

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1961 - 66

THE

House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT) SECOND SESSION OF 1961-66 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 13th April, 1965.

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

PRESENT

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

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the Meetings which were held on the 2nd 9th and 16th March, 1965, respectively, have been printed and circulated amongst hon. members, and if there is no objection, I will have those Minutes confirmed.

(After a Pause).

There being no objection, I declare the Minutes of each of those Meetings to be now duly confirmed.

Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY and Mr. N. W. BOXILL entered the House and took their seats.

PAPERS LAID

W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier, I am commanded to lay the following-

Barbados Statistical Service Selected Monthly Indicators November - December, 1964,

Barbados Savings Bank Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

The Customs Duties (Opex Personnel) Order. 1965.

The Civil Establishment (Part-time Officers) Amendment Order, 1965.

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No.2)

The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No.3) Order, 1965.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise receipts for twelve months ended 31st March, 1965.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the following-

Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 31st January, 1965,

The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 4) Regulations, 1965,

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Report of the Sugar Factory Smoke Control Board for the calendar year, 1964,

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay the Local Government Casual Employees (Pensions) Regulations, 1965.

PETITION

Mr. GODDARD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition from Grace Taylor praying the House to pass a Bill to authorise her to erect a groyne with or without a seawall or seawalls at her premises "Four Aces", Dover, Christ Church.

The Petition is respectfully worded and I ask that it be taken as read,

The petition was taken as read.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier, I beg to give notice of the following-

Resolution to approve \"The Civil Establishment (Part time Officers) (Amendment) Order, 1965\",

Resolution to approve \"The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1965.

Resolution to approve \"The Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order, 1965.\"

Resolution to approve of the lease to the Barbados Molasses Terminal Limited by the Crown of two parcels of land totalling 39,393 square feet, situate at the Bridge-town Harbour,

C. E. TALMA:

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

Resolution to approve \"The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1965.\"

Resolution that supplemental to Resolution No. 4/1961 a parcel of land containing by admeasurement 203 square feet and being part of Canary Street, Bridgetown be conveyed from the Government to Messrs, DaCosta&Co. Ltd.

Resolution to approve \"The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 1965.\"

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Premier, I beg to give notice of a Bill to repeal the Barbados Development Act, 1955 and in place of the Board established by the Act to provide for the establishment of a Corporation charged with the duty of securing the development of Industry and Agriculture in the Island and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

REPLIES LAID

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier, I beg to lay the following Replies to Parliamentary Questions-

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 20/1964 asked by the hon. junior member for St. John.

Reply to Parliamentary Question No, 33/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James.

Reply to Parliamentary Question No, 42/1964 asked by the same hon. member,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker. I beg to lay the following Replies to Parliamentary Questions-

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 30/1964 asked by the hon. junior member for St. Philip,

Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 31/1964 asked by the same hon. member,

PRIVATE MEMBER'S NOTICE

Mr. GODDARD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice of a Bill to authorise Grace Taylor of "Four Aces" Christ Church to construct a groyne with or without a seawall or seawalls at Dover, Christ Church. 2.55 p.m.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME

On the motion of Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to repeal the Barbados Development Act, 1955, was read a first time.

On the motion of Mr. GODDARD, seconded by Mr. LYNCH, a Bill to authorise Grace Taylor to erect a groyne with or without a seawall or seawalls at her property "Four Aces", Dover, Christ Church, was read a first time.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker. I notice that there is no clock in the Chamber,

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have, with regret, to inform the House that I am informed that after it had been repaired and replaced, overnight apparently it fell, and next morning was found in a seriously damaged condition. It is now at the repairers, but I am afraid, from my advice, it may be almost beyond repair,

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

I am afraid that Your Honour will feel yourself obligated to investigate whether or not the people responsible for hanging it up did a proper job, it was hanging there for years and never fell, and if it fell in twenty-four hours, somebody should be responsible.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The matter is already receiving my earnest attention and that of the Clerk,

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

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

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the Report of the Auditor General on me Audit of the Accounts of the Island for the year 1963-64.

QUESTION TIME

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Question Time be now taken.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 20/1964 is ready. This stands in the name of me hon, junior member for St. John, who is not in his place.

Parliamentary Question No. 33/1964 stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for St. James, and he is not instantly in his place. Parliamentary Question No, 42/1964 also stands in the name of the hon. and learned member for St. James.

Parliamentary Question No, 30/1964 stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip who is in his place,

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, the Question reads as follows -

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that the residents of Thicketts, St. Philip, have to travel approximately two to three miles to post letters, because the Post Box in that district was removed about two years ago?

2. If the answer to the above question is in the affirmative, will Government consider the replacing of the Post Box in the district mentioned above?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows-

"The Minister is aware that there was some inconvenience to the residents of Thicketts, St. Philip, as a result of the moving of the Post Box, This Box was removed after being repeatedly damaged. The damage appeared to have been deliberate.

2. The box has been replaced."

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question No. 31, also stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip,

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, the question reads as follows-

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

Is the Minister aware that the residents of Penny Hole, St. Philip, have to travel two or three miles to post letters, because of the need of a Post Box in that district?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister issue instructions that a Post Box be placed there for the convenience of the residents?

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, the reply is as follows-

"The Minister is aware that the residents of Penny Hole, St. Philip, have to travel to St. Martins Church to post letters. A Post Box has been installed at Rock Hall, St. Philip to serve; Penny Hole and the adjoining areas.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, I must thank the Hon. Minister for the replies he has given me.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I think that concludes questions.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if any hon. member has any matter standing in his name under Private Members' Business which he wants to debate.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The first Item under Private Members' Business, stands in the name of the hon junior member for Christ Church, and it is the third reading of a Bill to authorise the Esso Standard Oil S. A. Limited to erect a jerry at Half Moon Fort, St. Lucy, Perhaps the Hon. Leader of the House would regularise the situation with a motion if the hon. member is disposed to proceed,

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

May I inquire if there is any other hon. member who wants today to deal with Private Members' Business?

Mr. WEEKES:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Private Members' Business be now taken.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

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

3,05 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The first Order of Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. junior member for Christ Church Third reading of a Bill to authorise the Esso Standard Oil S. A. Limited to erect a jetty at Half Moon Fort, St. Lucy,

Mr. GODDARD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Report of the Select Committee to consider and report on . the Bill to authorise Esso Standard Oil S. A. Limited to erect a Jetty at Half Moon Fort, St. Lucy, be adopted

Mr. SEALEY:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. GODDARD:

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

Mr. SEALEY:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. GODDARD:

I beg to move that this Bill do now pass,

Mr. SEALEY:

I beg to second that.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr; Speaker, before you put the question, I would like to know when the Report of the Select committee was adopted.

Mr. GODDARD:

The Select Committee reported on the 13th October, and I would say this.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member speaking on a point of explanation?

Mr. GODDARD:

Yes, Sir, on a point of explanation. This Bill has been on the Order Paper for a very long time and the Committee reported on the 13th October, 1964.

It has been sent to the Ministry and it has passed through all the formalities of the Ministry and I have understood that the Hon. Premier has finalised it. I may say that it is important that this Bill be passed without delay because of sums of money which have been earmarked for this purpose,

Mr. SPEAKER:

I think that the hon. member has made his point of explanation.

Hon. G.G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, there have been certain amendments made to this Bill by the Cabinet. The hon. junior member for Christ Church said that the Hon. Premier has finalised the Bill, but the bill is in my domain, The question of the erection of groynes, bridges and everything with respect to sea obasts, comes under my jurisdiction. Nothing like this comes from the Premier,

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

The hon. junior member for Christ Church says that so far, his knowledge about this matter is that it has been finalised, I do not know if that is so,

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. As Your Honour can clearly see, something is definitely wrong about this matter because the hon. junior member for Christ Church has informed this House that the Premier knows about it. The Hon. Minister in charge knows nothing about it so this is a very serious state of affairs existing among the Cabinet

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order at all. There may be another opportunity for the hon. member to put his point of view.

Mr. SMITH:

Well, Sir, is it a point of explanation or a point of elucidation on which I can speak?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Hardly; nothing at all,

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak not on any point of order or anything at all like that. I am going to speak on the motion which is before the House. Am I right, Sir? The question before the House is that this Bill do now pass.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The question before the House is that this Bill do now pass. You are right.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I am well aware that you can speak on the second reading, but there is nothing to say that you can- not speak on the third reading; but seeing that you have told the hon junior member for St. Joseph that he could not speak is what has caused me to rise to my feet.

I do not see anything to stop him or to stop me.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. Senior member for Bridge- town proceed,

Mr. MOTTLEY:

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph was told that he cannot speak. If that is so, well then, it effects me. I therefore want to get the position clear, One can speak n the bill at this stage,

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph rose on a point of order and then really asked whether he may speak on a point of explanation or elucidation, to which I said he could not hardly do so in this particular circumstance.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I thought you meant that the hon. member should not speak at all. I am satisfied that Your Honour will rule that the hon. member can speak, I am not trying to keep the House back.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, am I in order now?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The ten. member can proceed on the motion before the House. He cannot make a second reading speech, but he can speak on the motion \"that this Bin do

Mr. SMITH:

Well, Sir, the hon. junior member for Christ Church is saying something, and the Hon. Minister is saying something else.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The position before the Chamber, I submit, is unusual. Hon. members on this side do not want to vote against this Bill, but there is no permission given by the Leader of this House to adopt the bill on the motion for the passing. You can re-commit a Bill on the third reading and debate it on the third reading but after the third reading has been passed, the motion for passing is more or less automatic. Therefore, what I should like to do is for the hon. Junior member for Christ Church to vote for the postponement or withdraw the motion at this stage.

If the hon. junior member for St. Michael has told the House that certain amendments were made to the Bill when it was put before him, it therefore means that the Bill, if it is passed here, would have to be amended in the Other Place and then come back to us again, 3.15 p.m..

Mr. SPEAKER:

The relevant Standing Order is Standing Order 47. This is what it says

"On the third reading of a Bill amendments may be proposed to the question That the Bill be now read a third time* similar to those which may be proposed on second reading," The third reading of this Bill has already been passed. The Standing Order continues as follows:-

"Amendments for the correction of errors or oversights may, with the Speaker's permission, be made before the question of the third reading of the Bill is put from the Chair, but no amendments of a material character shall be proposed."

"After the third reading and further proceedings thereon, a question is put 'That this Bill do now pass' after which the title of the Bill is agreed to or amended and agreed to."

"A Bill read a third time and passed shall be signed by the Speaker and shall be carried to the Council by the Clerk with a Message desiring the Council's concurrence."

This is a Bill which originated in this House and the further proceedings thereon mentioned in Paragraph 4 of this Standing Order, I take to refer to the amendments for the correction of errors or oversights mentioned in paragraph 3 of this Standing Order.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, if I may explain the Government's position in this matter, I should like to say that it will be unusual, to say the least of it, for a responsible member of this House to vote against the motion for the passing of a Bill after that Bill has had its third reading. The third reading of a Bill is merely an automatic process; but, Sir, in view of the intimation which has been given by the hon. junior member for St. Michael that it is within his knowledge that the Bill has not been finally referred to the Cabinet and that further amendments have to be made to it, I want to inform the Hon. Mover of the motion that when the Bill is presented to the Other Place, simultaneously we will be presenting the amendments for consideration. If the Other Place agrees to the Bill with the amendments....

