

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1961 - 66

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

Tuesday, 27th April, 1965

Pursuant to the Adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 12 noon o'clock today,

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER. Q. C. (Speaker); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Mr. E. D. MOTTLEY, C.B.E. (Leader of the Opposition); Mr. E. ST.A. HOLDER, J.P.; Hon.. C. E. TAIMA, (Minister of Communications and works); Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, (Minister of Agricul- ture and Fisheries); Mr.. R. ST.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W.R LOWE; His Honour E. L. CARHICHAEL. J.P., (Deputy Speakes); Mr. G. V. BATSON, (Chairman of Committees);

Mr. N. W. BoxiLL.

prayers were-read..

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

I regret to inform hon. members that there are no Minutes available for this day's meeting for confirmation, I think hon. members are aware that during the past week there has been in this Island a Regional Con- ference of the Commonwealth Parliament Association, during which time officials of this Chainfer have been busily engaged in the work of that organisation.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

The Public officers Loan and Travelling Allowances (schedules officers) Regulations, 1965,

The Customs Duties (Amendment) Order, 1965.

The Drawback of Duties (Cloth) Regulations, 1965.

The Customs Duties (Raw Materials and other Articles for the Manufacture of Ladies' and Children's Underwear and Sleepwear) Order, 1965.

The Customs Duties (Accessories, Labels and Packaging Materials for use in the manufacture and packaging of locally manufactured ready-to-wear Garments) Order

1965. Also on behalf of the hon. senior member for St. Philip, Minister of Trade and Labour. I am commanded to

The Sixth Annual Report of the Tourist Board for period 1st April, 1963, to 31st March, 1964.

A Plan for the Implementation and Administration of Proposed Social Security Scheme for Barbados.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

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

The Barbados Harbours (Amendment) Regulations, 1965.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

HOn. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Development, I beg to give notice of a Resolution to approve the transfer by way of grant of a parcel of land, situate to St. Jairies, from the Crown to the Housing Authority,

Also on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier and Minister of Finance, I beg to give notice of the following:-

A Bill to amend the Diplomatic Privileges Act, 1947.

A Bill to give effect to an Agreement made between the Interim Commissioner for the West Indies and the Government of the Island in respect of certain pensions for service under the West Indies Federation and the Interim Commissioner,

Also I beg to give notice, on behalf of the Hon. and Learned Premier and Minister of Finance, that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 27/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. James is

ready.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 32/ 1964 asked by the hon. junior member for St. George is ready.

BELLS READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a Bill to amend the Diplomatic Privileges Act, 1947, be now read a first time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to Second that.

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

On the motion of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, a Bill to give effect to an Agreement made between the Interim commission for the West Indies and the Government of the Island in respect of certain pensions for service under West Indies Federation and the Interim Commissioner was read a first time.

14.25 p.m.

REV. F. A. CATLESS REAPPOINTED TO ACT AS CHAPLAIN

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Rev. F. A. Cayless be re-appointed to act as Chaplain of this honourable House until 30th June, this year,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

In connection with this motion, I would like to intimate to hon. members that I propose the adjournment of this House for an hour around 2.00 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

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

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY re THE PASSING OF ERNESTA GEORGINA CRAWFORD

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the passing of the following Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that this House place on record its profound sympathy with the hon. senior member for St. Philip, the Hon. W. A. Crawford, Minister of Trade, Labour and Social Security, at the passing of his mother the late Ernesta Georgina Crawford;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to her widower and nearest of kin,

Mr. SPEAKER:

Does the hon. member propose to deal with this Resolution instantly?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

With the leave of the House.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you, members present and the hon. members who are not in their places share the very deep sorrow which has been experienced by our colleague, the Hon. Minister of Trade, Labour and Social Security, on the death of his mother.

For some weeks, we all shared his anxiety and distress in the course of her last illness, and we supported him with whatever consolation and comfort we could in the circumstances hoping and praying that what we feared may not come to pass. The hon. member who for obvious reasons is not now in his place would be very much heartened by the comfort which we have to bring to bear for him on this occasion.

The hon. member's mother was a woman of outstanding character and dignity and charm; and despite the distinction which she shared with other members of his family in his progress and example in public life, she was a person in her own right. Long before the Hon. Minister entered into public life, and attained the quite justifying position which he now holds, his mother had interested herself in public affairs and had gleaned for herself not only deep sympathy for, but wide knowledge of, all those matters which affect the people of Barbados. She had been, a generation ago, one of the leaders and pioneers in children welfare and the welfare of mothers in this country and she gave her service in such schemes. Particularly was she helpful to the late John Beckles in the early days of the Children's Goodwin League. For a fairly long time she maintained an exact and precise interest in public affairs

and various other affairs. I think it must have been a consolation to her that with all the changes and trials of political life she lived to see her son vindicated at long last and take his place in the forefront of Government today.

Therefore, Sir, we all share the grief of the hon. senior member for St. Philip at this moment in what must certainly be a crushing bereavement,

I do not think that any grief can be like that as the passing of one's mother, I have not experienced it myself, but I have seen at first hand what grief it entails, and I think what makes it even more severe is that when one loses his mother one knows that one has lost one of the greatest links one has with creation. This is a loss which nothing can assuage; yet, however, there must be some consolation to the hon. member that while she will be missed, we all share his sorrows at the moment,

Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of moving this motion and I regard it as an honour and privilege to assist the House in this matter of expressing our sympathy.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, it is never a pleasure to move or to associate oneself with the passing of a motion of condolence to any member of this Chamber, It is more especially so in my view when with deep regret we have to record the passing of the mother of the hon. senior member for St. Philip, the Hon. Minister of Trade, Labour and Social Security, 12.35 p.m.

As me Hon. Minister of Education has said, the late Mrs, Crawford was really a tower of strength to her son, the Hon. Minister of Trade, who, in the very stormy days, faced the beasts at Ephesus when he entered politics in this country. The fact that the Hon. Minister relied upon his mother and that he valued her strength, has been shown in the fact that he did not choose to stray from the path he entered because he had a mother on his side. Now she has gone to the Great Beyond and we hope that we will rest with her later; but we know what the name of mother has meant to the Hon. Minister of Trade, We all know for the last quarter of a century the contribution which the Hon. Minister has made to this country, and we also know that he could not have made that contribution to the public life of Barbados without the help of a mother who was so loving and kind to have reared not only the Hon. Minister but seven other children to become loyal and valuable citizens of Barbados,

Mrs, Crawford has now gone the way of all flesh, and what a consolation it must be that her Christian example was one which has been set for many of us to follow! That a great testimony has been rendered was made plain by the large congregation which attended the Christ Church Parish Church in order to witness the last rites. Like the Hon. Minister of Education, on behalf of my Party, we extend the deepest sympathy to the Hon. Minister and we know that nothing we can say here in this House can really soften the blow which the Hon. Minister of Trade has received. Although the deceased lady has been permitted, in accordance with Holy Writ, to live her three score years and ten, death is one of those things to which we can never get accustomed although we know it is inevitable. Like the last speaker, I can say I have passed the way which the Hon. Minister of Trade has passed and I know what it means, However old persons might be, when they pass on, you will miss them whether it is just seeing them sitting around the house, whether they can be of any physical help to you or not, and there is the moral support and the counsel which can be given by such persons.

Sir, I have much pleasure now in seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution, although I regret having to do it. However, I feel that it should be done and I therefore beg to second the motion for the passing of this Resolution of Sympathy not only to the Hon. Minister of Trade but to the entire family. We know that the deceased lady lived with her husband, the father of the Hon. Minister, for half a century and we know that he will miss her more than any one else in this world. Recently, in my capacity in

going around as a guardian of the Poor, I heard something expressed. A woman said to me that she had lived with her husband for fifty years, and now that he had been taken away, the only conversation she could find or could make was that she felt it was useless for her to live any longer because her husband and she had been living together for so many years, Mr. Speaker, I hope that these few words by way of an expression of sympathy will go a long way, not only to help the Hon. Minister of Trade, but also to help his father who has also met and carried the shock of the death of his wife with great feeling,

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, it is with a depth of feeling ; when you have to, pay tribute to any one of our colleagues following the passing of his mother, especially when the speaker or speakers has or have experienced the same thing. Sir, I did not know Mrs, Crawford, but from what I can see in any of her children, seeing the use which they have made or the contribution they have made to the Island of Barbados, I am sure that it is through the instrumentality of Mrs. Crawford that that was possible, Especially ist hat the case when the hon. senior member for St. Philip is not a married man, and in order to be a good politician he must have been helped from inside, and that help would have to come either from his mother or from his wife In this case, we can very well see that this help from inside was forthcoming from his mother. From what I have heard from more than one person, I can very well sec that he late Mr. Crawford was very lady-like, and was always ready to help the poor and the needy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Party, we want to tender to the Hon. senior member for St. Philip, the Hon. Minis- ter of Trade, our sincere sympathy and hope that Mrs, Crawford will rest in peace, 12.45 p.m.

