are involved. The net result is that we have had the situation where you have the displaced workers, and then you are appealing to these workers — those who are now taking over — to rise up, and some of the people in the Ministries tell them that they will now see that they will be well served. How can you serve or how can you have 2,500 people well served when you have skilled men looking for jobs which you do not possess? Where you come to the unskilled jobs, after you have passed digging the foundations for any building, you can export the unskilled workers to Timbuctoo. I see a lot of unskilled workers walking about here and, Mr. Chairman, you can get them at all a penny. As I say, Sir, after you have passed your foundational work in any construction, you do not want these unskilled workers. People are finding other ways of mixing mortar so that there is little need for the mason tenders.

These things have to be studied because there are those who will make people, the unwary, think that they are all right. Unemployment is a very serious thing in any State, and it is the duty of the Government to find work for the unemployed; but when there is not enough work for the unemployed, an Election is around the corner and the army of the unemployed will disrupt what little you have. In a community the attitudes to work still have to be built up because the stigma and the bad aspects of Colonialism die hard in the community.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I should like to say that the hon. senior member for St. Peter has ranged far and wide in his debate, even referring to a Head which we have already passed and which has not been re-committed. In so far as the Labour Department is concerned, it will not be an easy matter to integrate the Department with those responsible in the Ministry itself. The Labour Department is concerned, not only with labour disputes but with emigration and a number of other things. Emigration itself is in many categories, and for all of them to be integrated into the Ministry, would not be an easy matter at all. I am not saying, Sir, that it is not possible, but we are now dealing with the question of staffing and there is also the important question of appointing a Labour Commissioner.
9.30 p.m.

I agree with the hon. member that the building in which the Department is housed is most unsuitable for the Department; I have always said so. It should never have been there at all, and I have recently suggested to the Government that we should sell that building and remove the entire Department somewhere. We have got some of the staff working in the basement and it is impossible for the Senior

officers to control what is going on. Very often the Commissioner or his Deputy has to be up and down in the Department, and so long as it is housed there, you will never get the Department working at maximum efficiency. An important Department like the Labour Department should have been housed in a suitable building, but to improve this building to the point at which it would be appropriate for what is supposed to be done in it could hardly be recommended, because even then you still would not have a building completely suitable for what you want. This question of housing the Department in appropriate surroundings is also under active consideration.

With regard to subsidies on foodstuffs and the Department of Controller of Supplies, while it may be true that the amount spent on subsidisation of food stuffs now is very much less than it was before and the scope of activities of the Department more or less are more circumscribed, the actual functions of the Department still remain the same in the sense that you have got to have the Inspectors to go around and inspect items on which prices have been controlled; you have to have the Head of the Department co-ordinating his administration; and although on the face of it the responsibility of the Department is actually less — the staff is never very large — you still have to keep your Accountant, Controller and Price Control Inspectors. From what I know through actual contact with the Department regularly, it would be impractical to reduce the staff, even although its activities are more circumscribed than they were a year or two ago. The entire question is that the final analysis hinges on whether or not the Government continues its policy of subsidisation. At the moment we subsidise rice from public funds; the price of brown sugar is controlled, and this item is subsidised also, but in an entirely different manner. We have removed the subsidies on almost all the other items, and it might appear in relation to the amount of money spent now on subsidisation that the cost of administering the Department is unrealistic. This is a matter we have given our attention to, ourselves; and the whole question, Sir, of continuation of subsidisation is under consideration. In the light of the decisions in this matter, will be taken the decisions affecting the Department of Controller of Supplies.

Now I must confess that I hope that the prognostications of the hon. senior member for St. Peter with regard to the imminence of the incidence of large scale relations disputes in the Island in the near future will prove completely unfounded. I am not saying that we should adopt the ostrich philosophy and bury our heads in the sand and not face up to the realities of the situation; but while it may appear that industrial disputes of great proportion loom rather closely on the industrial horizon, I still hope, Sir, that the country may be spared this, and that on the first part, the good sense of the Barbadian workers and their traditional independence of spirit will operate to the point where they are not easily deluded into following irresponsible agitators. I also hope that the leaders themselves on all sides will conduct themselves with a sense of responsibility and will adopt the rational attitudes which the best interests of the country dictate. This is not to say that the Government is not going to be realistic and appreciate the possibility of finding the community rent by industrial disputes, and that we are not going to take the necessary steps to deal with the situation when it arises; but I do believe, Sir, that first and foremost we can find ourselves emerging comparatively unscathed and free from critical situations, Sir, if both the workers themselves and the leaders demonstrate the sort of responsibility and rationality which have been the hallmarks of our people in this respect in the past.