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I suggest to the Hon. Leader of the House that, in view of this situation which has never before in my experience occurred, where an attempt is being made to speak after the motion for the third

reading of a Bill has been passed, other than on a matter -of the correction of errors or oversights - that I be given an opportunity to consider this matter and give my ruling at the next meeting of the House? As I have said, this is a situation without precedent in my experience, I suggest to hon. members that a motion be made that farther consideration of this Em be now postponed with a view to my giving my ruling in respect of whether or not there should properly take place any discussion on a motion that a Bill, which already has been given its third reading, be now agreed to.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, may I respectfully suggest that if Your Honour insist on having this motion for postponement made, the House has to concur in it? But my suggestion is that there is no provision in the Standing Orders of this House for such a motion after a Bill has been given its third reading.

Mr. SPEAKER:

This is at a stage which a precedent may now about to be created, and I desire that it should be only after due consideration.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

My suggestion is, following the Standing Orders of the House, that immediately the motion for the passing of the Bill has been put and acceded to, the Bill has passed its final stage and the amendments would be related to the Other Place and sent back to the House. I do not think it is in order to propose a motion for the postponement of a Bill at this stage, but Your Honour's ruling is final

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to draw something to Your Honour's attention? & may be that you have the latest edition of May's Parliamentary Practice....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have not got a copy of the latest edition with me here,

Mr. WALCOTT:

Looking at this matter, on page 554 of the 15th edition of Mays and Chapter 20, the question "That this Bill do now pass" is no longer put in the House of Commons and, according to established usage a Bill when it is read a third time, has been passed. It means that in the House of Commons when a Bill has been read a third time, the form of saying "That this Bill do now pass", no longer exists. If we follow in scientific sequence that we are now putting the question "That this Bill do now pass", then there could only be an objection to a plain, simple vote; that is to say, that you either vote for it or not. There ceases to be any substantive motion in relation to the Bill on which you are going to vote, 3,25 p.m.

The matter of moving that this Bill do now pass is a question of taking a vote and not having a debate, because nothing else is before us to debate,

Mr. SPEAKER:

I do not at all disagree with the hon, senior member for St. Peter, and as I am at present advised if the Chamber would like an immediate ruling, I will not hesitate to rule that there may be no discussion on this motion that the Bill do now pass, on the grounds that it is purely a formal motion as distinct from

the motion for the third reading, If the House would prefer me to give this matter further consideration, I have no objection whatsoever, and I would be prepared to accept a motion that further consideration of this matter be now postponed. In the absence of such a motion the question now is that this Bill do now pass.

Hon. members in favour please say \"Aye\", hon. members to the contrary opinion, please say \"no\", Methinks the \"Ayes\" have it.

Accordingly I declare this Bill duly to have been passed.

THE ST. LAWRENCE HOTEL CO. LIMITED (CONSTRUCTION OF GROUYNE) ACT, 1964

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order stands in the name of the hon. junior member for Christ Church, and that is; to move the third reading of a Bill to authorise the St. Lawrence Hotel Co., Limited, to erect a groyne and seawalls at St. Lawrence, Christ Church,

Mr. GODDARD:

Mr. Speaker, this is a similar Bill for the establishment of a groyne at the St. Lawrence Hotel.

I beg to move that the Report of the Select Committee be adopted.

Mr. LYNCH:

I beg to second that

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

Mr. GODDARD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time,

Hon. C. E. TALMA* I beg to second that,

Mr. SPEAKER:

In view of the ruling which I gave earlier, I will counsel hon. member who have any contribution to make, to do so before the motion for the third reading is passed or rejected as the case may be.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted to say this, in this particular case----

Mr. SPEAKER* it is permissible because, although the hon. senior member for Christ Church did not intimate when he seconded the motion that he proposed to speak, inasmuch as no one spoke after he did, I take it that he had not completed when he appeared to sit,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I just wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, that in the light of what has taken place quite recently, I want to

confirm that this Bill has actually been before the Cabinet, and it is perfectly in order to deal with it now. The Select Committee has reported on this, as distinct from the last one in which there was an element of doubt,

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

Mr. GODDARD; Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this Bill do now pass,

Mr. LYNCH:

I beg to second that,

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the day stands in the name of the hon. Junior member for St. Peter whom I do not observe to be in his place. Following that is the Order standing in the name of the hon. junior member for Bridge- town, and that is to move the passing of a Resolution relating to the sharp deterioration in the island's academic educational standards,

RESOLUTION re DETERIORATION IN ISLAND'S ACADEMIC EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Mr. LYNCH:

Mr. Speaker, I regret that the Hon. Minister of Education is not in his place, but I am afraid that I cannot allow his absence to deter me on this occasion.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, if I may request the hon. member....

Mr. SPEAKER:

I gather that the Hon. Leader of the House is intimating to the hon. junior member for Bridge- town that he would like him to give way,

Mr. LYNCH:

Merely physically, Sir, by standing and speaking, but in no other way.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker. I am asking leave that Order No. 5 be the next Order of the day.

Mr. SPEAKER:

We are proceeding in order, and after Order No. 3 comes Order No. 4, and it is Order No. 4 on which the hon. junior member for Bridgetown has arisen to move the passing. Let the hon. Junior member for Bridge* town proceed.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I would request the hon. Junior member for Bridgetown to defer debating this

Resolution in the absence of the Hon. Minister of Educa-

tion. I am sure he would do far more justice to himself and probably to his subject if he permits the Hon. Minister on the Cabinet responsible for this matter to be present during this debate, to be seised of all the points made, and therefore to be able to declare the Government's policy on these matters, The hon. member is fully aware that the news- paper reports which will be the only things available by the time the Hon. Minister of Education comes to reply will be most likely not ample enough as to get the sort of reply which the hon. junior member for Bridgetown would like,

Mr. SPEAKER:

Did I correctly understand the Hon. Leader of the House to say \"If the hon. junior member for Bridgetown permits the Hon. Minister to be present\"?

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Your Honour is aware that the presence of the Hon. Minister of Education now depends on the permission of the hon. junior member for Bridge- town, and I am merely suggesting that he defer the Resolu- tion until the Minister is present,

Mr. LYNCH:

Mr. Speaker, I have always been assured that there is a plethora of talent on the Government benches, and that almost anyone of them can take the necessary notes for the Minister of Education and apprise him of what I have said, and if need be, reply on his behalf. There has arisen a matter of considerable public importance which I would like to draw to the attention of this Honour- able House, and it is the rumour of an appointment at Harri- son College, which has to deal directly with the sharp deterioration in the island's academic educational stan- dards, Harrison College being one of the schools in this Island.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid I cannot allow a discussion either of a rumour or something which is so completely not before us. I appreciate the resourcefulness of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, but I am afraid he may not fittingly bring up such a matter during the course of dis- cussion on this present motion, 3.35 p.m.

Mr. LYNCH:

Perhaps I may be able to make mention of the appointment of the Headmaster of that school when I am speaking on this measure in reference to \"the sharp deterioration in the Island's academic educational stan- dards.\" I have no guarantee that the Hon. Minister of Edu- cation would be present, and I would be glad if I would be given some guarantee that he would be here before this matter is discussed. Then may be, I could wait awhile.

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I remind hon. members that the motion by the hon. junior member for the City of Bridge- town is that this House views with grave concern the sharp deterioration in the Island's academic educational standards as mirrored in the recent public examination results and the stultification of the technical education programme.

The hon. member is therefore entitled to speak on the sharp deterioration in the Island's academic educational standards as mirrored in the recent public examination results and the stultification of the technical education programme.

Mr. LYNCH:

,And also on the further deterioration in the Island's academic educational standards, and any further decline.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member is fully entitled to speak on the past, present and the possible future of the Island's educational standards, but without reference to any rumour or anything which has not been finalised.

Mr. LYNCH:

I thank Your Honour for your ruling.

Now, Sir, it has been generally agreed in educational circles that there has been a sharp deterioration in our academic educational standards as mirrored in the recent public examination results of the General Certificate of Education, particularly at Ordinary Level. That this is so, has been borne out by the fact that even now unprecedented

examinations are going on at certain Government maintained schools, no doubt hoping to arrest this decline and deterioration,

Mr. Speaker, it may be of more than passing interest to hon. members of this House that there should be such a deterioration, and it must even be of greater concern to them what might best be done to arrest this decline. It has been mooted that this deterioration is perhaps due to the child - I speak of the child intellectually - who is gaining entrance in that some of them have been forced-fed in certain things, that is to say, carried over a narrow curriculum time and time again until they became word perfect, but possessed of little reasoning; and so, then a little later on, when they are tested with children who are taught along the regular lines, you find that those children are mentally their superiors. This type of child who has had the advantage of going over past Examination papers during the luncheon period and so effect an entrance into a Government maintained school, more often than not, when he or she gets into the Third Form, that child finds that his counterparts are mentally his superiors. That is not a good thing.

There also is the question of age grouping which some people think is the real cause of our lower educational standards. There is the fact that because many children enter school late, they were placed immediately in a form which was where they ought to be chronologically, but not where they ought to be intellectually, or in so far as their intellectual achievement could be assessed. These are two of the contributory reasons, no doubt, responsible for the deterioration in our academic standards and, after all, these children are the future citizens who would have to take over the running of the Island. Therefore, it must be to us a matter of the gravest concern.

Added to that, we hear rumours of teachers who would set work, especially English essays, and would not correct them and would set the "essay" type of question and fail to give corrected answers. All of these things we know happen. They are not given now any sentences, and asked to write them as they

ought to be written; but it ought to be done in fairness to the children,

As it has been stated, intellectual dishonesty is the worst form of dishonesty of all. It would be seen from this stricture that some of this remains in some of our Government-maintained schools, and the question is what is to be done about it.

It must be confusing even to the most ardent supporters of the Government that the problem of the Private Secondary schools, in which more than 10,000 children find themselves has so far been ignored. There have been a few sops given to children who attend these schools in the form of refund of examination fees to the parents of the successful candidates. There also has been the permission given to Private Secondary schools to import certain articles of school equipment without paying duty on them. If this is to be regarded as a bonus or blessing, if this is to be accepted for these 10,000-odd children, then I think we have a very sorry future ahead of us,

I would say this. Very many of these Private Secondary schools should in all fairness to the public be closed lest anyone again ever gain admission; but the fact that that state of affairs has been ignored shows that the Government is not willing to face up to its obligations. That so many thousands of children have been allowed to pass through educational institutions of that kind is a very grave indictment on this or any Government,

What ought to be done is to see that certain minimum standards are maintained in these schools to which a greater span of these children between ages of 11 years and 19 years go. And those schools which cannot maintain the necessary minimum standards ought to be closed and the others which are found to be in need of assistance ought to be helped - not necessarily with money, but what could be done is what is done in other territories, that is to say

the placing of one teacher by the Government for every hundred children at these schools. This teacher would be paid by the Government, thus ensuring a certain stability, a certain minimum standard of culture and education for the children who are to be the end-product of these schools; or the alternative plan which has been adopted in British Guiana, where the school pays the first \$70 of the teacher's salary, whether the teacher is fully qualified or not, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and the Government pays the remainder, 3,45 p.m.

After all, these children are the children of taxpayers also and how, in the name of fairness, can the parents of these children provide taxes to educate other people's children when their children themselves are so blatantly ignored? Every now and again we notice that a wing is added to some school and there is a spate of speech-making that a number of square feet has been added to the existing physical plant; but it is not the physical plant that matters. What is important is a bold and comprehensive plan to meet the needs of the future, not just going and looking at a school and saying which end of the school has to take on an additional classroom; we need a plan whereby thousands of children, who have now got to be refused, may be accommodated. Here we have some ten thousand children sitting Part I of the examination with 700-odd places available. We know only too well that 9,000 of these children cannot be accommodated and they will be told: "You have failed". They will not be told "We have failed", which is the truth. It is not that the child has failed, but the Government has failed in not being able to provide the necessary accommodation for the child's education. Accommodation should not be provided by chance; but if an effort is being made, a real comprehensive effort, to make provision for

the future, people will be satisfied. The way in which to solve the problem is not the way which was adopted by previous Governments who pretended that the situation did not exist or that it will solve itself, but rather it is a question of sitting down and planning for the solution of the problem.