Mr. COWARD:

Mr. Speaker, I too have been greatly saddened by the news, since we last met in this Honour able Chamber, of the loss that the Hon. Leader of the House has suffered as a result of the passing of one who was near and dear to him, I wish at this stage, Mr. Speaker, to convey to the Hon. Minister of Trade my deepest sympathy on his bereavement, I am fully aware, Mr. Speaker, that no words can adequately describe the sense of loss which the Hon. Minister must feel on such a sad occasion, and I hope he win accept this assurance of my heartfelt sympathy.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, I would be failing in my duty as the Junior member for St. Philip if I did not join with hon. members in expressing my sincere condolence to the hon. senior member for St. Philip and his relatives, It is a fact. Sir, that the successful career of a child de- pends on the environment and influence of the home, and as you know, Sir. in most cases the father is the bread- winner of the family, and therefore it is the mother who moulds the character of her children,

Mr. Speaker, the deceased, Mrs. Crawford, has done a wonderful job in moulding the characters of her children, I would say, Sir, that It can be seen because I consider them as models in this island. The hon. senior member for St. Philip has served his country for approximately 25 years as a representative of the people, and he has also served for over 25 years as a Journalist. I am sure, Sir. that his mother has departed this world in peace, knowing that she has done her utmost to bring forth children, especially the hon. senior member for St. Philip, who are contributing their utmost to the community,

In expressing my deepest regret over the passing of Mrs. Crawford, I can only implore her children to follow in her footsteps and by doing so, the future generation will be the material we need for the advancement of the race,

Finally, Sir, from the Urge congregation which witnessed her interment, I can only think of the words which were spoken by a famous orator, and I quote -

"For famous people have the whole earth as their memorial, it is not only the inscriptions on their graves in their own country that mark them out, not in foreign lands

also, not in any visible form, but in people's hearts, their memory abides and grows. It is for us to try to be like them."

Mr. Speaker, I have great pleasure in associating myself with the passing of this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before I put the question, I must avail myself of this opportunity to associate myself with the words which have been spoken in respect of the late Mrs, Crawford, With her son, the Hon. Deputy Premier, I have been associated in this Chamber for over 25 consecutive years, I have had during that period - and even before - many favoured opportunities of meeting the late Mrs, Crawford and being impressed by her outstanding Christian qualities and characteristics. As the Hon, Leader of the Opposition has pointed out, I personally am very much in a position to understand what the feelings of the Hon. Leader of the House are today - the feelings of loneliness immediate upon the passing of a beloved mother,

I associate myself in entirety with all the remarks which have been made about this dear lady who passed away last week, and I am asking hon. members, in respect of the passing of this Address, so eloquently moved and supported, to stand with me in their respective places, for two minutes silence in order that this Address might pass in the traditional manner,

Hon. Members stood in their places for two minutes.

I shall give directions that a letter be forthwith sent to the widower, expressing the sympathy of the House, and enclosing a copy of the Address which has just been Unanimously passed, 12.55 p.m.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 1 be taken first,

it stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works,

Mr. SPEAKER:

When this matter was previously discussed at the meeting of this Chamber on the 13th instant, the hon. junior member for St. Joseph was addressing the Chair in the hon. junior member for St. Joseph desirous of continuing his address.

Mr. SMITH:

Yes, Sir. On the last occasion, I was dealing with a part of these Regulations and I said that it would create a very great hardship on some of the passengers, especially the hawkers in various parts of the country. When it is considered, in that part of the country, the majority of the bus business comes from hawkers. Hawkers are responsible, in my opinion, for not less than 80 per cent of the upkeep of the buses in that part of the country because you will find that fruits of all descriptions are brought to town by the hawkers from that part of the country. When it comes to Sugar Hill, Horse Hill, Bathsheba, all the way up to Martins Bay. Sweet Bottom also, and All those places, especially on Saturday mornings, you can see nothing else but buses loaded with fruits coming into the City, and the majority of hawkers who come from these places have various places in the City and round about for selling their goods. Some go to Eastmond Comer, some go to the Gully House and some go up Tweedside Road, Martindales Road and Carringtons Village, At all of those places, hawkers off-load their goods from the buses.

Under these Regulations, a bus can only go to Waterford Corner where there are no residents and they will be turned off from there and will be going elsewhere - all the way down by Codrington. The only traffic which I used to see travelling by way of Codrington was that traffic when the prisoners used to go up to Codrington to cut stones. Under these new Regulations buses will now pass that way.

What would become of those people with those large bags of coconuts, breadfruits, yams and potatoes and those large trays of bananas? They will have to be off loaded by Waterford and take another bus - if they can get one - or they will have to charter a lorry or some other vehicle to take them to those places which I have just mentioned. Certainly, Sir, that would create a great hardship on those people,

Consider, Sir, a morning like Saturday morning last when we had rain falling very heavily and those people are called upon to get out at Waterford Corner where there is no shelter at all and off-load their

goods there! We can imagine what will happen to those people who are trying to earn their livelihood. I cannot blame the Hon. Minister for this, but I do not think Regulations of this sort should go into operation before the Government call upon concessionaires - and not even concessionaires alone, but some of those people who have to use the buses - and hear their opinions on the matter, I would not expect for one moment that the Government would try to do something to create a hardship on the people, I would not altogether blame members of the Government, but they might not know what is going to happen when they put these Regulations into operation. 1.05 p.m.

When you have an Opposition in any Assembly, it is not that a particular member of the Opposition hates a particular member of the Government or that he hates the Government at all; but it is the duty of the Opposition to put things right if the Government cannot see fit to fix them right.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, it is a great pity that in our system of parliamentary democracy, the kind of dialogue which should normally go on between members of the Government Party and members on the floor of the House and of the Opposition benches does not exist. That is none of our making; it is the kind of abuse of society which the members of the late Government Party hold about a particular organization, I bated to interrupt the hon. member because he has the potential and now he is claiming to be a champion of the people,

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is the hon. member purporting to speak on a point of order?

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

I just want to say, Sir, that if the hon. member had only taken the trouble to consult his colleague, he would have discovered that a special Committee dealing with the matter of the bus routes, came to the conclusion that it would be better for the buses, instead of going to the bus stand at the northern end of the town, to continue to go to the bus stand in Fairchild Street. He would not have been fulminating with the Government if he had taken the simple gesture of consulting with his colleague and with other people, because that would have dispelled all of these fears. The hon. member is thinking that he is championing the people of St. Joseph in contradistinction to his colleague, the hon. senior member for St. Joseph. I have taken the wind out of his sails,

Mr. SMITH:

I must confess that it is not fair to me in that when I am speaking and making a point, the Hon. Premier is always getting up on a point of order and doing some of everything except explaining his point of order. What the hon. member has just done could not be a point of order.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

On a point of privilege. That is for Your Honour to decide, It is for Your Honour to decide what is a point of order or not The hon. Junior member for

St. Joseph has been a member of this Chamber for 17 years and he has not learned yet.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is not a point of order. Hon. E. W. BARROW; I appreciate that.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, you will note that the hon. member says that I am not qualified to make a point of order,

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is a matter for my opinion.

Mr. SMITH:

Sir, if the Hon. Premier is ready, I will let the visitors know what kind of Premier we have; I will let them see that right away. But they can see and they can hear,

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I remind the hon. member of Standing Order 69, paragraph 2? This is what it says-

"If any Member takes notice that strangers are present, the Speaker, or in Committee the Chairman, shall put forthwith the question That strangers do withdraw\', without permitting any debate or amendment\".... I would just like to remind the hon. member for St. Joseph, and other hon. members, that no notice should be taken of alleged strangers being present. Even although persons may be members of any other Parliament, no notice may be taken of such persons: otherwise --without any debate whatever - I would be put in the most embarrassing but inevitable position of having to invoke the provisions of Standing Order 69 Paragraph 2. I therefore exhort hon. members to let us proceed with this debate. As has already been intimated by the Hon. Acting Leader of the House, it is proposed that this sitting be suspended at 1.30 p.m. of the clock,

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, it would seem that I will have to protect myself and I am going to do so. Now, Sir, I would not even reply to what the Hon. Premier has said, but last week, last Tuesday

Mr. SPEAKER:

I will ask the hon. member not to refer to anything which transpired last Tuesday with a view to any recrimination in respect of that meeting which has been concluded, that being a meeting of this present session; and of course, hon. members will also bear in mind that they should refer to each other as the hon. and learned or gallant member, senior or junior for such and such a constituency as the case may be. It is now 1.15 p.m., of the clock,

Mr. SMITH:

The Hon. Premier has said that if I had taken time off to consult my colleague, I would not have been making such remarks, Mr. Speaker, you were in the Chair and you heard the speech made by my colleague on this particular matter. You could not say that my colleague knew that something was done about what I have just said; you could not say that my colleague knew anything about what was being done. If anything was done, it was done since then. When the hon. member said that I am declaring myself to be a champion, yes, Sir, I am a champion. The hon. senior member for St. John is saying that I am claiming to be a champion because what I said last Tuesday caused them to call in somebody else and change the state of affairs. If I had not been the champion last Tuesday, that state of affairs would not have been changed.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Last Tuesday was a public holiday and was celebrated as the anniversary of the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, That day was also the anniversary of the birthday of Adolf Hitler.

Mr. SMITH:

It was Tuesday week or whenever it was; it was the time when the House had to be automatically adjourned. I was championing the cause not only of the people of St. Joseph, but I was also championing the cause of the people of St. John which the hon. member has the honour to represent. I say therefore that I am a champion, I am very proud to hear that they have seen their errors and that they

have corrected them. But who is responsible for the correcting of those errors? -The champion. Let him get out of that now. 1.15 p.m.

So long as the buses will continue to run along Roebuck Street as before, Sir, I am finished; but I have won a battle, I am the champion of St. Joseph and St. John,

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before the Hon. Proposer of the motion exercises his right of final reply, is there any other hon. member who seeks to speak on this Resolution?

Apparently there is none, and therefore I suggest that the hon. senior member for Christ Church, the Hon. Minister in charge of this Resolution, might wind up the debate,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I have listened very attentively to the points raised by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and also the hon. senior member for St. Joseph who himself is one of the concessionaires, and I made notes of the various points which were raised; but in view of the assurance which the Hon. Premier has just given, I merely want to add that I attempted on a previous occasion to explain that it was always the intention of the Government to seek the advice and assistance of and to consult generally with the existing concessionaires, and a meeting had been arranged for the purpose, which meeting has since actually taken place. To say, therefore, that the Government did not consult anyone or did not seek the assistance of the present concessionaires is misleading. What appalled me most was to have heard the hon. senior member for St. Joseph who had already consulted the Ministry and had had preliminary discussions go along in that trend, because he had been given such assurances that at no time does the Government feel that the interest of the hawkers are wrapped up just with the Opposition, it is as a result of having the interests of the hawkers at heart, and having served the hawkers, traders and other interests in this Island over the years, that this Government is in power and it intends to remain so; so whether the hawkers are from St. Joseph; St. John or St. Lucy, we serve the whole Island and in that capacity the appropriate Minister will see that no hardship is meted out to any hawker, or trader or others wherever they come from.