With regard to the displacing of labour by the progressive industrialisation of the community, this is a matter which has to be considered from several points of view. First and foremost, the Government's technical training schemes are being stepped up and expanded. Admittedly there are categories of unskilled labour which we are going to find it impossible to absorb in the new industries; but in one of the cases under reference, that of the opening of the Deep Water Harbour and the displacement of an appreciable

large number of unskilled workers who formerly worked there, as hon. members are aware, provision was made for the future of the older workers who were more or less superannuated when the new Port came into operation. Unfortunately, the amount of money awarded them for superannuation were given in a lump sum, we know with what result. The fund was squandered and in a very short space of time the state of the workers left much to be desired. This is, I think, an indication for the future that if we are superannuating people, adequate care must be taken to see that the money they are given in superannuation arrangements is given in such a way as to pay more attention to safeguarding their future than was done in the past. Some of the younger men who were displaced have been absorbed, and I am sure that many of them at their ages should be able to equip themselves with the facilities we offer for technical training to be absorbed in industries requiring more technical training.

Mr. Chairman, the Government is not unmindful of the necessity for training young people, displaced or not displaced, to fit themselves for absorption in semi-skilled operations which we develop from time to time as new industries emerge; but I think, as in the case to which the hon. member referred — that of the displaced Harbour Workers — the lesson to be learned there is that if you have got a Provident Fund, a Pension Fund or some superannuation scheme to safeguard to the maximum extent possible the economic future of these workers, it must be handled in a way not by pandering to the requests of the irresponsible, but in a way which would reflect the greatest credit on those responsible for its disbursement.

9.40 p.m.

It is inevitable, in any community which is advancing technologically, that you are going to find displacements in certain categories of work, and improvements on the face of it for the new types which are coming in. But in a community like this, where for some time to come there will be some opportunity for the unskilled workers, all that is necessary for the future is to make the necessary arrangements for ensuring that all categories of that type of workers in the community are looked after; and to see that proper provision is made on all levels of technology for absorbing the available labour force as it is available from time to time.

I do not think that the hon. senior member for St. Peter should feel that the Government is in any way not devoting proper attention to these aspects of the situation in the Island. Our economic progress is conditioned on the basis of industrial improvement and tourist development; and at both of these levels we are providing the facilities for training people to take their proper part in these two developments. The hotel school will provide from time to time an appropriate number of trained workers to fill the places needed in our advancing tourist development programme.

As I have said, the Technical Institute, with its training facilities and the facilities available to workers in this country, and in Trinidad at the technical school at a higher standard, would, I am sure, provide this country with the supply of equipped workers as the necessity arises.

I do not know if there is any point to which I have not referred which was made by the hon. member. However, I only want to say this in conclusion. If the responsible leaders of labour in the country approach this situation in the colony with the conviction that grave disputes and disorders are inevitable, then it would only follow that you would have that following us. But if they approach it with the conviction that, while the possibility for trouble exists and while disputes of a serious order appears to be imminent, it is their intention to take the necessary steps at the earliest opportunity to prevent those crises from arising, then I am sure that this would go a long way in preventing them from occurring, and preventing a situation from taking place in which neither the Labour or other departments of Government nor even the leaders of labour themselves will find themselves faced with these critical situations

which the hon. senior member for St. Peter appears to think are more or less sooner or later bound to descend upon us. This, I suggest, is not the correct approach to the matter: and while we must be realistic, we must feel that it is not beyond our power at an early stage to take the necessary steps to ward off these calamities; and instead of facing the future fraught with grave difficulties and situations, to ensure that we have the situation completely under control before it gets out of hand.

The question that the sum of \$326,000 under Head 3 - Development and Industry - stand part of the Schedule was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

HEAD 4 - WATER SUPPLIES

Head 4 - Water Supplies - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: I beg to move that the sum of \$12,000 under Head 4, Water Supplies, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 5 - HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Head 5 - Health and Social Services - was called.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS: I beg to move that the sum of \$4,64,650 under Head 5, Health and Social Services, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 6 - EDUCATION

Head 6 - Education - was called.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR: Mr. Chairman, there are two amendments under Head 6. At Item 10, Public Library, delete estimate 1964-65, \$5,010 and substitute \$12,765. Delete Revised Estimated Expenditure \$27,500 and substitute \$19,745. Add to the beginning of the existing note: "Revote of \$7,755".

Then, secondly, there is a new item under this Head against Combermere School which becomes Item 15. Insert \$5,000 under Estimates 1964-65 and the note to read: "Revote of \$5,000 to complete construction of Science laboratories at Combermere School".

I beg to move that the sum of \$373,320 under Head 6, Education, as amended, stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

9.50 p.m.

HEAD 7 - AGRICULTURE

Head 7 - Agriculture - was called.

Hon. C. E. TALMA: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$23,900 under Head 7 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

HEAD 8 - COMMUNICATIONS

Head 8 - Communications - was called.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move that the sum of \$179,128 under Head 8 stand part of the Schedule.

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

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

CHAIRMAN REPORTS PROGRESS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chairman, at this stage, I beg to move that you do now report progress and ask for leave for the Committee to sit again.

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

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

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

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Monday, 23rd March, 1964, at 12 o'clock (Noon).

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

The question that this House do now adjourn until Monday, 23rd March, 1964, at 12 o'clock noon, was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

9.55 p.m.