Some time ago, it was suggested by some teachers who attended on the Minister, teachers of Private Secondary schools, that the number of children who had ostensibly to be failed - I use the passive voice purposely - might well be sent to these Private Secondary schools where their fees would be paid by the Government, and the Government in return would have the power to inspect all these schools, the examinations, the curricula, and eventually to have the power to pass strictures on the schools if the examination results were not what they should be. The Government would also have full powers to see to it that these schools attain a certain minimum standard with the children of the tax-payers who would otherwise be neglected and be ignored, that they would have this standard maintained and the children would thereby be given a fair start in life. Nothing has been done about the implementation of that programme; nothing, I suggest, will be done about the implementation of any such programme. At some schools, we had the spectacle in July, 1964, of children writing their own language, or writing what purports to be their own language, and at one school two children passed in English Literature out of twenty-six. The whole school failed in Mathematics. It is not Mathematics which I propose to discuss now, but the weakness in English which has been causing a great deal of concern not only in this country but in the neighbouring territories of Trinidad and Jamaica - the fact that children could not write their own language,

Mr. Speaker, it is high time that we drop this dangerous complacency of which Barbados seems to boast when we declare airily that we are the leaders of education in the West Indies - * boast which at one time could be true, but which could not be vaunted with any assurance now. It is high time that we meet the problem which arises as to how are we going to meet the challenge of the future for the upliftment and not the lowering of our educational standards. If there are these doors outside to be reopened, certainly those who will be accepted will be only the cream of the crop, those who have a good background in education and who can contribute to the progress of the society in which

they find themselves. But the question is: are we making provision so that these young people whom we have to see are educated. can take their rightful place in the society in which they find themselves? Are we doing a good enough Job to ensure that?

Changes will come about in schools or in the administration of schools; but, Sir, we have to be very careful that when ever these changes do come about, there is an improvement In the type of staffing which we usually have for our schools. The time- has perhaps come when we might well consider the appointment of local people in some of our most important jobs, I say that because the local people are very likely to have the future of the schools which they have to administer at heart more so than the expatriates who come here for a short time to join the local cocktail circuit. These are things which must exercise our minds at this time. Changes will come because Headmasters will not live forever and when they resign or die, it is a matter of national concern as to the type of replacement which is decided upon. Every one of us in this community must be concerned whenever there are changes made in the personnel of the Headmastership of any of our premier schools; because upon those changes depend the future of many thousands of our young people, 3. 55 p.m.

It is even more important, Mr. Speaker, if the proposed Headmaster of any school which falls vacant

could be a man under 40 years and so could have some 20 odd years of continuity in the particular post to which he may be appointed. It may well be, Sir, that at one of our primary schools there may be applicants under the age of 40 years, members of distinguished families, well qualified academically and men commanding the respect....

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I have the assurance of the hon. Junior member for Bridgetown that he is not referring to any particular case?

Mr. LYNCH:

Oh no. Mr. Speaker, I am being hypothetical.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I thought of that, but I merely wanted the personal assurance of the hon. member,

Mr. LYNCH:

I was merely making a hypothetical reference to what might well occur one of these days. If ever such an event should occur, I feel confident that all the members of this House would come down hard in favour of such a man as against the whims of any expatriate who might apply for such a post, and who might not be expected to have at heart either the scholars or the college and so, Sir, I am just drawing this hypothetical reference to the attention of this Hon. House. Of course, we will hope that Government will not have on its Governing Bodies of the various schools people who will be likely to make such a decision. We will, however, expect that Government will not have on Governing Bodies people who are as incongruous in their positions as a hippopotamus might be in a space capsule, but people who are knowledgeable educationally and who would be able to come to correct decisions when it comes to appointments of that kind. We would have enough confidence in those who appoint them to feel that they would not put on Governing Bodies people who could be by a eulogy from on high as to how they should

vote whenever appointments of this nature should come before them and so, Sir, it is high time, I think, that we should be warned of any deterioration in our educational standards.

In Jamaica very recently, no less a person than the Governor-General of the now independent territory, himself a former elementary Headmaster, appointed a Commission of Enquiry into matters educational. On the Commission he had people from the fields of commerce, trade unions, from the professions, from teachers' unions and so on in an effort to ensure that there should be no

falling off in the educational effort to educate the masses

of Jamaica. For a longtime now. Sir, Barbadians have been

accepted and indeed have even been requested to find certain types of employment in England, This was due to the fact that they had won a well-earned reputation for competence in England and in other countries, and this reputation for competence was earned because of their educational background. It would be tragic if in this day and age that reputation which had been so firmly established should now be lost. We are the people whose duty it is to see to it that this well-earned reputation for education, for

hard-headedness, commonsense and competence in the execution of duties is not lost

The education of people coming from elementary schools years ago was good enough that many a man left this island and went abroad to the United States of America and studied one of the learned professions; that cannot now be done. We have different types of schools being introduced. We follow rather slavishly behind the English pattern. If England is having Secondary Modern Schools, Barbados has Secondary Modern schools; if England introduces Comprehensive schools in big cities, Barbados introduces Comprehensive schools; and so we have this slavish pattern of following English education without trying to adapt it to our own local needs which in the past has caused a great deal of disruption of our educational system.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, it is high time that a Commission be appointed in this Island to enquire into our educational system, and to decide whether all is well in this day. There is also the question of the Technical Institute where young men ought to be in training at this time to take over the \$20 million in appliances which have been brought into this Island during the past twelve months, young men who would be able to repair refrigerators, radios, television sets, powered lawn mowers and other amenities of that kind, rather than be pipe fitters with a ceiling of some \$25 or \$30 a week, a future which attracts no young man who is worthy of his salt. It is high time that that institution, too, undergo an educational spring-cleaning and be brought into line with modern concepts of education. The fact that no welding has been done at this institution for several months must be in the nature of a shock to members of the general public. The fact that the young plumbers who are being instructed there are taught to plug in their equipment indoors, haul it over the roof and do electrical plumbing might well be faced with homes which are not wired electrically, 4.05 p.m.

This Institute has had a very unhappy history since its inception, and we hope that this year there will be a line of demarcation drawn between the frustrations of the past and the hopes of the future of that institution, because out of that institution may well come young men who will travel to the United States, Canada, England and even perhaps to Western Germany, to take their places alongside similarly trained young men and earn themselves the respect of the community in which they have found themselves.

It has been a long time now that the public has been enduring in silence the mismanagement of this particular Institute. I would explain that I intended no derogatory statement against the present Head when I said that he was very well qualified in French, I only made mention of it to show the confusion of thought in the minds of the people who make these appointments, and I mentioned it because I happen to know the subject which he was appointed to teach. If the gentleman is annoyed about my mentioning it, that is his business. However, I did not intend to speak derogatorily of the Principal of this school. He was trained in French, I know, and he had taught Scripture at Harrison College, and then he was appointed Principal of the Technical Institute, that shows the confusion of thought in the minds of those who make these appointments.

It is time that they ignore this type of thinking in so far as technical education in Barbados is concerned. The importance of the human hand cannot be overestimated and has been accepted in the metropolitan countries. Indeed it is a fact that the man who has trained hands cannot go unemployed in the United States, Canada or in England, and such

men work for a great deal more than the white-collared workers. You can get white-collared workers almost anywhere; but men with skills and with trained hands are the men who help to build the community. But I am sorry to say that in Barbados you find a certain snobbishness affecting that sort of person. As regards a man who is called upon to repair a combustion engine, you will notice the condition of the changing room at local garages which is given to that type of man when compared with the type of room which is provided for the man who works in the office. The poor facilities which are given to that man who is skilled in combustion engine repairs are indeed a scandal. It is high time that something be done about it and it can only be done when there is a change in our national thinking.

It is surprising to artisans when they leave Barbados and travel to foreign lands to find that their earnings are so much in excess of that of the white-collared workers; but that is only as it should be. and it shows that there is something wrong in our local assessment of the value of our workers. Where we would underpay the artisan and overpay the clerk, this provides the anomalous situation which can only be amusing to someone coming from one of the metropolitan countries. It is high time we think of turning out in large numbers technical workers not only for the purpose of building up our whole economy, but also for the other territories which lie near to us -- whether or not we join with them in a federation - and also for the metropolitan countries to which our workers go in search of a living. It is the duty of the Government to see to it that our young people are trained in that way, and not only the young people who have been fortunate in getting entrance to Government-aided secondary schools.

Mention has been made of the large number of children who attend Private Secondary schools. They too should obtain training in technical matters so that when they leave school they would be able to find themselves in profitable employment and would so help to build the economy of this country. It is high time that this discrimination perpetuated by the present Government of a cleavage in instruction between those who attend Government-maintained Secondary schools and those who do not should cease, because it is due to the inability of the Government to provide the accommodation for them. People do not send their children to Private Secondary schools because they like them to go to Private Secondary schools. They have to send them there because they cannot find accommodation for them in the public schools.

We are sympathetic with the Government because we know that there is no bulding programme which the Government can initiate which can keep up with the number of children who have to be educated year after year. However, despite the fact that we are sympathetic, we are not blind to the fact that little or no effort is made to solve this issue.

It is high time that we try and cope with this burning issue because even members of the general public are beginning to realise that more action and less talk would be better for the community. Our educational standard! can only be increased. Mr. Speaker, - I will not say 'maintain' now because we have gone sharply down the hill - if we have educated teachers and children who are willing to face up to the fact that the world in the future has no place for the ignorant. The people of Jamaica received a sharp lesson in this respect some years ago when they attempted to emigrate to Ethiopia and were informed that Ethiopia had no room in it for uneducated people. The Emperor, Selassie, said that he needed people who would come in and help develop Ethiopia - people who had skills, whether they were academic or technical.

We must see to it that we are never faced with a similar problem if ever the doors of emigration are

opened for our people to go to other countries; and if this thing did happen overnight, we have to see to it that those whom we have to offer are fitted with everything which the nation in which they find themselves is in need of, I say that these things happen overnight because who is to know that two or

three years from now the country of Brazil might not be visited with thousands of emigrants coming from these parts? Millions of dollars are being poured into that country by the United States and the Northern countries, and Brazilians are progressive, hard workers. Many of them are of the hardy energetic German stock: am I who is to say that in a few years' time, when they overcome the slump which now befalls that magnificent country, the people there would not be willing to take their place among the more progressive nations? There is even British Guiana which is now receiving considerable financial assistance which had been denied to the former Premier, Who is to say that we would not be called upon in a few years' time to help build the economy of British Guiana? 4,15 p.m.

There is a country as big as England, Scotland, Ireland

and Wales together - some 88,000 square miles - and all it needs to build up its economy is some money and some manpower. But money is being provided in a trickle, and who is to say that it will not come in abundant streams later on when it is seen what use is made of the financial resources which are now being directed towards British Guiana? As to the manpower, that country cannot supply that itself, and so they will be looking in this direction. The future belongs to those who are prepared for it. We, in this little Island which is so famous for education, and which is so well known through out the world for the hardheadedness and commonsense of its inhabitants, have to see to it that there is no deterioration of standards or no lessening of the educational product which we have put forward in the past, so then when the call comes, we will be able to send young people of great value, people who will be able to assist those countries in which they find themselves. I do not think that the solution is the one which seems to have occurred to the Department of Education, that too much time is spent in games at certain schools, with a consequent lessening or falling off of competitive sport at some of these schools: but teachers having become alarmed at some of the strictures of the Hon. Minister, perhaps it may be that greater interest being paid to the progress of the children by the teachers would be the correct solution of the problem, I want to say, Sir, that the cutting down of sporting activities which is a formula resorted to by at least one school within my own knowledge, is not the correct solution.