In view of the assurance given by the Hon. Premier, since it has been traditional for the traders and hawkers from St. Joseph to do their trading and carry on their business in the Fairchild Street Market and in the precincts of Roebuck Street and Martindales Road, it will be our decision to permit the St. Joseph buses to park in the Fairchild Street Market or make alternative arrangements for parking in that area, so that no hardship would be meted out to the traders and hawkers from St. Joseph, One has to bear

in mind that when the hon. member said that it is a question of passengers alighting at Waterford, it is not our intention to cause anybody to take two buses; it is a question of providing alternative accommodation at the other market where there is ample room for improved trade which lends itself to further development. The policy of this Government is to relieve congestion in some of the thickly congested streets and to establish a new bus terminal abutting Cheapside Market, an area which provides ample room for parking and at a market which has ample room for improvement. To give

the impression that the Government was trying to cause

passengers to disembark at one point and catch another bus or pay for some other means of transportation is misleading. But I need hardly elaborate on that, because the matter has been properly taken care of. The views, opinions and comments of the concessionaires have been sought, and the further improvement of the transportation of the travelling public of this island will go forward a stage farther when these new Regulations are put into force, and when the bus service has been reorganised and strengthened with the addition of additional units and the introduction of a system of queuing.

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

THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1965

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 11 be the next Order of the day,

Hon. C. G. FERGUSON:

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

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order No. 11 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, and is a Resolution to approve the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1965,

May I just for the information of hon. members say that due to certain delay over which we had no control, it has become necessary to defer the suspension of this sitting until 1.45 p.m. It had been contemplated for 1.30 o'clock p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, this is a Resolution to approve the Regulations entitled "The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1965" made by the Director of Highways and Transport on the 29th day of January, 1965 under the provisions of Section 7 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937, as amended by section 41 of the Department of Highways and Transport Act, 1945, and approved and sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor,

Now the Addendum sets out specifically the objects of this Resolution, It seeks to give legislative approval to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 1965, in order to provide for the control of passengers intending to travel on motor omnibuses by instituting a system of

queuing, 1.25 p.m.

I mentioned Just now that the Government is taking various measures and passing certain Regulations and moving certain Resolutions in order to bring into line improvements in the transport system of this Island, and this is one of those Resolutions dealing with regulations which deal with queuing. The Regulations have been circulated and I think, Sir, that no hon; member would have any objection to a system of queuing being introduced in order to relieve the congestion which exists now in the Fairchild Street bus stand, as well as the congestion at the other bus terminals.

We have adopted: the system of queuing as is used in the City of Manchester. I refer to their by-laws, That by-law states that when more than one person is waiting in any street in the City of Manchester and entering an omnibus at any place, they shall form and get in a line with not more than two abreast on the footway of such a street. Therefore, Sir, the object of this regulation is to introduce a system of queuing. As I have said, these Regulations are already laid on the Table of the House. I am therefore moving that this resolution do now pass,

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that,

Mr. LYNCH:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Government on the introduction of this system of queuing by passengers for entering buses, but what I would like to suggest to the Hon. Minister of Education is that this matter might well be started in our schools. As hon. members know, Barbadians do not take to queuing very well. I myself, have personal knowledge of that, I have seen with some of my pupils that there is a great dislike for queuing and in very many instances a Court case began because of the unpopularity of queuing in our Society.

Sir, if the necessity for queuing were to be introduced at Primary Schools at a time when the children are going forward to receive their school meals, then, within a certain number of years, we will find our people queuing up automatically; but as the matter stands at present, as regards those children who go to the Secondary Schools, you have great difficulty in getting them to queue up for any-

thing. In fact, there is great resentment in getting them to queue up. When very many of our people go abroad, because they have not been taught to queue, they are handled very roughly and especially is this so in the Dutch West Indies when they come up against the Police, In England, if they step in front of someone who is already in a line, especially if they step on that person's shoes, it makes them become very unpopular.

I would like to make me suggestion to the Hon. Minister of Education that this matter might well begin in the Primary Schools of this Island,

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker. I rise to thank the hon. member for his somewhat sound advice. However, I would like him to know that the matter has already engaged our attention.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL TRANSACTION

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

The next Resolution, Sir, stands in my name. To move the passing of the following Resolution that supplemental to Resolution No, 47 / 1901 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.

Sir, from the Addendum the proposals approved in the above referred to Resolution No. 47 of 1961 involve the exchange by the Government of 2,920 square feet of land known as Da Costa's Alley for 810 square feet comprised in two areas situate at Canary Street and the Wharf,

In the course of preparing the document to effect the transfer it was discovered that the proposals had involved not only the parcels of land formerly mentioned but also a strip of the Public Road known as Canary Street, but this was not clearly set out in the previous Resolution although it appeared in the Master Plan of the proposed Highway Improvement,

As a result of a further survey it has been discovered that the areas to be conveyed by Government to Messrs, Da Costa & Co. Ltd. are:-

Da Costa's Alley 2,562 square feet, strip in Canary Street 203 square feet, far a total of 2,765 feet, or 155 square feet less than the area mentioned in Resolution No, 47 of 1961

The same survey also shows that the area to be exchanged by Da Costa & Co, Ltd. has increased from 810 square feet to 984 square feet

In short, it is an error which has been made in the survey, and the whole matter has been regularised. It happened away back in 1961 when there was an exchange of land between Messrs, DaCosta & Co., Ltd., and the Government for the purpose of improving the alignment along the Wharf and for providing a sidewalk. This Resolution is to regularise the matter and to give satisfaction to all the parties concerned.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

1.35 p.m.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Hon. J. C TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this sitting be now suspended for one hour.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that

The question that this sitting be now suspended for an hour was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER suspended the sitting accord-

ingly.

On re-assembling, Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the

Chair.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy 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.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

It is now Question Time. The first Question the Reply to which was laid today, is Question No, 27/1964,

FEW MEANS OF ACCESS TO THE BEACH ALONG ST. JAMES COAST

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

Is the Minister aware that there are too few means of access open to the general public to the beach along the St. James Coast?

2, Is the Minister aware that the Northern District Council owns a portion of land at "Folkestone", St. James, which

can easily provide such means of access?

3, Is the Minister aware that permission has been sought of the Government by the Northern District Council to provide means of access to the beach at "Folkestone" over the said portion of land but that to date such permission has been withheld?

4, Will the Minister take steps to see that such permission is granted, or in the alternative state the

reason for the withholding of such permission?

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

The Reply to the hon. member's Question is as follows -

1. Yes, Sir,

2.

3. Yes, Sir,

4.

5. The Northern District Council has sought permission to provide means of public access to the beach through "Folkestone" and the matter is being considered by the Government,

6.

7. The Government's decision will be taken in the light of its policy to provide the best facilities to the people of this Island for gaining access to the several beaches,

8.

Mr. CORBIN:

I thank the Hon. Premier for the Reply,

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The next question to which the Reply was laid today is Question No. 32/64 asked by the hon. junior member for St. George, I see that the hon. member is not now in his place.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

As the hon. junior member for St. George is not now in his place, 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.

PERCIVAL BASCOMBE PENSION BILL Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Deputy Speaker I beg to move that Order No. 3 standing in my name under Private Members'

Business be taken as the first Order of the Day under this Head.

Mr. LOWE:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The first Order of the Day under Private Members' Business stands in the name of the hon. junior member for St. Philip- To move the second reading of a Bill to authorise the Southern District Council to pay to Percival Bascombe a gratuity and pension. Notice of this Bill was given on 2nd March, 1965. and it was read a first time on that day, It first appeared in the Official Gazette on the 25th March, 1965,

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a Bill intitled the Percival Bascombe Pension Act, 1965, It is the desire of the Southern District Council to pay to Percival Bascombe of Foul Bay, St. Philip, a gratuity of \$1,646.70 and a pension of \$494 per annum by equal monthly instalments from the date of his retirement, Mr. Bascombe was employed in the capacity of vestry Bailiff which was a part-time and private engagement; he was not on the established staff of the Vestry of the parish of St. Philip, Since the coming into effect of the Local Government Act, 1958. and the consequent transfer or changeover from the Vestry of the parish of St. Philip to the Southern District Council, Mr, Bascombe has been employed by the Southern District Council, in the first place for the period of one month as a bailiff and thereafter, up to the present time, in the post of Beach Inspector,

The Post of Beach Inspector in which Mr. Bascombe has been acting is a post which carried a pension, but he would not be entitled to such a pension since he is not on the established staff of the Southern District Council, not having been recommended for permanent appointment to the post because of his advanced age. 2.50 p.m.

He has rendered public service in the parish of St. Philip for a total period, up to the present day of 38 years, and when he retires would not be eligible either for a gratuity or a pension from the Southern District Council, The Council considers it Just that a gratuity be payable out of the funds of the Southern District Council allocated for the payment of gratuities to its servants, and that a pension payable in equal monthly instalments out of its funds for the purpose of paying pensions should be granted to him at the age of his retirement from the Service of the Council,

It is advised, Sir, that in order to effect this objective, it is necessary that an Act of the Legislature should be obtained authorising payment of the gratuity and pension,

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

Mr. LOWE:

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I will appoint the following hon. members to serve on the Select Committee on this Bill

The hon. junior member for St. Philips the Hon. Minister of Local Government; the hon. senior member for St. George; the Hon. Leader of the Opposition; the hon. senior member for St. Joseph and the hon. junior member for St. James.

THE SUGARMAN LAND EXTENSION ACT, 1964

Mr. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave that Order No, I under Private Members' Business be the next Order of the Day.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The hon. member is asking leave that Order No, I under Private Members' Business be the next Order of the Day, and unless there is any objection, leave will be granted.

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

Mr. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I take it that the members of the Government and particularly the appropriate Minister have already had in their possession a copy of this Bill, and that the Government at this time would be able to come to some decision as to the possibility of giving the permission sought in this Bill. This, Sir, is one of the usual types of Bills which seeks to authorise George Sigarman to extend and enlarge a parcel of land lying between Sand Street and the sea in the parish of Saint Peter,

As you know, Sir, property on the seacoast in Speightstown is indeed very greatly in need of protection. Sand Street faces the sea, and even at low tide property on that side of the town is really in need of protection. The present owner of this parcel of land just seeks to be able to protect his property against the inroads of the sea. The entire shoreline of Queen Street and Sand Street going right to the north is in a similar plight. Indeed I wish that more residents in that area could avail themselves of the possibility of protecting their property. Only last night someone who does a small business in Speightstown and in Sand Street approached me on a similar matter, but unfortunately that particular individual is a renter and the owner does not now live in St. Peter; and so there is a great danger that that lady may have to vacate the premises where she does business because of the inroads of the sea. The only stretch of land in Speightstown that I think is adequately protected happens to be the Speightstown fishing market which I think suffered recently from heavy rains, and the Esplanade which is Government property; but properties in Sand Street and extending to Heywoods are still very much exposed to the ravages of the sea,

The particular owner of this piece of land in Sand Street is in a position to protect his property, and so he seeks legislative permission to do so. I hope that hon. members will find it possible to give their blessing to this Bill, so that at least one landlord may be helped in such a way that he can have permission to protect land which otherwise he might soon lose owing to the effects of the sea, I do not think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that this Bill needs any more argument. From time to time we do similar pieces of legislation by giving owners of beach land permission to erect groynes, and I am asking that

this be considered as just one of those requests brought to us by people who seek permission in order that they may protect their sea property.

I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time, 3,00 p.m.

Mr. HOLDER:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to second this motion. Speaking on this Bill for the protection of the lands of Mr. George Sugarman, I do not think that any hon. member here would in any way at all fail to support it. The coastline of this land lies between Sand Street and the sea in the parish of St. Peter, and what is being asked to do is to protect this land from the ravages of the sea, I do feel in respect of what is being done, as has been mentioned by my colleague, the building of groynes, that they will be able to do that,

I therefore beg to second this motion.

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Speaker, I see in this Bill that it is seeking to extend and enlarge a parcel of land situated in the parish of St. Peter. Now, Sir, I have heard the mover of this Resolution say that this Bill is to protect, to enlarge and to extend this land. I am asking if it is to reclaim land because I do not see the word "protect" anywhere in the Bill. We have in the Bill to extend and to enlarge a parcel of land. I do not know if he is trying to reclaim land. If it is for protection, it means that you are going to build a sea-wall.

I want to know if Mr. George Sugarman is trying to reclaim land or if he is going to reclaim land, I see, "to extend and to enlarge" We have built a Deep Water Harbour. I want to know if Mr. George Sugarman is seeking to reclaim land on the same plan as we have done with our Deep Water Harbour. If the Hon. Mover of the Bill can give me some assurance on what he is saying, if Mr. George Sugarman is going to protect or to extend and enlarge that parcel of land, I would be glad because to enlarge and to extend is quite a different thing to protecting, I would hold my peace if it is just for those two purposes,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I have listened to the second reading speeches which were made and I would like to draw to hon. members that matters of this nature are usually sent to a Select Committee of the House and it would be then that opportunity would be taken to go through the proposals. Members of the Select Committee would have ample opportunity then of going into the various proposals of the Bill—therefore, then will be the appropriate time to air those views. After that, the matter will then go to the Cabinet for the approval of the Cabinet after the various Ministries have been consulted. Therefore, there is no reason why this matter cannot be agreed to in principle now,

Mr. HUSBANDS:

Sir, I appreciate very much what the Hon. Minister has just said because he said that the pros and cons of this matter would be dealt with when it goes to the Select Committee; but even at this stage, with all of that, what has been said of this extension and enlarging is set out in the Preamble to this Bill

"WHEREAS George Sugarman has by humble petition to the Legislature prayed that he may be authorised to extend and enlarge a parcel of land lying between Sand Street and the Sea situate in the

parish of Saint Peter in this Island by driving piles and filling in on the sea side of the said parcel of land: And praying that he his heirs executors administrators and assigns may have legislative protection in the use and enjoyment of the said land the exclusive right and benefit thereof"

That is the usual way these things are being done and I think when the Select Committee sits it will deal with the engineering side of it,

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

According to procedure, this Bill is now referred to a Select Committee,

I have the honour to appoint both hon. members for St. Peter. (Mr. Walcott and Mr. Husbands); the hon. junior member for St. Thomas, (Mr. Boxill); both hon. members for Christ Church, (Hon. C. E. Talma and Mr. Goddard)? both hon. members for St. James, (Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Holder).

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Hoa C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

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

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (PART TIME OFFICERS) (AMENDMENT) ORDER, 1965

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am asking leave to proceed with Order Mo. 7, which stands in the name of the Hon. and Learned Premier, Minister of Finance,

There being no objection leave is granted. 3.10 p.m.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR- Mr. Deputy Speaker, as hon. members will see from the Addendum to this Resolution, it is a very simple matter. The Order seeks to provide for an increase in the salary of the part-time post of Medical Officer of the V.D. Department from \$720 per annum to \$1,200 per annum with effect from the 1st April, 1961 The second thing which the Order seeks to do is to provide for the abolition of the posts of Tuberculosis Officer and Medical Officer of the V.D. Department. Further, it is proposed to transfer the duties of the Tuberculosis Officer to the Senior Medical Officer of Health, and provision is being made for the performance of the duties of the Medical Officer of the V.D. Department on a sessional basis. That is all that this Order seeks to provide, I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass,

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, now that we are dealing with this Resolution which seeks the approval of this Order, I am sure that Your Honour will consider what I am going to say now as being in order. Sometimes rumour is a lying jade, but that is not always so, I understand that certain very valuable officers at the Hospital have been promptly sacked, I like to call names, and I refer now to Dr. St. John who has been a Visiting Surgeon at the Hospital and who has been rendering very valuable services there, I wonder if the Hon. Minister can tell me anything of the circumstances surrounding which Dr. St. John was asked to terminate his services and what the Government has done in this matter. I know quite well that this is not the portfolio of the Hon. Minister, but I do say that this matter is causing some uneasiness among the doctors who know that Dr. St. John has been told \"We do not want you any longer, \" We know that Dr. St. John has been rendering service when you could not get the services of other Medical officers, and, as I say, Dr. St. John has been rendering very valuable services to this community. Will the Hon. Minister tell us something about this matter?

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I regret very much that I cannot accommodate the hon. member, as I think he will appreciate that I am really undertaking this portfolio on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Health, However, Sir, I will draw what the hon. member has mentioned to the attention of the hon. Minister of Health, who would be more familiar with these problems than I, and allow that Minister at a later date, if the hon. member so wishes, to explain the position more fully. However, Sir, these changes which are reflected in this Civil Establishment Order come into force at the direction of the Cabinet. I am not now speaking with special reference to the question which the hon. senior member for the City has asked, but I am referring to the changes which appear in the Civil Establishment Order as we have seen. These changes are in connection with the Medical Officer of Health in relation to the Health Centres, the Dispensary, the District Hospitals, the duties of the part-time post of Medical Officer and the duties of the Senior Medical Officer of Health. Without making any reference to the specific points which the hon. senior member for the City has raised, I will draw them to the attention of the Hon. Minister and ask him to provide the hon. member with the answers.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I said that we have heard what I have just mentioned. We have made an investigation and we have proved that this Officer has been asked to leave the Hospital, This is not a matter in relation to the Public Service Commission or anything like that; this is something which is worrying the public, about a man who has been rendering very valuable services to the community having been dismissed, I am submitting. Sir, that somebody in the Cabinet must know about this. I do not know why other hon. members who have heard about this matter will not get up and speak,

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not contradicting the hon. member. I say that this is not my portfolio and that the Hon. Minister of Health could more properly answer the hon. senior member for the City, I take it that that Minister will attend to the matter and bring the information to the notice of hon. members of this House.

Mr. HOLDER:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, speaking on this Resolution as it is worded in the Addendum, I can confirm what the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said. That is not anything which has just happened; it is something which is being well spoken about in relation to these changes at the Hospital, I can see clearly that some of the things which are taking place at the Hospital, some of the Ministers do not know anything about. This thing is not hidden from the public, and I will ask that the Cabinet or the Hon. Minister in charge, go into the matter and see what can be done about it, I ably support the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in what he is saying. The facts are there and I repeat that some of the members of the Cabinet do not know what is really happening. The Hon. Leader of the Opposition has called a Doctor's name; I will not call any name but I do say that the position is a very peculiar one. With those few words, Mr, Deputy Speaker, I support the Hon. Leader of the Opposition on behalf of the community of Barbados, the Medical Service, for the good of the people at the Hospital and those who have to go there when they need to do so.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is very refreshing to hear the remarks of the hon. junior member for St. James, It is not often that we hear him speak and I say that it is refreshing to hear him speak on this matter. However, Sir, I cannot add anything to what I have already said, A member of the Cabinet may or may not know certain things, but I hear certain things and I say that they were not within my knowledge previously and that I will refer such matters to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Health, then I cannot be expected to do anything more in the circumstances. 3.20 p.m.