Many of the teachers in these schools complain that they do not get the wholehearted co-operation and support from the parents of the pupils. As to the fact that there is now so-called free education in Government-maintained schools, it may be that some persons think that when a child has passed Parts I and II of the entrance examination and has safely landed in a Government School, there the responsibility of the parent ends and there is no need for the parents to provide the child with books. The cost of books nowadays is, in many cases, almost prohibitive. One has got very often forcibly to draw to the attention of parents that children will need certain textbooks: and even if they are the cleverest children in the world, it is impossible for them to be able to prepare certain subjects like English Literature, Latin Translation, etc, unless they have books. They might, well copy out things like mathematical problems from the books of friends and bring in the completed solutions, but it is impossible for them to study certain essential subjects unless they are provided with books. So many people are of the opinion that I have expressed, that a great deal of assistance might well have been given to the hard-pressed parents by providing the children with textbooks rather than with the provision of school meals for certain sections of children in the Primary Schools, When the cry of malnutrition of

the children in the schools is mentioned, one has heard it mentioned that in years to come we are going to be proud of the athletes and the world record-breakers in things like weight-lifting when the effect of the school meals has taken its place. Well sir, I would be inclined to doubt that, because more than one world record has been established to Barbados long before the advent of school meals, and medals have been already won by Barbadians in various forms of sport without the provision of school meals; What perhaps is needed is the introduction of industries so that parent might earn the necessary money and provide their children with meals.

That, of course, would be the subject of another debate, (Hear! Hear!) Our falling off in educational standards has been the subject of the conversation of teachers wherever one meets them. The staffing of our premier schools has been another subject of conversation; this subject has become of increasing interest and the tempo of the interest has been also alarming. One of the things which the teachers are congregating at corners and at parties and discussing is the appointment of Headmasters and the effect of what is being done at this time, and it is felt that there is possibility of a farther deterioration of academic standards if unhappy appointments are made in certain schools. If people are appointed as Headmasters of schools and they do not win the confidence of their confreres - people who are teaching alongside them - if they become Headmasters, they will have to be able to attract the co-operation of the members of the Staff whom they had previously offended. Therefore, if ever any of the headships of these schools become vacant, if a Headmaster or a Head mistress is needed, and the staff declare their willingness to support one of their own number who has gained the highest academic honours possible in this particular faculty and perhaps has had a degree in teaching added to that academic honour together with the assurance of those who taught that he will have their full co-operation, you would not have any idea that such application would be ignored. There may be the case of the expatriate or one who is coming here simply because there is promotion. There is even the hypothetical question of a man who might have been on the staff of one of our premier schools and he has retired because he did not receive a specialist post; but he was directed to return because the Headmastership had been offered. One wonders what would be the reaction of the staff of that school if one was so appointed over the man who has equal academic qualifications plus a degree in teaching, I am sure. Sir, that we would be very much concerned at the holocaust which has been made in the teaching situation locally, because if there is one thing of which Barbados has been proud and will always be proud, it is its educational standards, 4.26 p.m.

The Barbadian feels that he can confidently entrust the future of Barbados educationally to the Government which he has placed in power. It is up to you, Sir, to see to it that those who are entrusted with this mandate shoulder it faithfully, and to see that those who are looking on from overseas, the many thousands who have journeyed to Canada, the United States of America and England, and who are also anxious to know what things are like in Barbados, whether one meets them on train, in bus or in the street, are not let down through any lack of direction on our part in the educational standards of this colony. The guidance of the colony educationally is in the hands of the Department of Education, We have to see to it that the people appointed to these very important positions are not disgruntled applicants for other posts. We have to see to it that they carry out their duties faithfully, that they give the Minister who is in charge of the whole exercise their wholehearted support; we have to see to it that certain educational problems are not ignored in the hope that by the very ignoring of them they might well come to a solution of their own; and we have to see to it that the thousands of children in the Island entrusted to the care of the Private Secondary schools are not frustrated for the rest of their lives because of lack of planning on the part of the Government,

& is high time, Sir, that these matters be drawn to the attention of the Hon. Minister who, I regret, is not in his place, and I would make an apology for making these remarks in his absence: but it is to me a matter of national concern that certain parts of what I have said, especially the hypothetical parts, be drawn to his attention at this time. I may have offended against one of the canons of good taste in so far as speaking during the absence of the Minister is concerned, but I have been careful to so guide my language that he personally has not been attacked or af-

fronted

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the motion for the passing of this Resolution; but because of

its national importance, and because I hope the Press will not misrepresent the very able speech which the hon. Junior member for Bridgetown has made, and also because the Hon. Minister of Education and the Hon. Premier and the full force of the Government Party are not in the House, I think that after listening to the hon. member this matter ought to be postponed, and I am going to move that further consideration.....

Mr. SPEAKER:

Did I understand that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition was seconding the motion of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I have seconded the motion and I am moving that further consideration be postponed.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has seconded the motion of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, and he himself cannot now move something after getting up to second a motion.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I thought the time was up for Private Members' Business. I forgot the Standing Orders had been suspended and I was looking for the clock,

Mr. SPEAKER:

The clock has fallen down, and, I understand, has broken up.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I rise to second the motion of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, Mr. Speaker, which has been so ably made, but we regret that, as he has rightly said, this being of such national importance, the Hon. Minister of Education and the Hon. Premier are not in the House, It is true that there are other members of the Cabinet who would be so interested, but it appears to me that this matter could be more ably handled by the Minister whose portfolio it is to reply to the hon. junior member for Bridgetown,

The hon. member covered every phase of the educational problem here. His motion clearly sets out that there is some disquiet as to the deterioration of the island's academic and other educational

standards. The hon. member, Mr. Speaker, has had the opportunity and experience of being a teacher for many years, and of being the Headmaster of one of the largest schools in the West Indies, and everyone listening to him will Agree that he speaks ex cathedra on a matter of this sort. Although unlike the Hon. Minister of Education and possibly other members on the Government benches he does not possess a University degree, yet I do not think that anyone can claim that a University degree can build a school from three to 1,600 pupils as could have been seen from the twenty-first anniversary when they attended a service quite recently. There are people in all walks of life who have passed through the hands of the hon. junior member for Bridgetown as Headmaster of his school, and you will find them not only in the Civil Service, Government Service and teaching profession in Barbados, but in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America, and I think it is a credit to him for his school to have been able to come of age and to keep so many students there. I am not in a position to speak like the hon. member on this subject, but I know the feeling of people in this country. Only a few days ago I heard the standard of English of students from Government-aided and other schools who are doing the Ordinary level Certificate being discussed, and the comment was made that English seemed not to be the language which they speak. 4.35 p.m.

I have to make mention of the fact that one person whom I was discussing this matter with had himself been an elementary school boy, and now is a distinguished master at a very distinguished school in this Island, and he had to admit that in the days when he was in an elementary school he had to do a certain amount of English; therefore, the English which he spoke outside when playing games and what he spoke with his mother and father was quite different from the English which he had to prepare in his lessons for his Headmaster.

Mr. Speaker, I think my colleague made a very able and stirring appeal in this matter without being unduly derogatory of any individual when he said that it is high time that the Government think not of making speeches, but of getting down to the matter and seeing that something is being done because Barbados for years, as Your Honour will recall, boasted of a high standard of education and we cannot now boast of that high standard of education which we had many years ago.

As regards technical education, quite recently, I was reading a newspaper and I saw an article where teachers were protesting the fact that there was a large number of refrigerator and radio repairmen who were more highly paid than they, and they were making this protest that technical education all over the world seemed to be gaining rapid ground in nations.

As far as Barbados is concerned, the hon. member referred to the fact of what seems to be some national concern about articles appearing in the Press quite recently about having work permits for persons coming into the country. I think what he was referring to was the fact that quite recently it was the policy of the Trinidad Government not to permit people to come in and work with the big firms when local persons could do the job, taking for instance, persons who are auditors and so on. I know of a case of the Bank of Nova Scotia recommending one of its clerks to go to Trinidad to take up an appointment, and after everything was made right for that person to go, he was refused permission to enter because it was felt that in that country there were people who could do the job,

Mr. SPEAKER:

In connection with the speech which the hon. member is now making, I think he is going outside of the scope of the Resolution, I think the hon. member who is speaking on that should only refer to it by

the way. The hon. member is now going into detail on the subject,

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I have just made reference to that in passing,

I feel, Sir, under the circumstances, that the matter which my colleague has raised has been so ably put by him that it fits him to be a Minister of Education in any Government. I know that the hon. senior member for St. Peter can speak very ably on anything concerning trade unionism. But I do not know if he is going to speak on this matter concerning Harrison College.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for St. Peter can speak only if he catches my eye,

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion which has been so ably moved by my colleague the hon. Junior member for the City,

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker,.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I have not yet finished.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I rose because the hon, senior member for the City said that he had very much pleasure in seconding the motion therefore, he must take his seat. Never mind all that the hon. member is trying to do to prevent me, I am going to speak on this matter this evening. If you do not allow me to speak, the whole House would break up this evening, 4.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I was in a position to see the hon. senior member for the City when he said that he seconded the motion for the passing of the Resolution, I can assure the House that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition had not yet resumed his seat He was moving towards his seat, but he had not yet taken it

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I do not understand the hon. member,

Mr. WALCOTT:

I have been in here long enough...

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I have been in here long enough too.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Will the Hon. Leader of the Opposition proceed?

(Mr. MOTTLEY took his seat).

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I feel that when a private member introduces a Bill in this Chamber I should regard it as a public matter, I say that because it ceases to be a matter within the private context of the hon. member's private domain. This is a public Chamber, and the difference between a public matter and a private one is that some hon. member introduces something and that member is not a member of the Government. The matter is not a private one in the sense that the member ceases to be a member of the public. This is a matter in which the House has to vote. This is a Resolution which has to be voted on, and hon. members are going to take a vote in order that the Government can take action on the matter, I am not challenging the assessment which the hon. junior member for the City has made, because I believe that every hon. member is entitled to his own judgment upon any issue. I do not think that our educational standards are in the plight which the hon. junior member for the City has mentioned. In all generations you hear people say that things are not as good now as they used to be, I do not consider that the educational standards in Barbados are as bad as what the hon. member says. People who have left school some 25 years ago make comments about children who are going to school today without any knowledge of the system or of the techniques of education because it is not done in their method. As an example, the hon. member spoke of children who are leaving the Primary Schools and going to the Secondary Schools, and there are more children who are going to the Secondary Schools today than there have ever been in the history of education in Barbados. There is no point, therefore, in making any comparisons between now and what obtained before, because with a total of 109 boys at Harrison College, with 45% of them coming out, and with one Barbados Scholar, people said that that was good. Now you have people with certificates at Advanced Level. Every boy attending Harrison College before used to walk about with a blazer, but today those boys are walking about in shirts and pants; you really do not know them. People call them "Cats" and that sort of thing, because the concept of education is something different nowadays, I hear people who are always worrying about English and it is only in these places where you have people of African descent who are still in the third fourth or fifth generation struggling with a foreign language. The Jamaicans speak in colloquialisms, and that is also the case in the United States of America, England and France. There have to be these colloquialisms, I want to say that the knowledge of English is not the criterion of a person's intelligence; because a boy fails in English, it does not mean that he fails to be an intelligent person, English is one of the compulsory subjects in education but the knowledge of English is not the only means of examining the intelligence of a person. We have had an instance where one of the brilliant doctors of Barbados could not get a School Certificate, It has happened that a Barbados Scholar failed his school Certificate but he eventually obtained a Barbados Scholarship. That means that his mental growth took place at a later stage of his life, but he was still good enough to win the Barbados Scholarship,

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to say that our educational system is bad or that it is deteriorating. People talk about artisans and they say that they are not getting artisans like before, A Head teacher has pointed out that the educational opportunities today for a boy attending a Primary school are greater than those of his counterpart twenty-five years ago. That means that a boy today in the Primary school is not forced to leave school at the age of 14 years if he is a bright boy, in the same way as a boy left school at the age of 14 years twenty-five or thirty years ago. That is so because there is a ready place for that boy in a Secondary School. It means that you cannot get a boy at the age of 14 or fifteen years who has not got that potential any longer. A boy who left school 25 years ago in our time did not have to leave school today. These boys go to Secondary Schools

because the opportunities are there for them and they can absorb those opportunities. The economic situation 35 years ago forced a minority of boys in Harrison College, a minority in all the schools; you were getting what you would call the cream in these schools, not realising that there was a lot of trash and chaff coming in. The number of children in Barbados with adequate education today surpasses anything which we have had in the past by any stretch of the imagination.