I have given the assurance that I will draw it to the attention of the Minister of Health. (Mr. MOTTLEY: And what will happen?) That will be a matter entirely for him,

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

I will not allow this cross talk. If the Hon. Minister is addressing the Chair, he should give a deaf ear to what is said by any hon. member, I have heard only the Hon. Minister,

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the thing that is worrying me....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister has replied, and therefore it is to be assumed that no other hon, member wanted to speak. If the hon. junior member for St. Joseph wants to speak, I will hear him as he is entitled to do so.

Mr. SMITH:

What is worrying me, Sir, is that the hon, senior member for Bridgetown asked if the Cabinet knows about this, but up to now the Minister has not told the House that the Cabinet either knows or does not know. We do not want the Minister to carry us around and refuse to answer. The answer can only be "yes" or "no", because it is a possibility that these things could be going on and the Cabinet does not know. We would not be able to lash the Cabinet if it does not know; we are out for lashing, but we do not want to flog unnecessarily so let us know if the Cabinet knows or does not know.

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

THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No.2) ORDER, 1965,

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Order No. 8 stands in the name of die Hon. and Learned Premier, and I am asking leave of the House to deal with it on his behalf.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister is asking leave to take charge of Order No. 8 standing in the name of the Hon. Premier, and unless there is any objection, leave win be granted.

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

Hon. J. C, TUDOR:

This Order, Mr. Deputy Speaker, deals with one Department under the Ministry of Premier and with another one under the Ministry of Communications and Works. Again the Addendum sets out fairly accurately what the position is.

With respect to the first item, the House already knows that it has been proposed to create the post of Director, Economic Planning Unit, at a salary of \$9,480 per annum to head the Economic Planning Division of the Office of the Premier, The House, I think, will recall that the Economic Planning Unit which was formerly a pan of the Ministry of Finance has recently been transferred to the office of the Premier. The Director of the Economic Planning Unit win be the administrative Head of the Unit, but he will be directly responsible to the Premier under whose Ministry it now falls.

When this unit was established in the days of the last Government in 1960, it was even thought that the post should have been established, but a decision was taken not to es- tablish a permanent post, but to use the services of various experts of the United Nations and other international agen- cies whose services were asked for from time to time. The last United Nations expert left this island over a year ago, and the post is now seen to be a necessary aspect of Gov- ernment economic planning. The qualifications required for appointment to the post will be an Honours Degree in Econo- mics or its equivalent, for instance, a degree in Sociology and at least five years* experience since graduation either in an organisation in Government similar to the Barbados Economic Planning Unit or some Applied Economic Re- search Centre in the academic world or business,

I need scarcely remind the House that if it looks at the relevant Plan which has been placed before it, it will see what a tremendous undertaking this Government has em- barked upon in the Three Year Development Plan. The House is already aware of all the projects which Government has started, which are now continuing and which will shortly be started, and they will realise that for the swift and efficient execution of these projects, a considerable amount of research and planning in the field of economic planning itself. I cannot stress too strongly the necessity for the creation of this post. The arguments for it have been jus- tified not only by the expansion and range of the work which is done by die Economic Planning Unit, but by the overall needs of the economy of the island at this stage.

The other item concerning the Department of Highways and Transport is the provision of an additional post of Inspector, Grade I at a salary of \$3,096 to \$3,960 per annum on the staff of the Department of Highways and Transport, and this additional post is required to meet the increasing demand on the present inspectorate, and in accordance with a Resolution which was passed in the House in this respect some time ago.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with respect to the first item, I do not think that the greatest opponent of the Government in the Opposition could say this is creating any sinecure or creating a post for any person. I was at pains to listen very carefully because I had noted down to ask what would be the necessary qualifications of this officer. 3.30 p.m.

I have listened carefully to what the Hon. Minister said would be the necessary qualifications for this office. I thought Government was not prepared to bring down anybody for any job, I know that was being thought of in the last Government, but the Hon. Minister has now decided that the time is possible, if not ripe, to appoint a man. We did have an officer here on loan, but that officer has left. In these days of development, and with the present situation and all the schemes which the Government has put before us, we do want an officer of this nature. I do not see anyone abandoning the number of things in the Development Plan. While the Government might not remain in power for all time, anyone

interested in development must recognise that what is in the Plan is necessary for the going forward of the community.

However, Sir, it is my duty as Leader of the Opposition when I see things which want criticising, to criticise them, I have been discussing with some of my constituents this matter, and it was said that this is just a job for someone; but if you are going to build even a 12' x 8' house, you have to sit down and plan it. If you are going to build an 18' x 10' house, you have to sit down and plan it. If you want to get married you have to sit down and plan it. If you are not going to plan it, you are just an idiot; you are not interested. If you want to run business, you have to plan how to run it. The Government is just like a business concern,

I am bold enough to say that I listened carefully to the Hon. Minister of Education and he pointed out what was the policy in regard to the appointment of this Director, Economic Planning Unit. He said that the qualifications required for appointment to the post will be an Honours degree in Economics or its equivalent in Sociology and at least five years experience since graduation, either in an organisation in Government similar to the Barbados Planning Unit or at some Applied Economic Research Centre. I, therefore, have to come to the conclusion that you are really looking for a Director of this Economic Planning Unit. If you are going to develop something in this country and you are not just pitchforking somebody in a job as I saw done, then we would be getting somewhere.

I do know that there are technological institutes training men to fill jobs like these, and they can even do it better than some universities. Therefore, when I heard the Hon. Minister say that the person must have a Bachelor of Science Degree or the equivalent in Sociology which is a very important study, at

least in the U.S.A. and Canada - and these are certainly two nations moving forward - I am very pleased, although I do not know if we can get such a man. I do think it may be difficult to find such a man here. Therefore, I say that scholarships should be offered to many of our equipped young men so that they would be able to enter these institutions - and not only should they be offered scholarships, but Government should guarantee them with a job. Some very humble persons in Barbados would have done very well in gaining the degree which the Hon. Minister spoke of; therefore, we must be prepared to train some of our youngsters to qualify for such jobs,

While it is my duty to oppose, one must have a conscience and exercise caution. I think this is the appropriate time to bring forward this matter, and I am sure the hon. junior member for St. Joseph would not let me sing a solo when it comes to the appointment of a number of officers or Inspector sat the Transport Board because it does show that in spite of the fact that there are little wranglings between the hon. member and hon. members of the Government on the question, the bringing down of this shows that they have taken heed of what he said, and that they are paying greater respect to the suggestions coming from the Opposition bench than heretofore. At this stage. I would say that where tribute is due, it should be paid. The hon. member has said something which is right and we win support him. You can postpone something for a day or a year, but so long as it is necessary, you will have to do it.

Sir. I am supporting this Resolution and I do not see why I should oppose it. Planning is something which must be done in every phase of one's life. We must plan; you must go to sleep tonight and plan for tomorrow,

Mr. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, listening to the remarks of the last hon. member, I think he brought into rather sharp focus the appointment of the Director of the Economic Planning Unit, I think that not only should the Director of the Economic Planning Unit be brought into sharp focus, but the Unit itself. The idea of an Economic Planning Unit has not, as far as I know, originated with this Government, I heard of it before 1961, The then Premier mentioned something of an Economic Planning Unit,

I cannot level any criticism against the Economic Planning Unit as such: but what I would like to hear more of, and the House should hear more of it, are the aims and objects of this Unit and the composition of it. I do not want to set my imagination rife, but this Resolution seeks rather briefly to establish a Planning Unit.

I would like to hear more of the Planning Unit. I would like to know how it is to advise the Cabinet about prospective projects, how it is going to advance plans for the improvement of various departments which concern themselves with finance and things of that nature. 3,40

I want to know how it is going to co-ordinate with the Departments concerned with finance and things like that. I do not think that sufficient information has been vouchsafed to this Assembly as far as the objectives of this Planning Unit is concerned. If they appoint somebody to this post, they should appoint somebody who is competent and capable of dealing with this matter. When you tell me that this person, will have a degree in Sociology and so on, I am not one whit interested in that, and I do not think that any thinking hon. member of this House need be interested in it either. I do not know what is the composition of this Planning Unit On this Planning Unit will there be sitting Heads of Departments and members of the Cabinet? Will they be putting forward projects or will they be giving any

consideration in the matter of the improvement of this colony? That is what I am interested in as an hon. member of this Chamber who is being asked and who is expected to give his assent to this matter.

Sir, we are throwing millions of dollars down the drain. Not so long ago it was revealed in the Other Place that within a short space of time thousands of dollars were thrown down the drain. I want to hear something about a Public Savings Unit too. It is all very well to start your projects; but if you are going to throw away money, then that is something else. I speak from memory, but the predecessor of this Government considered the establishment of this Economic Planning Unit and I would say that the Government is nearer to the answer now than I am, I should like to say that no backbencher could be more apprised of these matters than the members of the present Government, but I ask; What is the composition of this Economic Planning Unit? The Director of this Unit will be directly responsible to the Premier, and he will be the Administrative Head of this Unit. That is all well and good, but that information is not enough for me as a member of this Chamber.

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

Mr. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Speaker, I was saying that it is not enough for me, as a member of this Assembly, to consider the type of person who is being appointed, to consider his qualifications, his salary and be satisfied with that. What I should like to know more about even as a member of the public, if not now as a member of the House, is what this Economic Planning Unit is undertaking to do. I should like to know whom this Unit is composed of and how it will tie up with the Government's policy. This is not a question of opposing the Government; the very strain in which I am speaking will show that whatever Government is in power I would be asking questions of this kind, I am entitled to the information for which I have asked, I think that the day is fast coming when the Premier has to consider not only the setting up of an Economic Planning Unit, but also the establishment of a Public Savings Unit. As I have already said, Sir, we are losing a lot of money in various ways. The matter of planning is one thing. I quite agree with the Hon. Leader of the Opposition about the Housing Plan, but this is a question of Economic Planning, I should say, Sir, that Economics also deal with savings, and after all, savings is a part of the Economy,

I know that the Honourable and Learned Premier can correct me in what I am saying now because he has a De-

gree in Economics; but I wish to point out now that we have to be very careful in these matters. We hear about these things, and we do things today in order to fall into line with what other countries do in this twentieth century, of course. I want these things to be taken just in the spirit in which I am speaking. We cannot pursue the lackadaisical methods of the past, but in going forward and in pursuing our methods and plans to suit the present-day conditions, we have to keep a very strict and keen eye so as to see what is going down the drain. In other words, I would like to be informed as to this Economic Planning Unit; we want to see the projection of Government Funds in the proper channels, but the Government should also see to it that money is saved and not wasted or whittled away in any form or fashion.

As far as the second part of this Resolution is concerned, we will agree with that very much. This will save many a headache. I am very sorry, Sir, that the hon. senior member for St. Michael is not now

in his place, because hon. members will remember the Resolution which stood in the name of that hon. member and the passing of which was moved in this House. It will also be recalled that many hon. members including myself spoke on that Resolution. The public and the officers of the Department of Highway and Transport have a responsibility to see that service is rendered in connection with the matters mentioned in the Resolution. 3.50 p.m.

I would say that I am sorry the Hon. Premier, although in his place, seems to be somewhat out of sorts because he is not dealing properly with this matter. I think permission has been granted for another Minister to take charge of these items standing in his name. Because the Hon. Premier is respected in the field of economics - and I am by no means speaking with disparity against the competent Minister who is acting on his behalf - I think, as this is a matter dealing with economics, the Hon. Premier would be more au fait with all the background and what is involved in the establishment and direction of this Planning Unit.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, this Resolution calls for the establishment of the post of Director of the Economic Planning Unit at the rate of \$9,480 per annum. It is a very good thing to plan before you start, because if most people planned before they staged, they would always get through. I am not against the Resolution, nor am I opposing it; but we have to be very careful. You are employing a person at the rate of \$9,480 which is a tidy sum, and you must make sure that this Director is going to bring into this Government by his planning about \$200,000 by way of savings. Do not bring in a Director because you can, and allow him to sit idly by, when the little planning he does amounts to \$480 and you have to pay \$9,480. I am not scared or unhappy about the appointment of this Director, because the Premier is an economist, but it is the planning that we have to be serious about.

Although I may be told that I am not even qualified to talk about my feelings, it is my feelings that this Director should be in office long before we start spending all this money. If I am going to build a nice home, I may get a planner to plan for me; but when he finishes he may tell me it is going to cost \$200,000 when I only have \$100,000. His planning would be no use to me. I hope that this Government is not going into this matter in that light. I want to know if this planner will be instrumental in the spending too, because he may show you all the ins and outs, but he may not have the spending ability, and we would be no wiser when he is finished. We should know if he is going to bring in money to measure up to his salary per year, because you would have to multiply his salary by twelve. It is all right to sit in a wheel-chair at a desk in an office and do the necessary planning and tell me all that I have to spend, but when the spending time comes, the money is spent badly or not in the right direction* It is all right to get a top notch person from outside, someone with qualifications .but there are people who have a belief that so long as they have ability and qualifications at the end of their name, they can do the Job; but I know that lots of us buy them sometimes,

and the man who did not buy his can put the one who has bought his qualifications in his pocket. We have to guard against this and see that we spend the taxpayers' money in the right direction. The Minister was very vague in his explanation on this, because we should be told a little more about the real duties, I should like to know what the Government is going to call him to do and see that he does it as soon as he takes up office. I know that sitting in an office all day long and writing up a lot of paper is not enough. We must know what is really happening, and if this man is going to be out in the field, although I may be told that I cannot expect a top notchman to come down here to go and burn in the sun

seeing workmen labour; but if he is not going to do some of that, where are we heading? 4.00 p.m.

We would be in the same boat. The Government may see the necessity of having somebody of this sort, and the Government will be anxious to get everything for what they are spending and they would be very wise in doing that; but while we may be trying to get one dollar's worth, you may go and throw away two dollars. Therefore, let us take it in the spirit given this afternoon and make up your minds to let this officer know what this House is expecting him to do.

We want to save money. I think that is the real object of this Resolution, because the time has come and is coming when we must spend as little as possible and yet get the most we can for what we are spending. Therefore, Sir, you will have to go very carefully. There is not a businessman who is going to bring in an expert in his business and pay him \$500 when his turnover is only \$200. All of that would have to be added up to see if we can make anything more out of this appointment and to see that we do not create just more Jobs for people. We must create jobs, but the people must work for it. I am not saying that this will happen with this particular officer. We may be able to get one who can come and do his work.

Again, Sir, if you are going to interfere with that officer's duties, it would not be worthwhile having him. That is to say, if he gives an order and says that this must be done, do not come and tell me that you did not pay heed to him. Do not try to dictate to him because you have brought him here to do the Job and I believe that he would be honest enough to do the Job. I, therefore, hope that the Government or the Minister concerned will not interfere to tell him "no" when it is "yes", or to tell him "yes" when it is "no" because you will be only asking for trouble. You brought him here to do his job and all that you should do is to see that he does his Job. If you are out to spend money in a particular direction and he tells you "no, you cannot do it," do not press him to do it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would not be going any further because, as I have said, I do not know what duties are confined to this officer; but I sincerely hope that he will be an officer worthwhile to do the Job.

As far as the appointment of an additional post of Inspector at the Department of Highways and Transport, the Government sat so long on this that the time has come when they want another one. I do not think we are doing very much by adding one. We have to look out in the very near future and appoint another one.

As you know, Sir, accidents and everything like that are happening so quickly on the roads that you need to have an inspector in the Courts everyday; therefore he will be only at the office about an hour or two every day. If all the officers have to be attending Court every day, you will find yourself very short of staff at the Transport Office. You have three Inspectors now and you are adding one, which would mean that you are now having four Inspectors. You will have to make the number-five as soon as possible. When one takes up a newspaper or listens to the news over the air, one hears of two or three accidents happening practically at the same hour. When that is the case, all of these Inspectors would have to be out of the office attending these accidents; therefore, the appointment of one is no use. You will have to get another (me as soon as possible).

I thank the Government for seeing fit to bring down this Resolution for the appointment of one

additional Inspector, but I am sorry that they did not bring it down for the appointment of two. I do not know who is responsible for the recommendation, but I daresay that the Head of the Department asked for two and got one. I feel that, in order to get things working as they should, and to get inspections completed in time so that vehicle owners can have their vehicles inspected in time to have them on the road before October, it would be necessary to get another one. You have a lot of vehicles on the road. In St. Michael, alone, there are over 8,000.

As regards this particular office which you are setting up, I hope that the Government would see to it that the Director when he comes here would not partake of the nice things alone, but is a person who has come to do a good job.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

When I was moving this Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Am I to take it that no other hon. member is desirous of speaking on this Resolution?

(There was no reply).

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member may now proceed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I took some time giving the House information not only on the qualifications and what was proposed of the Director of the Economic Planning Unit, but some arrangements over the duties of the Economic Planning Unit. If the hon. member who has just sat down had sat down twenty minutes ago, I would be able to turn and support him and the hon. junior member for St. Peter because their questions really hinged on the duties and details of the Officer and the range over which the Economic Planning Unit has to do.

These are the functions of the Economic Planning Unit which would now consist of a Director when we create this office:- The Government's Social and Economic policy involves the assistance and preparation of our programmes and their executive evaluation.

As a matter of fact, when Mr. C. B. Williams, who a short time ago was Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Trade and Labour, was assigned the duties as temporary head of the Unit; he assisted in the preparation of the 1965-68 Development Plan. Of course, the House also knows that this particular assignment came to an end at the end of February and Mr. Williams is now Manager of the Development Board. When Mr. Williams was temporary Head, it was this kind of thing which he was doing in preparing long range Development Plans and assisting in evaluation and review. The Unit must also maintain constant liaison with Government Ministries, especially those Ministries and Departments intimately concerned. 4.10 p.m.

Another thing that the Economic Planning Unit has to do is to seek the co-ordination of Executive Departments. It has to give advice and assist Departments and Ministries with ad hoc statements and analyses. The Ministry would have no time to give this assistance, and the Economic Planning Unit has

to leave off whatever it is doing in order to render this assistance. The Economic Planning Unit has to advise the Ministries and other agencies on social and economic problems arising from the external relations of this country, including Federation and currency matters; it has to give advice on all those matters which, from time to time, come under review. It has a certain amount of work to be done month by month and even week by week in the preparation of periodic economic surveys. Of course, this is nothing to do with the question which has been asked by the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, as well as the point which has been raised by the hon. junior member for St. Peter. This is a question of staffing and Watching care- fully the expenditure in relation to the various projects. The Economic Planning Unit has to carry out the Development plans and plans in connection with the Estimates of expen- diture, especially with regard to the Capital Estimates. It

has to deal with the Capital Estimates in the Appropriation Bill and the first phase of the Three-Year Development Programme. All of that has to be the exercise of the Econo- mic Planning Unit.