What the hon. member must bear in mind is this: he spoke about artisans and so on, but that is symptomatic of the whole society in which they are living, and I may say that the Government is only symptomatic of the people of the country in which we live. If you live in a community in which people are snobbish, well then, snobbery is nothing strange. The Barbadians speak about lack of opportunities and privileges as being against the country so that there is nothing to gain about that. The average Barbadian is more replying in probabilities, at any rate for a carpenter or mason; therefore you are a part of that society and we have to try to break down that snobbery, 4.55 p.m.

The children of labourers are the ones in the schools now; so when it comes to wages, we have in Barbados the classic example of this community asking this Chamber to underwrite \$4.00 a day for agricultural workers. You would be surprised to hear what hon. members of this Chamber would say if we wanted to give agricultural workers \$4.80 a day, although they are the bed rock of the economy. I was accused of trying to wreck the economy of this Island by giving a man a minimum of \$4.80 a week, I only mention that in relation to the point made by the hon. member about the wages of these people based on the white collar worker as against the manual worker. I mention that too to show that it is symptomatic of this society to regard an artisan, a manual worker or a man who did not go to Lodge School or Harrison College as an ordinary worker.

The hon. junior member for Bridgetown spoke about the Technical Institute and the Leader of the Opposition spoke about Harrison College, but I will tell both members, without being in defence of any of the appointments or in defence of the Minister of Education, that Harrison College has a Statutory Board with all the power of a statutory board, and they have raised this issue here as if it is an ordinary situation, I have been accused of sitting down on a Governing Body and agreeing to the appointment of a woman who was a Barbadian; she was not a black woman, but I felt that her experience as a teacher was superior to the black woman whom they said was brighter, and the people in my constituency carried on a vicious campaign. If the Barbados white people play the fool and get on like idiots, I am not going to perpetuate their ignorance when I come into the position of authority. I expect that a white man has a right to live in Barbados as I have, and any job he can do I can do; but if I see that they are selecting people like him to do certain jobs, I will object to that.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member spoke about the Principal of the Technical Institute, I sat on that Board and I would not divulge whom I voted for to justify my own position, but I would say in defence of a Board like that the considerations which one has to give to these things are not always simple to the public, because you do not have a large number of people from whom to choose. Even now the Principal is going on leave and we have to appoint an acting Principal. The hon. member raised these points about appointments, but I would say that we had one of the most disgraceful appointments at a Secondary school in this island of a Headmaster whom you could not talk about in so far as qualifications are concerned, but he is from a family that everybody likes and respects, and there was all this pussy-footing of keeping your mouth shut and looking for some person to jump down on. If it were

another man from another family, millions of Resolutions would have been passed. I do not have to divulge whom I voted for on the Board to justify my position or to show that I was the wisest person, but I am saying that when it comes to the appoint-

ment of the Head of a school it is not worked out not on the

basis of the person's academic qualifications purely and simply, because if you appointed a man merely on academic qualifications, you would not have to ask anybody to apply; and you would need to do is to send to the University and ask them to send the brightest person whom you would appoint as Headmaster. You need men with experience, a good temperament and ability, because we know that some men are not always the brightest in school, but the brightest might not necessarily be the best Headmaster. A school calls for administration; but when you appoint a Principal of a Technical Institute, you are appointing a person to co-ordinate the other technical people; so when you appointed the gentleman, you appointed a man with over 25 years* teaching experience not only in Barbados but in other parts of the Caribbean, and his life record was there for us to go by.

So far as the Technical Institute is concerned, this is a new Institute, so what are you going to say against the Principal? What has happened since he has been there? Has administration broken down? The problem is that this is a new Institute, and therefore you cannot get as many passes as if it had been long established. We have a problem here where we teach more people than industry can absorb. In many respects boys coming from the Technical Institute are trained at a certain level, but you cannot say that if these boys do not get a job in Bridgetown, they have failed. You cannot see the value of a Technical Institute in ten years time. I have dealt with boys who have been to the Technical Institute; some of them have the City of London Certificate and others have not, but the discipline it gives to a young boy is good for him, 5.05 p.m.

I would ask the hon. member to read the Report, I had the honour to be the Chairman of that Committee, We made a thorough examination into this question; but what you must bear in mind is that this is an agricultural community. Do not believe that in any sudden period you would get out of a mass of agricultural labourers that sort of change. When you leave the City of Bridgetown and go out into the ten parishes, you are dealing with a predominantly agricultural community, and do not think that out of that you are going to get an industrial outlook. The mere fact that he waits until the rain comes to start doing anything and this whole outlook is waiting until the crop grows shows that it will take some time to change that man's thinking. He is not born in an industrial community where things move more quickly and where things are geared to those speeds, If you were to take twenty boys out of a rural area and twenty out of an urban area and put them into a Technical Institute, you will find that the twenty boys from the rural area are going to be slower in their progress than the twenty boys from the urban area. You see, those boys from the rural area have grown up with a father asking them to go and feed the cow. All those things are contributory factors. People who have studied the psychology of people know that you get different reactions to life in different communities. We are still living in an agricultural community where more than half of our total working population is engaged in agricultural production, and where you have a community which consists more of unskilled employment.

The hon. member spoke about a sharp decline in our educational standards, I do not know how the hon. member could say that in one breath. I know that the same boys who were born in Barbados and educated here are emigrating to other parts of the world and we are getting excellent results of their

work from the people to whom they have gone. It is true that I heard that some of them failed to pass the London Transport examination, but it is because you have a mass movement. Our educational system really has not kept pace with the growth of the number of people pressing for education, not only in technical matters, but at all levels. We still have the same three streams of education - Primary, Secondary and Higher - but you have a mass population pressing on you for education at all levels. You have an educational system which is geared for boys and girls fundamentally, but you will find that the approach for the girls is different from that of the boys. Lots of girls are going to Secondary schools. The hon. member spoke about

Secondary schools. Let us be factual. The reason that parents press for the education of girls is not the same reason as they press for the education of their boys. You press for the education of your girls because you want them to reach womanhood when they can help themselves, and many a parent sends their girls to Secondary schools as a sort of safety valve against their having a child too early, because in a community where you do not frown on a girl coming in early with a baby, you will find that sort of thing happening: and although it may have happened to the mother, she does not want it to happen to her daughter. Therefore, you can see that the reason for educating so many girls is different from that of educating the boys. You are putting them in the same academic stream as the boys,

I will say that all over the world, wherever you go, education has been a source of change according to the communities; The Russians have demonstrated that they are a people who are well educated, and people are fooling themselves when they say that the Russians are not educated. When I was a boy there was prejudice against the American system of education. In my lifetime, there has been the idea that you cannot be educated unless you go to an English school. To the ordinary Barbadian, he thinks that Russian is not a language, and the only language to average Barbadians is English; therefore, when you are speaking Dutch, you are not speaking a language. From what the Russians are doing, they must be mathematicians,

Harrison College was built to accommodate 300 pupils. Do you realise the pressure that they had to put on when they said that Harrison College could go up to 500 or 600 pupils? There was a time when they said that the ideal number for Harrison College was 300 pupils, I do not think the hon. junior member for the City subscribed to this view. If you talk about standards being low at present, they would drop a little because more people are pressing in the gate; but the question is, what are you going to do?

The hon. junior member for the City is Principal of one of the largest Private Secondary schools, and he knows very well the problems of the pressure. The hon. member knows that Private Secondary schools charge higher fees, and the fees cannot provide all the facilities they need in their schools nor can those higher fees do what the Government can do in the Government-aided Secondary schools. In the Private Secondary schools where they charge higher fees, they cannot provide themselves with all the necessary things.

That is why on the basis of education it is just like a mason and a Hospital, What we have to evolve is the conscience of the community into how much or how far are you going to subsidise education. That is what the community must be prepared to face because if you do not subsidise education, you are not going to get the system changed. Even if you take into consideration your School Meals programme

— and I have expressed my views about that already and if I had my way about it, I would not have tackled that first

—

— do not let anyone fool you. When certain social systems have become established, you cannot remove them. If you once start feeding people, as a politician, you cannot remove it; therefore, you will have to live with that. We may go easy on it, but you cannot remove it. The Conservatives in Great Britain were opposed to free medical services which were instituted by the Labour Government— but when they came into power, did they dare to remove it? No. The nation has grown accustomed to that now. The people regard the free medical services as something which the community should have. If you once start free education, you cannot stop it. As soon as you start doing something, you cannot go back on it. The hon. member knows that All over the world there has been this problem of education. I would agree with the hon. member when he says that education cannot be valued in terms of dollars and cents. Neither can you spend money this morning on education and say that you are going to get it back this evening,

—

5.15 p.m.

When you hear people talk about the standards of education, all that means is that a well-educated community saves people from going to prison, It means that general peace of mind where life is respected in this community to the extent that we are not exposed to a lot of the vicious characters which exist in other communities. It means that your educational system must be of that value which will make the community what it should be. The old system of education did not meet the needs of today. Let us be quite frank about that. I am not an educational expert, but the experts will tell you about the methods of learning to read and write. In the old days, children were subjected to memory, but nowadays you test the child's intelligence by making it think. Subjecting a child to memory is not the test nowadays. I am not hard on a system which is moving because the system is not static. There is no point in accusing us for something which took a period of 20 years to reach. As I said before, today a boy is not forced to leave school at the age of 14 or 15 years as was the case some 25 years or 30 years ago.

What we really have to learn is that there are more children today who are between the ages of 14 years and 19 years in the schools than there have been at any period in the whole history of Barbados. There are more children today in the schools, children between the ages of 14 years and 19 years than there were 20 or 25 years ago. With the economic position today, there is the difference that the working man in this country is sending his children to the Secondary Schools, whereas the working man of 25 years ago did not send his children to any secondary school. Today a lighterman has his daughter at Queen's College, Nowadays the whole situation as regards education has been changed, and the workers in the community, having more money at their disposal than was the case before, are utilising that money in the education of their children. The position is that a lot of the children who are now absorbing secondary education did not have the same social background as those who went before could enjoy. Today, many a child is at a Secondary School, and it has come from a home where the father may be somewhat illiterate.