This Unit also has to deal with all the social and econo- mic questions. It also has to deal with the Local Government Authorities and the various other departments which refer to it for advice. It has to give advice on projects dealing with the exchanges and surveys within or without the country. Having to perform such a wide range of duties which are intimately connected with Economic, social and financial matters, and the over-all development of the country, it would be desirable that the Government would have to staff this Economic Unit with people of the highest calibre. The hon. junior member for St. Joseph has suggested, quite wisely, that it would be a good thing for the person who holds this post of Director of the Economic Planning Unit to see how certain projects are being carried out and whether • they are being carried out exactly and precisely in the form which the Development Plan envisages. We have decided that the person holding the post of Director of the Economic Planning Unit should be included in the First Schedule of the Travelling Allowance Act. He will have to get this Tra- velling Allowance so that he will not be hindered in going around and seeing what is going on at the various projects.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot say anything more than to ex* press my belief that the members of this House along with the Government will regard this post as a necessary post which will have to be created.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE \"THE CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT (GENERAL) (AMENDMENT) (No. 3) ORDER 1965\"

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of Order No. 9 which stands in the name of the Hon. Premier.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister of Education is ask- ing leave to take charge of this Order which stands in the name of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. (After a pause). There being no objection, leave is granted.

This Order is to move the passing of the following Resolution:

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

The hon. member may proceed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I think that hon. members will readily see that this Civil Establishment (General) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order has to deal exclusively with augmenting the staff structure of the Social Welfare Department. I think that the House already knows that the present staff structure includes the Social Welfare Officer, two senior District Welfare Officers, two District Welfare Officer and two Community Welfare Officers. It is proposed to alter and very necessarily to extend this staff structure in this way-To create the post of Deputy Social Welfare Officer and to have two senior Community Welfare officers and six Community Welfare Officers. In connection with this proposed reorganisation, it is necessary to have it in order to enable the Department to cope adequately with its work load which has increased considerably due to the growth of group work and individual case work which has become an established branch of the Department's functions.

The proposed duties of the new post of Deputy Social Welfare Officer will include the following:-

- (a) providing administrative assistance to the Social Welfare Officer as required;
- (b) training officers of the various voluntary organisations in their respective duties;
- (c)
- (d) liaison with island-wide Voluntary Organisations and Councils and those with overseas affiliations;
- (e)
- (f) liaison with Statutory and Local Government Bodies and other related Government Departments;
- (g)
- (h) experimentation in new fields of development.
- (i)

The change in title from District Welfare Officer to Community Welfare Officer is recommended so as to reflect a more adequate description of the Officers' duties.

Another aspect of this Order is that it has to deal with the introduction of Efficiency Bars in the salary scale of Meteorological Assistants as follows:-

\$1,872 -2,352(E.B.) 2,472-3,384(E.B.)3,528 - 3.960 4.20 p.m.

The reason for this is that it has been found desirable and necessary in the Meteorological Office to provide opportunity for reviewing the progress of the work of the officers engaged in this Department. This is a kind of Department in which you have to maintain a continual review of the efficiency and qualifications of officers, because so much depends on their efficiency that it is though desirable to introduce a system of Efficiency Bars so that the officers who are in this scale will know that from time to time they have to increase their knowledge on these very technical subjects.

These is much more information I can give the House if it desires it; so if it asks I will answer.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I have never had the opportunity of working in the Social Welfare Department, but I have been so closely associated with this work, due to my work in the Local Government in the Municipality, that I find that while I can offer some support to this scheme as set out in the Addendum, I think it is lacking in some important features that should be brought in, and I hope the Minister will listen to me very carefully in this respect. I see here where you are not only changing the titles, but you are changing the salary scale and appointing a Deputy Social Welfare Officer and the like. I do not take second place to the Social Welfare Officer in this respect, Mr. Speaker, because in my twentyfive years in Local Government I have still kept my ears to the ground and I have not been able to wear a stiff-bosomed shirt and become a stultified fool. I am still the same person as when I was first elected in 1940. and I am still of the people and with them, despite what anybody else may think or say, You have set out here that this action is necessary due to the growth of group work and individual case work which has become an established branch of the Department's functions, to my considered opinion this individual case work which has become an established branch of the Department's functions is not carried out well enough.

Mr. Speaker, when the Addendum mentions individual case work, I know what 98 per cent of that means. The Parliamentary Secretary who has been gaining a tremendous lot of experience by his association with and looking into these matters within recent months will, I believe, testify to the accuracy of what I am saying. This individual case work has become necessary since we have had this tremendous exodus of people through Government, through my colleague, the hon. junior member for Bridgetown, and through people going on their own to England in search of work. When you hear of two or three hundred people leaving in a month and you add up the amount, you will realise how many people are involved. I think the Hon. Minister of

Trade ought to be very proud of the contribution which he has made to the country, which I do not think people whether in St. Philip or St. Lucy should forget. I am myself quite proud that I did associate myself with him when he suggested that people be helped to go to England.

I understand, Mr. Speaker, that arrangements have been made by Government at the office in England to collect monies which people borrow, as people are much more willing to pay at a centre than to remit these monies to Barbados. In this case the individual case work involves 98 per cent of the work of

persons whose husbands or reputed husbands had left for England, whose wives had left for England, and in the great majority of cases the fathers of children who left for England and nothing could be heard of them. I am wondering. Sir, whether the Hon. Minister in charge of tills will take refuge in the fact that he is not the Minister of Social Services, and therefore he cannot answer us on this today. That would not be good enough for us, Has his Cabinet given thought, with the Social Welfare Department, to having at the centre in England a person who could be associated with Mr. Brewster- and still attached to the Social Welfare Department as a Civil Servant - for the purpose of collecting and trying to get money for these children? When I say that we have this high standard of illegitimacy, it is not speaking in any derogatory terms of my people; it is Just a bold statement of fact which due to economics, exists in this country; and therefore when these fathers go abroad, there are no Orders made through the Courts: and even if there are Orders made through the Courts, they can hardly be collected.

What I am worried about is that you have come here to revise the whole Social Welfare Department by moving the top salary from \$6,600 to \$7,080, appointing a Deputy Social Welfare Officer from \$5,328 to \$6,288 and so on, and yet you have not made provision for certain other matters. Nearly every day I receive letters from the Social Welfare Department in which they have gone into a case where somebody's husband has sent to his wife asking her to sign papers and send them back because he is getting a divorce. There is no legal person to advise, and if she signs the papery then the man is divorced and is gone like a bird.

Mr. Speaker, I do not understand any Minister introducing something and then getting up and walking out of the House. I think it is disrespectful and I will sit down, no matter what happens. I object to it most strenuously, and if that is the respect with which the Opposition will be treated, I will tell them to fly as far as possible. 4.30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I object to the Minister leaving the Chamber most strongly. If this is the respect with which the Opposition is to be treated, then I sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. senior member for Christ Church rose on a point of order. That point he may now make.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I Just want to draw to the attention of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that I am taking notes of his points as he is making them, in order to draw them to the attention of the Minister who is now holding on.

Mr. SPEAKER:

And, of course, the hon senior member for Christ Church is seconder of the motion.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Do not think that because someone keeps quiet that he does not know what he is doing. I would tell you what I think. I can kick up a row and be as nasty as anybody else.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I must let the hon. member know that he or any other hon. member can be named, but I do not want to name the hon. member.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

When you name me, you would have to bring the whole Brigade to get me out.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I would rely on the Marshal.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Before the Marshal gets a chance to touch me, the whole of Bridgetown would be in here.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am surprised at the remarks of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition when the Hon. Minister engaged is in his place.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I must thank Your Honour for drawing it to my attention. I did not observe; you are more observant than I am.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister walked back in quietly and with dignity.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Dignity by itself does not carry anything with me when I am making my point and the Minister does not pay any heed to it.

Sir, there are a tremendous number of people leaving the Island, and I would have thought that the Hon. Minister of Social Services and the Cabinet realise that this meant case work carried out on more of these emigrants. I believe the Parliamentary Secretary would tell you that day after day there are thousands and thousands of people who come in and say "I have a cousin in England and I do not hear from her". Now, attached to your Civil Service is Mr. Brewster and some other officers in England, and that means that they are collecting the moneys which people borrowed from the Government and they are sending it back here to pay the Government.

I would have thought in this case that the Social Welfare Department or the Minister concerned would have put in a provision for an officer to be resident in England for this reason. Sometimes, I have actually got to do this. Whereas you would find that men sign forms and fill them out stating that they are supporting their children and they get off allowance for that, I have had to get my Clerk to write to some of these people in England to let them know that if they cease to support their children here I am going to get someone in England to get after them and get them locked up. This is a very important point. I think it will be money well spent if the Government would give favourable consideration to the suggestion which I am making.

I do not know if the Social Welfare Officer has made it yet, but I make it here: that you need such an officer stationed in England for this purpose that they write to the Social Welfare Department here about these cases. It is most discomfoting to find that you hardly get a reply when you write these people. I have been trying to get men in England to support their children here in Barbados and it is a very hard Job, I hope the Hon. Minister would give this matter his most careful consideration. It is worthwhile for this simple reason. We all know, when the present Hon. Minister of Trade was pressing in the House at the time that we should send people to England and lend them money in order to get there, that we were told that we could not lend money to Tom, Dick and Harry. We know the benefits which we are deriving from it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I cannot recall by whom those remarks were made.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

You should have remembered that they were made by the ex-Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I now remember.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I feel, knowing the advantages which have accrued from this scheme and the amounts which came back and the amounts which are coming back now that by this money being circulated, it assists everybody in this island; therefore, if you spend £1,000 a year to put another officer with Mr. Brewster to help with the work in the Social Welfare Department, we would be doing a very good thing. It would be money well spent.

It is my experience, day after day and week after week, of people coming to me and telling me stories like this. Jane Forde has five children for her reputed husband, and now since he has gone to England he does not support them. Sir, you know there is no enforcement order to a father of illegitimate children when he goes out of Barbados. It is only in case that he is married it is binding on him. These fellows just take these forms and sign them. When they send these forms over here and the people sign them and send them back, these people get off allowances in England, but nothing comes back for the support of their children. What I am saying is a statement of fact. Therefore, you should re-organise your Social Welfare Department in order to meet with the present situation. The present situation is a far cry from what it was in 1952.