The hon. junior member for the City spoke on the question of books. To the simple parent, the continual questioning about books is like the continual question of making them poor. Some parents have the idea that if you ask for books you are asking them for too much. In my view, we are passing through an interim stage to which we have come very quickly. I think that if the hon. member were to pay close attention to this matter, as I think he has done, he will see that it is not as bad an analysis as the large numbers who are forced on the system. The number of Private Secondary Schools which have grown up in this community within the last ten or fifteen years, surpass anything which we have had for the past century. When I was a boy, you only had Lynch's Secondary School and Straughn's Secondary School, and I may say that all the Secondary Schools of that day twenty years ago, did not carry as many children as one of these Private Secondary Schools is carrying now. You will see therefore that between the years 1900 and 1930, our educational system must have remained static judging from the numbers who are now entering Harrison College, Lodge School, Combermere School and so on. In those days, an old school boy could ask about his contemporaries; but today you cannot talk about any contemporaries in a school which you have attended because you do not know them. In the old days a school had about 60 or 80 children and you could know everybody, but those days are over. The drifters that you get today were always drifters or drop-outs in education, but the drop-outs formed themselves in the lower segments of society. These drop-outs today as compared with the drop-outs before, did the jobs which other fellows used to do. You are no longer getting a boy of the age of 14 years brought out of the Primary School and engaging in the trades. You must always calculate on the basis that you must have the one for whom you have provided in a country. That is why I feel that your system may be ahead of

you As I say, Sir, I do not think that our educational standards are dropping. You will have to explain what it is that you are producing in numbers, 5.25 p.m.

There was always the idea that education was something that you had to breed like a pig or a horse, and I felt that when this pressure of working class people came down on the schools, you were going to get this cry that the standards were going to drop, I do not think the hon. Junior member for Bridgetown would subscribe to the thinking that because the mass of people come from the working class people, therefore they are of a lesser quality and unable to absorb Secondary education, nor do I believe that children today are fundamentally weaker or duller than children of bygone days, because the young school child has to grapple with more things for its existence today, and before he gets into school he has to protect himself against motor vehicles and other hazards, All we had to protect ourselves against as boys was the jackass cart or the buggy; so today the whole horizon has been enlarged,

I do not think that we as adults, Mr. Speaker, are duller than our predecessors were. Far from that, I think we are grappling with more problems than they did, I have heard it said in this Chamber that the standard of debates has dropped, but this can no longer be an academic exercise, because the people who voted for us would vote anyhow, but we have to satisfy them. The debate that the hon. member is bringing up today would not have been brought up thirty years ago by his predecessor in the City of Bridgetown, because his predecessor would in any case want to know why we should educate all when we would not have work for them to do anyhow; so you would allow some to remain ignorant so as to get cheap jobs done, I feel that you have to analyse the points which the hon. member has made within the context of how many people are pressing on the educational system. The hon. member spoke about the economics of these places, but I would say that the revolution which has taken place in the

workers' camp, in which they have been provided with a higher income, has enabled them to press on the educational system by having more children at these schools, and the Government has not been able to change the pattern of education to take care of this pressure that is greater than what the system was geared for. The old Primary, Secondary and Higher education which was suitable to the few can no longer meet the needs where everybody is pressing on it, because it admits of more trained teachers. To say that the teachers today are not more equipped for teaching than the old time teachers is a different thing. The old time ones may have been more dedicated, but dedication and efficiency are two different things. You can have a dedicated fool, dedicated to the thing he is doing, but he really does not know anything about it. On the other hand, you may have a man who is not a dedicated teacher, but is capable of teaching, and if anything comes along offering more money, he would leave. I believe that is what is happening in this modern age. Teachers are more equipped for teaching and for other things too.

Mr. Speaker, many of the old time teachers could not command other jobs as easily as the modern school teacher, because the modern school teacher can leave teaching and go into private administration, accountancy and what not, I have come across young men from some of these private schools who started teaching in the lower forms, but the salaries at these schools could not pay them, and now I find them in private industry working for salaries in excess of what people who have been teaching for twenty or thirty years are getting, I know they are working for more than they could ever receive from teaching at the school, even if they became Senior Assistants, Teaching is not an extremely highly paid service for the work and problems involved. When you have to pay thousands of teachers, the quantum is going to be a different quantum from when you have to pay hundreds of teachers; nor can you teach by automation. They have not developed any automatic system of putting an automatic teacher in a room, pressing a button and the pupils look at the thing. This is one of the things where the human element is still a cost factor.

Where I would like to join with the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, is in getting a system where these private schools form a problem, and where large numbers of children go. I think he will agree that if the Government gives aid to schools, the examination for what you do in private schools would have to be very clear cut. Private schools are not under any obligation to do fixed things, and the system is still somewhat loose. Education has grown as a voluntary system, If a man is called upon to get a licence to open a rum shop, and you do not prevent a man from drinking as much rum as he likes and getting drunk, I do not see how you can permit anybody to open a school. A child should not be permitted to go into any kind of school under any kind of condition; so as soon as you come to a system of incorporating Secondary Schools into the whole system of education, you have to go in for a brutal analysis, and we have to be very rigid, I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that there is anything undemocratic in compelling children to remain in school or in compelling people to run schools to certain standards, 5.35p.m.

If the people are going to complain about these things, all of that must come under rigid control. The education of a nation is very vital, A Government which is imposing its own philosophy on education will never be able to stop halfway in the education of its people. If you want to build a Socialist society, your education must be geared towards that so that the people would be educated in a society for the operation which the Socialist society demands. Do you think a Government is going to undertake a lot of Public Works building programmes but you will still have people educated in a laissez faire? Where you work for the State but where you have no interest in the State, the State will spend billions of dollars without getting any reward. Whatever the State is going to do, it must gear itself with the

education of the people to meet with the means of the things it wants to do. That is the kind of thing that a system like ours should be geared to.

I would say, myself, that I do not mind if a man may not be a good carpenter or a mason; but if you are going to get teachers from here to be Heads of schools, they must arrive. The hon member talked about expatriate teachers and cocktail parties. I may not agree with the appointment at the Lodge School, Harrison College or at the Technical Institute; but hon. members know that whenever an appointment is going to be made to a school, you will find everybody coming to you, if you are a member of the Governing Body, and pressing you to give your support to such-and- such a fellow for the job. They get along as if you can cut up all these people whom they are putting up too pieces and give them die one job. The Governing Body of the Lodge School was accused openly in the Press of not giving the appointment to a certain master. I do not believe the House made any row because they were not in favour of the gentleman who was given the post.

I have never associated the hon. junior member for the City with strong likes and dislikes, but for him to say that the Principal of the Technical Institute is a master who has a degree in French, and therefore, because of that, you must rule him out from being the Principal of the Technical Institute, that is just as if you had plenty of technical people applying for appointments to the post and you just put their names in the waste paper basket and you go ahead and appoint the ones who had French as a subject. The hon. member must bear in mind that whenever you are working on a Board and you live in a democracy, it is the number of votes that count. In this Honourable Assembly I have voted against many things, but that does not mean that they were not carried.

I do not see, Mr. Speaker, how, when a Governing Body does something, some people do not like it. They must have given full examination to the matter. I know that Government Bodies have made mistakes, but I do not know if that has happened in this case. I think some of us take objection to certain things and events proved afterwards that we were wrong. We may say that we want a local man to fill a job, but the Job rests on the previous standards of the man.

What I would say in a general way is that what Jamaica does and does not do in the field of education, we cannot follow too slavishly. We have to be realistic. I do not know myself if it is the policy of the Government, other than the Governing Body, to have a particular person appointed notwithstanding the freedom with which they are appointed. I would like to feel that our-educational system is geared to express the feelings of an that is taking place,

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be able to support the Resolution moved by the hon. junior member for the City on the specific matter that education can be made to work as a certain improved vehicle for the future and that a pattern should be drawn out to conform with the pressures which you have in your educational system. Before you can say that the standards have been lowered as a result of recent examinations or any examination at all, you will have to say how many children this present standard would be producing so as to be able to gear yourself with what was produced fifteen years ago. You must be able to say: are we getting children into the University as easily as we were getting them before? As regards the Arts College here, one of the problems is that it is not that you do not have Barbadians enough who can avail themselves of the opportunity of studying, but it is a problem that you cannot hold a job and go there, I cannot, therefore, condemn the present system as die hon. member is doing, because if I feel that we are as bad as what the hon. member is saying. we would be very bad

indeed. If the hon. member can give us more feeling of hopefulness than the one he has given us, then, Sir. I would be able to support this Resolution.

Hon. C. E. TALMA* Mr. Speaker, at this stage, owing to the absence of the Appropriate Minister dealing with this matter, I beg to move that further consideration of this Resolution be postponed.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that, The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division. 5.45 p.m.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Sir. I know that Your Honour has had a very long afternoon. We propose to go on with Government Business now, and in the absence of His Honour the Deputy Speaker, I do not know if Your Honour would insist on taking the suspension of the sitting now. but we propose to finalise business within half an hour's time. Of course, I cannot guarantee that it will only be a period of half an hour,

Mr. SPEAKER:

Of course, I cannot insist on having a suspension of the sitting, but if it is not proposed to go on for longer than half an hour, I will carry on without a break.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Government Business be now taken,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that, The question was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) REGULATIONS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 6 be taken as the first Order of the Day under Government Business.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 6 is the instant Order of the Day, and it stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works. It is to move the passing of the following Resolution

Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled \"The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1965\",

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, as the addendum to the Resolution sets out, this Resolution seeks the approval of both Houses of the Legislature to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1965 made by the Director of Highways and Transport on the sixth day of March, 1965, under Section 7 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937, as amended by Sections 41 and 42 of the Department of Highways and Transport Act, 1945, and approved and sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor on the eighth day of March, 1965. The Regulations provide for a new form of concession to be granted to the operators of bus services.

The Regulations have been laid in the Legislature.

Hon. members will remember that these Regulations were laid in the Legislature. These Regulations are cited as the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, 1965. It is set out that the form of concession contained in the Third Schedule to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations, 1952, is hereby cancelled and replaced by the form of concessions contained in the Schedule to these Regulations. Paragraph 3 of the Regulations sets out that the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1958 are hereby revoked,

Mr. Speaker, a concession is for a period of five years, and it is set out in condition (5) (c) of the Schedule that the concessionaire is to adhere to time tables submitted to and approved by the Director, subject to such revisions as may from time to time be required or approved by him. The Time tables as approved by the Director and the rates of fares as approved by the Public Utilities Board, are to be printed by the concessionaire and exhibited in a conspicuous place in each omnibus. That is the main difference between this form of concession and the old form of concession which was really not completed in 1958. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass,

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that,

Mr. COWARD, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few observations on These Regulations out of which the present form of concession is granted, as published in the Press, & is a well-known fact that water, light and communications are the mainstay in any community. If I were to retrace the Transport system of this island, I would have to go back to the old days when the Government railway was scrapped and the travelling public had to travel as best they could. It was only then that a few pioneers invented the \"Fly\" bus system. From the early years of the Transport system, there were quite a number of accidents taking place on the roads, and in order to protect the travelling public, the then Government set up a Board known as the Transport Board. That Board divided the Island into concessions, and I would say that that procedure went on smoothly until the year 1958 when the Government took over a number of bases, which action, I would say, was helpful, although that might not be admitted in some quarters.

We have noticed in the Press that the Agreement relating to the new concessionaires was published. What I am more or less surprised about is that there are concessionaries in this Island who have been

doing business for over the past 30 years, and the Government did not see fit to invite any one of them to make any suggestions. I feel that the Government should treat the people of this Island in the way in which they should be treated. I say that people should be acknowledged. If people are to carry on busi-

ness under these adverse circumstances, that they have not been given the opportunity to make a suggestion, I feel that that is most deplorable, Mr. Speaker I would not mention the re-allocation of these concessions where the fat is taken off the milk. What I am worried about is

Mr. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member that he has been in to see me, and he has had the opportunity of making any suggestions, He has said that the Government laid down the law in that way without giving the concessionaires any opportunity of making any suggestions, whereas it is a fact that the hon. member was granted the opportunity to make any suggestions. What is more is that we called in all the concessionaires for them to make their suggestions freely, 5.55 p.m.

What is more, Mr. Speaker, now that the notice has appeared in the Press, it is for the concessionaires to express their views freely. We could not have done it before as the notice only appeared on the 9th, that is five days ago,

Mr. COWARD:

Since the notice has appeared in the Press, Mr. Speaker, I am expressing the grievances of the poor people of St. Joseph whom I have the honour to represent, and that is why I feel I should make my observations here and let the Minister know where I stand on this matter. I am not so deeply concerned, as I have said, with the allocation of the concession and whether the fat is taken off the milk, but what I am worried about is this I have been operating a transport service between Route 5 Sugar Hill, Chalky Mount and Bridgetown for over thirty years, I took over Route 6A service in 1957, I think it is well known, Mr. Speaker, that 40 per cent of the vegetables and fruits grown in Barbados is grown in the parish of St. Joseph and are transported to Bridgetown mainly by the very omnibuses. As it stands, a Route 5 bus travels on Highway 3 to Bridgetown and Route 6 also travels on Highway 3 to Bridgetown, Now this concession is telling you to come down on Highway 3 and when you get to Waterford to swing right across Waterford Road, then you go back to the country on Highway 2 to Codrington Hill and swing left to Spooners Hill, across Highway 1 and then go to the Kennedy Drive and over the Princess Alice Highway, In so doing, you will be taking these traders away from their business

I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that the Fairchild Street Market was erected as a result of the refusal of these traders to go to the public market in Cheapside, and now that they have built up a business for so many years, and now that the Cheapside Market has more people than it can carry, the concession is asking concessionaires to divert the bus service there. That is my grievance and the grievance of the people of St. Joseph who have been approaching both the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and myself and asking whether we are going to allow buses to carry them all over the town when they do business along Hindsbury Road, Tweedside Road and in the Fairchild Street Market. I would say to the Hon. Minister that if he feels the service should not go down Roebuck Street and there must be a diversion, that it should be diverted across Halls Road and into the Public Market where these people can continue to do their business. These people trade in Bay Street, Belmont, Beckles Road and Carringtons

Village and people come to the market and purchase from them, and to divert buses from along these routes would be a punishment to the people of St. Joseph, I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that these complaints have been going to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, because the people assured me that as soon as they left me they were going to hint I have promised them to do my best, and I am now appealing to the Minister. I think the time has come when we have to carry the buses to the people and not the people to the buses, which has always been the trouble.

Mr. SPEAKERS I might remind the hon. senior member for St. Joseph that what we are dealing with now, are certain Regulations in connection with a new form of concession; but the hon. senior member for St. Joseph appears

to be rather attempting to hammer out details of a particular concession, when we are concerned merely with this matter in a very general shape or form at the present time.

Mr. COWARD:

I agree with that, Mr. Speaker, but these Regulations are in the concession that was advertised in the Press, and therefore I think it is my duty as a representative of the people to put their grievances to this Chamber, so that the Minister will know that the people in the parish of St. Joseph, in some parts of St. Thomas and a part of St. John have for over thirty years been selling in Fairchild Street. When there was no market there, the people used bags over their heads at Christmas time and slept by the wayside rather than go to Cheapside. Are we asking these sellers under these Regulations to get off at Waterford and walk to Bridgetown? The concession has appeared in print and I take it that is final, and therefore as a representative of the people I must raise my objection here. In all fairness to the travelling public of St. Joseph, I am appealing to the powers that be to consider these people as human beings and allow the transport to carry them to their place of business.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, as my colleague has said, complaints have been coming in both to himself and to me about this concession. As far as I understand, Sir, this concession will be divided into three sections, A, B and C. 6.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the concessionaires, as far as the Government is concerned, would have to come first by their making the application, but it is the people that count. It is the people who use the buses. The buses are provided for the people. If there were no people, we would not want any buses. It is the people, and the people are in the majority, and the people must count,

Now, Sir. these hawkers who travel on the buses have children to maintain and to educate. In other words, as the old people put it, their basket and their tray become as their hoe and basket. Now, these people are accustomed to taking their wares into Bridgetown by the buses and at certain points then, they have to get off and sell their wares. All of them do not go to the Public Market.

I notice that the concession on my route is marked with an asterisk; therefore, that means it will have to come by way of Waterford and pass by Spooners Hill to get down by the Marketing Corporation. In other words, it would be easier for the buses on this route to pass down St. James than to pass Roebuck Street. These Regulations the concessionaires must sign in order to get a concession,

Mr. Speaker, I want hon. members of the Government to understand that this will not be easily done. It is the people that count and I am behind the people. Trouble can come out of this at this time if they do not take into consideration the harm which they are going to do to these poor unfortunate people. There are some who have to get out of the buses at the Gully House and wend their way all up Tweedside Road. You are calling on these people to drive all the way down the highway by the Harbour now, I do not know if these people are going to ship sugar.

What harm would be done? If it is a question of too much traffic in Roebuck, I would be more inclined to agree with the Government allowing the buses to travel along Martin- dales Road and down River Road and go into the Fairchild Street Market. What are you going to do with the St. George buses and the Diamond Bus Company which turn across Crumpton Street? The few which are coming from this direction are no more than three or four but only because you can make Regulations, only because a man can write a little something on a little paper - and you have a lot of experts among the Ministers too - you are going to make it hard for these poor people.

I want to know if the Ministers are thinking about this matter seriously. By these new arrangements, you are turning people off the route by Waterford and carrying them

all down by the Deep Water Harbour and landing them there; therefore, they would have to look for more transport. What provision would be made then if they get out at Water- ford?

Now, these people would have to look for another type of transportation, and by doing so, they would not be making any profits. Regulations like these can be very harmful, wicked, worthless and embarrassing, and if the Government members insist upon them, they should be called upon to quit even before the general elections because it is the people that count.

This would not be serving any useful purpose to the people. My colleague has been appealing to the Minister. I have been appealing and he would have to appeal. Knowing the set up, I know that if he gets up and talks his mind, he cannot get one of the concessions; he would be outside of the ring. I do not have to apply: but if I had to apply for a concession, I would still speak my mind.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, I think the hon. member is going out of his way when he says that a member would be victimised. The hon. member to whom he is referring is the hon. senior member for St. Joseph,

The hon. senior member for St. Joseph has drawn these points to my attention and I have promised him to look into them. This Resolution has been in here for the last three or four weeks, but it does not mean that the suggestion which the hon. member has made would not be incorporated. However, although he heard what I said, he has still taken the opportunity to speak freely for the benefit of the electors. Although I have given him the assurance at the Ministerial Buildings, he still comes in here to make his points. I would say that no question of victimisation will ever arise,

Mr. COWARD- Mr. Speaker----

Hon. E. W. BARROW rose to speak).

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. and Learned Premier caught my eye first,

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I was waiting for Your Honour to intervene as regards the scurrilous remarks which were made by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. I thought Your Honour would have objected and made him realise that it is quite unparliamentary to make libellous or slanderous statements about members of the House, We know the low standards of performance which obtained during the regime of the Party to which the hon. member belongs.

However, Sir. I am not going to sit down and see the Rules of Parliament so flagrantly ignored, even by the Chair. It is that hon. member along with his colleagues who delivered a scurrilous attack on the Chair quite recently for which a newspaper in this country has paid a redress for the irresponsible statements made by members of that Party, It may be because that matter is sub judice that Your Honour did not want to call the hon. member to task,

I want the hon. member to know that I do not regard it as any matter of duty of mine, although we sit down in here with all sorts of conditions of men; but when the hon. member suggests that the Government is going to victimise some member, well then, as long as I am in here, I must get up and object,

Mr. Speaker, I was speaking on a point of privilege and I want a ruling from Your Honour.

Mr. SPEAKER:

What is the point on which the Hon. and Learned Premier is asking for a ruling?

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The point is that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph made use of remarks which were not in accordance with the Rules of the House because he was accusing the Government of victimisation, I do not mind

if the hon. member exercises his parliamentary rights and expresses his mind fully and without fear.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am asking the Hon. and Learned Premier what are the particular words to which he is taking exception, 6.15 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I am not taking exception to any particular words, but to the whole series of statements which have been made by the hon. member implying that if the hon. member, his colleague, spoke his mind he would be victimised and would not get any of these concessions, Mr. Speaker, you have claimed from the Officer administering the Government of this Territory at the beginning of the Session the usual freedoms, and one is that the best construction should be placed on the speeches and actions of hon. members. No hon. member has the right of accusing the Government or any other hon. member of victimising him in his trade or profession,

Mr. SPEAKER:

When the hon. member referred to victimisation or implied that there may be victimisation, the Hon. Minister in charge of Communications rose on a point of order and denied the implication that such a thing had happened with the Government.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

My point is that the Hon. Minister of Communications did not have to rise on that point. It is the duty of the Chair to ask the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to desist from making remarks imputing improper motives to the Government, The Hon. Minister denied it because Your Honour declined to accept your responsibility at that time.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have never declined and do not decline to accept any responsibility, I would not have that point made in debate.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

That is the same hon. member in respect of whose colleague there was a motion for a breach of the privileges of this Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have made my ruling as to that matter and it has been finished, so far as this Chamber is concerned.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

If you decided that, then you should not have gone on with the case,

Mr. SPEAKER:

I think it is presumptuous and arrogant for any hon. member to suggest to me whether I should bring a case or not That is a personal matter which does not come within the ambit of this Chamber, I am not the only member of this House Who has brought a case against

a newspaper, and I do not expect that I will be the last, .

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Your Honour by your statement discloses that you know what were the words or statements complained of. But Your Honour's answer is that since the Hon. Minister of Communications has denied that there is any question of victimisation, you have decided that that is the end of the matter, I do not understand Your Honour; you must have been concerned about that matter in that you brought your case. You are very much concerned and involved in the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There were two distinct matters. When the matter was officially brought to my attention in the Chair as to what appeared in the Advocate Newspaper in the middle page with a photograph of myself, the House decided that it would take a certain action as a House in respect of the said newspaper; It was part of my constitutional duty, a Resolution having been passed by this House, to have a copy of the same forwarded not to the Attorney General but to the Director of Public Prosecutions for such action as he

may think fit to take; but I was very careful to point out at the particular time when this matter was drawn to the attention of the House, that I had already decided on my own private action, and that legal machinery was already in motion in respect of that matter in my private capacity. That private matter is certainly still very much sub judice.

The other matter might well also be so, from my information,

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

That still does not settle the matter of privilege which I seriously raised here. You dress 19 in your ceremonial garb which is not a formality and you claim certain rights and privileges from the Officer administering the Government of this territory, I am saying, Sir, that it is not within the competence of anybody to accuse a single member - and I have an interest in this matter because I am a member of the Government - being willing to exercise victimisation against any hon. member if that hon. member were to speak his mind in Parliament, which any hon. member has the right to do. I believe you try to exercise impartiality, but I am holding on to this point with a certain amount of tenacity. I do not care whether a case is sub judice or not and it does not mean that one has to lean over backwards until your case is finished, to call Your Honour to order. I want to make that clear, I will not allow the depravity of the Barbados Labour Party to be brought into this Chamber by the hon. member's colleague or by any other hon. member,

Mr. SPEAKER:

I should like this matter to be made perfectly clear, that so long as I am presiding in this Chamber, I will not be in the least concerned about furthering my own personal interests, legal matters, professional or other activities, I am and will be solely concerned with preserving the rights and privileges of this House, and ensuring in so far as in my power lies, that justice is done to all parties irrespective of any private issues, I strongly repudiate any suggestion. I will now ask the Clerk to ask the Official Reporter to read that particular passage in which there was a reference to or implication of, victimisation. 6.25 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, while Your Honour is having recourse to the Report of the recent debate which is still fresh in my mind, if in nobody else's, I should like to refer Your Honour to the Sixteenth Edition of May's Parliamentary Procedure, by Sir Edward Fellowes and T. G. B. Cocks, You will see on page 458 the following heading "Personal Allusions and Unparliamentary Expressions" - "In order to guard against all appearance of personality in debate, it was formerly the rule in both Houses that no member should refer to another by name". It goes on to say "Allegations against Members. - Good temper and moderation are the characteristics of Parliamentary language. Parliamentary language is never more desirable than when a member is canvassing the opinions and conduct of his opponents in debate. The same right to claim courteous treatment in debate is due alike between both Houses of Parliament; and abusive language and imputations of falsehood uttered by members of the House of Commons against members of the House of Lords have been met by the immediate intervention of the Chair" - which I have been seeking unsuccessfully - "to compel the withdrawal of the offensive words, or in default, by the punishment of suspension,"

Now, Sir, you come to the next page which says: "It will also be useful to give examples here of expressions which are unparliamentary and call for prompt interference." I should like to underline the

word \"prompt\" and not dilatory and not after a long and exhaustive examination of the speaker's motives. \"These may be classified as follows The imputation of false or unavowed motives; the misrepresentation of the language of another and the accusation of misrepresentation; charges of uttering a deliberate falsehood; abusive and insulting language of a nature likely to create disorder. Certain expressions which have caused the Chair to intervene from time to time are listed as an appendix to this Chapter (see page 474).\"

On page 474 of the same Edition of Sir Erskine May are expressions of unparliamentary language, but you will notice, Sir, that the imputation of false and unavowed motives is the very first thing that is mentioned on page 459 of Sir Erskine May's Parliamentary Procedure. Any list we get in here of the type of phrases or constructions or sentences is not necessarily an exhaustive list. A person

is appointed by this Chamber to do exactly what I have been inviting Your Honour to do. and that is to call the hon. member promptly and bring it to his attention, and if he persists in his behaviour to have him outside this Chamber which is really where he properly belongs. 6.35 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have seen the official copy made of the remarks made by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, and it reads as follows-

\"Regulations like these can be very harmful, wicked, worthless and embarrassing and if the Government members insist upon them, they should be called upon to quit even before the General Elections because it is the people that count. This would not serve any useful purpose to the people. My colleague has been appealing to the Hon. Minister. I have been appealing and he would have to appeal. I know that if he gets up and talks his mind he cannot get one of the concessions; he would be outside of the ring. I do not have to apply, but if I had to apply for a concession, I would even still speak my mind.\"

I am advised that immediately after the words \"I would even still speak my mind\" the official report begins to record what was said by the hon. senior member for Christ Church.

Now, in respect of the remarks made by the hon. Junior member for St. Joseph: \"I know if he gets up and talks his mind, he cannot get one of the concessions\", it is my understanding - and I am referring to the Schedule to the Resolution which is now before the House - that these concessions are awarded by the Director of the Department of Highways and Transport. There can be in my mind no doubt that if the concession was awarded by the Minister who is a member of this House, that those remarks would be a clear infringement of Standing Order No. 26 (5) of this House, which says

\"It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the House.\";

And also, of Standing Order No. 26 (7), which says:

\"No Member shall impute improper motives to another Member.\"

It is clear that to suggest or to state that if an hon. member of the House gets up and talks his mind, that hon. member \"cannot get one of the concessions\", that if the concessions were awarded by a

member of the House, as distinct from the Director of the Department of the Highways and Transport who is not a member of the House, it would be not only offensive but it would be also imputing improper motives to another member of the House,

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, may I respectfully suggest that this is not a question of the mechanics of how a concession is granted. Whether it is done by a Minister or by an official of the Department, it is done on the authority of the Government and to say, Sir, that the Government has to be partial in the matter of awarding concessions, and not awarding concessions on the basis of justice but on a basis of awarding them to people who support the Government or who speak kindly to the Government, or to go further and say that you cannot get an award of a concession either by a Minister or by an official of the Transport or by anybody else if you talk your mind freely, is to impute dishonesty on the part of the Government,

I do not think Your Honour really appreciates the intended malice and the intent to impute dishonestly on the part of the Government in the remarks of the hon. junior member for St. Joseph. There was no concern in his mind with who makes the award; all he was saying was that in order to get an award, you must curry favour with the Government. The Government is so dishonest and so unfair that when people apply for an award, unless they support the Government, they cannot get the award. In his mind, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph implied that the hon.

senior member for St. Joseph could not on any condition get it and speak his mind for fear of losing his concession.

I consider, therefore, that the hon. junior member for St. Joseph must conform with the standards of parliamentary debate as is observed in this Chamber; therefore, he must either apologise or withdraw the offensive remarks, I am sure that the hon. member is not concerned with the niceties of who makes the award) all he is concerned with, in so far as his colleague is concerned, is that he cannot speak his mind freely because the Government is so steeped in prejudicial practice that the slightest thing said against it by anyone means "Out of court you go;" The hon. member was speaking with the experience of his own party in mind because the same hon. member has had a self appraisal of them and what you had to do in order to get a contract.

The facts before you now, Sir, are that the niceties of parliamentary debate have to be observed, and the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was completely offensive and insulting when he imputed dishonest motives on another member of the House when he used those remarks, whether the Minister or an officer of a Government Department awards the contract. The hon. member has imputed improper motives to the member or the Government or any other hon. member by his remarks; and, if this is the case, it was very indecent of the hon. member to be using insulting and offensive remarks in the House, Your Honour should compel the hon. member to withdraw those insulting and offensive remarks, 6.45 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Leader of the House has made a point that, in respect of the reference to the inability to get a concession, if one gets up and talks one's mind that, notwithstanding it is the Director of Highways and Transport, - who of course, is not a member of this House - who signs the concession, the other

party to it being the concessionaire, it is regarded, and in fact it is a matter of Government policy for the Minister to approve of the award as made by the Director of Highways and Transport who is merely signing the concession as the Head of the Department, but who is acting subject to the policy of the Minister who is a member of this House, If it is the case, as the Hon. Leader of the House has given one un- mistakably to understand, that it is a question of Govern- ment or Ministerial policy and for the Minister personally, even although it is the Director of Highways and Transport who actually signs and so to speak, rubber-stamps the con- cessions, it is a matter of the Minister\'s decision as to the award of the concession, I rule that the expression \'I know that if he gets up and talks his mind he cannot get one of the concessions, he would be outside the ring,\' in so far as that applies to a member of this House - a Minister -- it is an infringement of Standing Order 26 (7) which states

\'No Member shall impute improper motives to another Member.\'

The motives implicit are that if one speaks freely, he would be unable to get one of the concessions, I regard it as unnecessary to refer to May\'s Parliamentary Procedure on this point with which I am extremely familiar, because our Standing Orders, in my view, are not silent and there- fore apply. Only where the Standing Orders of this Chamber are silent need one necessarily have recourse to May\'s Parliamentary Procedure, Accordingly, I am asking the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to withdraw the ex- pression or words which contained the imputation of im- proper motives, namely, \'I know that if he gets up and \'talks his mind he cannot get one of the concessions. He \'would be outside the ring\'..

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of peace and for satisfaction, if the hon. member takes my words to be of- fensive, I respectfully beg to withdraw them, because I know that when you hit one hard he must scream,

Mr. SPEAKER:

Do I understand the hon. member un- reservedly to withdraw the words?

Mr. SMITH:

Oh, yes, Sir. I withdraw them thirty times. And if you ask me to leave the Chamber, I will do so.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I will call on the hon. member to pro- ceed, if he thinks fit, to discuss me Resolution which is before the Chamber,

Mr. SMITH:

I think fit to do so, but the Hon. Premier still has to learn politics. I was speaking more in the hon. member\'s favour than I was speaking in my favour, be- cause some of these people come from St. John and I was trying to protect some of the electorate of St. John.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order. He has not got to try to protect my constituents; he had better try to get legal advice to protect himself if the Director of Public Prosecutions brings legal charges against him - and that would not arise out of any speeches either,

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, what would you call this now? I am appealing to you for your protection. The Director of Public Prosecutions will be bringing a case against me. If you do not protect me, then I will have to protect myself.

Mr. SPEAKER- May I say this? The honourable and learned senior member for St. John has said: \"If the Director of Public Prosecutions brings cases\". That very definitely does not, in my view, constitute a point of order. But whether the Director of Public Prosecutions brings cases or not, that does not concern me in the Chair, and the cases may be, as so many cases are, not a few of which are brought from time to time by Crown lawyers, completely unfounded and unjustified. There is to be no presumption that a case which is brought has any substance in it.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I will have to take this matter seriously because you will remember - I cannot really remember if you were then in the House- that when the Hon. Premier was accusing people in the Government Departments of stealing, he said that I knew about it That is why I will have to take this matter seriously. I will have to take it seriously because the hon member says that I know about these things. He has put his foot now in it by saying that the Director of Public Prosecutions is going to bring cases. As I have already said, I take that as the joker in the pack of cards, because he is always out for prosecuting people. It was long ago when they were selling stones from Bagatelle, and since the Attorney General came back in the Island and was going to lock up \"Harry right\" and \"Harry wrong\"; but since then the Attorney General has come and gone back and he has not done anything,

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of order. The hon. member will be interested to know that the Attorney General is no longer employed by the Government. I say that advisedly.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I take it that the hon. member means that particular Attorney General.

Hon. E. W. BARROW lose to leave the Chamber.

Mr. SMITH:

There you are, Sir. that is the act of a coward. He has gone. He would not stop for these blows.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am not asking for any sympathy, but the Standing Orders were suspended not merely that Government business might be dealt with in Private Members' time. From 2,30 p.m. of the clock until now, I alone have been in the Chair and I have been unable to have the shortest break or any sort of break. That is so because His Honour the Deputy Speaker has not been able to be present today. I intimated to the Hon. Leader of the House some time ago that a break would be helpful at this stage. 6.55 p.m.

Hon. E.W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Junior member for St. Joseph said that I was a coward. The only reason why I sat in here listening to the nonsense which was emanating from the hon. member is because at one

stage there was no quorum, because no one this side of the House is edified by anything he has to say; but Your Honour will find on page 474 of May's Parliamentary Procedure that where the hon. member called me a coward, he would have to withdraw those remarks.

Mr. SMITH:

On a point of order, I did not call him a coward.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

He most decidedly did. As I was leaving my chair, the hon. member used the word three times and said I did not stay to take my licks,

Mr. SMITH:

I did not call Mm a coward, I got up and said \"there you are, the act of a coward\", and I went on to make my speech. If he cares to pull the string, that is his business.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

There are a lot of people who go around calling the hon. member a genial member and are always making sport, but Tuesday after Tuesday that hon. member resorts to the lowest kinds of tactics not only in the newspapers but on the floor of this House, accusing this Government of every kind of thing. Nobody on this side has received stolen goods belonging to the Government or any other person, and I can swear to that, I am not in the Courts now to defend anybody; so a lot of people who did not go to gaol before are going now,

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to move the adjournment at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I again appeal to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph to deal exclusively with the Resolution which is before the House? I do not know if other hon. members desire to speak on it.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I am going to deal with the Resolution which is before us.

Mr. MOTTLEY left the Chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid there is no quorum,

There being no quorum, the Bell was rung, but no quorum was obtained.

(A VOICE:

Adjourn the House.)

Mr. SPEAKER:

There is no doubt about that; it is only because an unprecedented situation has arisen that the automatic adjournment would normally be until this day week at 12 o'clock noon, but I am advised that

today week is a public holiday.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, may I proceed?

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. junior member for St. Joseph may not address the House when there is no quorum present

Mr. SMITH:

Then I may not say anything now, Sir! That is the type of Premier we have to deal with now.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SPEAKER:

By virtue of the powers vested in me, there being no quorum present, the Bell having been rung for the prescribed time, and in view of the fact that this day week, to which normally there would be an automatic adjournment, is a public holiday, this House now stands adjourned until this day fortnight, Tuesday 27th April, 1965, at 12 o'clock noon. 7.05 p.m.