There are hundreds and hundreds - nearly thousands - but in England who have gone from here and left children to support. Very many of these children cannot go to school because their mother cannot get anything to support them. Do you know that hundreds of children flock to the Municipality to get a meal for ten cents? 4. 40 p.m.

The Hon. Minister knows well enough that as to the Organization which we have there, if the Government or the Social Welfare Department has an officer stationed or attached there. you are sure to get something done. If one says that he is not supporting his children in Barbados, then to gaol he will go. As the position now is, you can roam about and do everything. I remember that there was a big Trade Union representative somewhere down in Texas who was caught up for the non-payment of taxes.

While I am supporting this Resolution, I hope that the Hon. Minister and his Cabinet will consider what I am saying, I understand the situation quite clearly. You must have the co-operation of the Cabinet. This is something which is absolutely necessary and you will have the full support of my Party in having some person stationed abroad. I feel that when you are in Rome you must do as the Romans do. What I want to see is that you have an officer attached to this Department stationed at our Department abroad where we can contact him directly and he will be in a position to find the last address of any person. When that is done, then you will be able to trace in whatever department a person is.

People just go away and leave their children unattended. I must confirm that there is a tremendous lot of this work which has become a big part of this Department. I feel that you should go further than what you have done. You can spend another £1,000 or another £1,500 so as to keep somebody stationed in that Department abroad. I should like this matter discussed with the Social Welfare Department and see what can be done further in this matter. I feel, Sir, that whoever puts up a suggestion and it is a good suggestion, then it is a good one. I am in support of this Resolution, but I would like to hear the hon. member say something as regards the suggestion which I have put forward. I think it is worthwhile having somebody stationed in England so that he can deal with these matters. I hope that the Parliamentary Secretary will tell his colleagues about what is an actual fact.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I would have to associate myself with the remarks which have been made by the hon. senior member for the City. As a member of the Public Assistance Committee, I can say that you will always find people who are asking for assistance with their children. You will meet a mother who has about three or four children and what has happened? The father of those children has gone abroad and he will not send back any money for the support of his children. It is not altogether a question of relieving the wife because she might be able to work, but it is a question of relieving the children. It is not that you would spend a dollar so as to receive a penny; It is a question of the principle involved. Sir, it is not fair to call upon the taxpayers to maintain other people's children when those people are working for more money than some of us who are taxpayers. It is only because they are far away that they refuse to carry out their duties. Therefore, I think we should do everything possible in order to bring these people to their senses and make them realise that they have to maintain their children. They cannot go abroad and leave their children to be supported by the taxpayers, because the taxpayers have to maintain their own children and they should not be called upon to maintain other people's children as well. Of course, we are not against doing that we have to relieve these children; but I say that we must do everything possible to make the fathers of these children maintain them. As soon as we get everything working smoothly we will not have any more trouble.

You have letters coming in all the time, and at very nearly every meeting of the Public Assistance Committee you meet some people coming in to you. Up to the last meeting a young mother with four children came in and we have had to help these people. We have to relieve these people with small amounts because the fathers of these children will not send back any money to help them. As the hon. senior member for the City has said, we should spend a few more dollars in order to make people realise that they must maintain their children. It is not fair for us to be calling on the taxpayers, who are already very hard hit, to put their pennies in their pockets and pay more taxes. The fathers of these children went abroad in order to improve their position, and if they were not getting through better than they were getting through in Barbados, then they would have returned here. Now that they are getting through much better than before, they should be made to maintain their children, I should like to say,

Sir, that some of these people are taking on outside people and maintaining them. whereas they are neglecting their own children. 4.50 p.m.

What we are concerned with today, Mr. Speaker, is that we are taking up other people's money and spending it on children whose parents can afford to spend money on them, and I hope the Minister will take what the hon. senior member for Bridgetown says seriously, because he may not take what I say seriously, and do something to establish a principle.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before the Hon. Introducer of this Resolution exercises his right of final reply, which of course he may, is there any other hon. member who seeks to contribute to the discussion? I seem to hear the hon. Junior member for St. Thomas although he is not on his feet. Let the Hon. Minister proceed.

Hon. J.C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker. I am very grateful to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition made the hon. junior member for St. Joseph for having drawn this very important point to our attention, although I may say that this is a matter on which I have very strong feelings and have made my views known to my colleagues and to other people from time to time. When I left the Chamber a few minutes ago* I really left to discover among other things whether there had been any recent decision taken by the Minister of Health and Community Development on this matter, so that I could have been better able to inform the hon. member about it, I did not know that my absence on such an important errand would have been the occasion of an attack. I would not dream of being discourteous in the House to him or to any other member but if I left in the course of his speech, it was to arm myself with information which he himself would have found more valuable. I was not successful in getting the information I desired during my absence, but I would like to assure the hon. member that this is a matter on which all members of the Government feel strongly, and upon examination you will find that he and we have a lot of common ground in this matter - we have an identity on it - and that we shall most likely ask the Hon. Minister under whose portfolio it rightly comes to call in the hon. member's assistance and advice as to the best means of putting a stop to what after all is a very disgraceful habit among some Barbadian men.

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

**THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (No.3) REGULATIONS,
1965**

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to deal with Order No. 13 as the next Order of the Day.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister is asking leave to take Order No. 13 as the next Order of the day, and if there is no objection, leave will be granted.

There being no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, as the Addendum sets out, this Resolution seeks to give legislative approval to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations, 1965, made by the Director of Highways and Transport on the 10th day of March, 1965, under the provisions of section 7 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, 1937, as amended by section 41 of the Department of Highways and Transport Act, 1945, and approved and sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor on the 11th day of March, 1965, a copy of which has been laid in the Legislature.

The Regulations seek to control the use of tractors fitted with caterpillar type tracks on the public roads.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid there is some difficulty in the Official Reporter being able to hear, because close possibly to his left ear there are audible sounds which transcend the voice of the Hon. Minister who is addressing the Chair.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

It will be remembered, Sir, that under paragraph (2) of the Regulations which were laid and cited as the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 1965, paragraph (2) of Regulation 19 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations, 1952 was revoked and the following paragraph substituted therefor-

"No tractor fitted with caterpillar type tracks shall be allowed on any public road - (a) unless such tractor is conveyed on a vehicle of a class approved by the Director of Highways and fitted with pneumatic tyres: or (b) except with the prior written permission of the Director of Highways and Transport. And (3) and permission granted by the Director of Highways and Transport pursuant to paragraph (2) (b) of this Regulation may be subject to such conditions as the director may think fit.

The object of these Regulations is to prevent the roads being dug up by the indiscriminate use of tractors on the highways: so that unless they are fitted with pneumatic tyres or permission is granted by the Director of Highways and Transport who can give permission in certain cases, tractors cannot in future be removed from one part of the State to another indiscriminately, and be thereby found digging up the roads which the Department is anxious to keep in good, repair.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I can clearly understand the reasons for this Resolution, but sometimes the Addenda to these Resolutions are not clear. Now this Resolution seeks to give legislative approval to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 1965, made by the Director of Highways and Transport. At the end it says that these Regulations seek to control the use of tractors fitted with caterpillar type tracks on the public roads.

Now, Sir, it should be stated here fully. The Hon. Minister read out some of the reasons. but he

should not expect a member to digest something which he is reading as fast as he can read it. 5.00 p.m.

Now, Sir, to control in what way? I can understand that these tractors will cut up the road in some instances, but we must take into consideration that we must not go too far today in doing anything to embarrass the Sugar Industry. We must not go too far to make it unduly hard on the plantation owners to get their tractors from one place to another to plough the fields.

Some of these tractors are so heavy that you have to get something made for their conveyance, and it looks to me as if this can be very costly. I feel that you will be asking too much of these people to be spending such money only on a trailer to transport the tractor from one field to the next. If you were to take Mount Wilton Plantation as an instance, their fields are a mile long; therefore, if the tractor is in a field ploughing, they will have to drive it a mile from one field to get to the other. It is true to say that when it gets on the road it cuts up the road, but the owners can be charged for the damage which the tractor has done.

I want to know if every plantation which has a tractor would have to get an expensive trailer to convey its tractor from one field to another. It is all well and good to control when you think of the road, but money would have to come to put in the till to repair the road; therefore, if you try to prevent these people from making money, how are you going to get money to repair the roads?

I think the Director of Highways and transport has something in the Department to convey tractors from place to place, and I am wondering if he would be willing to put it at the disposal of those owners who apply for it to come and move their tractor from place to place, even if they have to pay for rental of it. I do not think it is fair to call on these people to expense themselves to put something there to convey their tractor a round when it will be only in use for one or two months in a year. I think that this conveyance would not be used during the crop season. It would be cheaper for them to get something on loan for this purpose..

I am in favour of controlling them from damaging the roads, but I am not in favour of penalising them entirely. I think it should be put in this Resolution that the Director of Highways and Transport would be quite willing if called upon to rent his particular equipment if and when they want it. Then, if they fail to do that and you find them with a tractor on the road you can charge them.

I know it will embarrass some of them to get the particular type of thing which you would want them to get at the moment because it is costly and expensive. Let us think of placing something at their disposal and you may very well find that the equipment which is used for this purpose at the Department of Highways and Transport would pay by way of renting it to them. It would not pay the particular owner to get one just to be used for that purpose, but they can rent that from the Department of Highways and Transport. We are thinking about the damage to roads only: let us think about the Industry and let us think about both ways. I do not know if the Hon. Minister would go into this matter. but I hope; he will go into it, and where he finds that the tractor owners cannot get the necessary equipment. I hope he would instruct the Director of Highways and Transport to rent equipment at the Department when they want it.

Now, Sir. Small owners are getting these tractors to and going around and ploughing their fields: so we would be embarrassing them also. It would not be the plantation owners alone; it would be the small

people too. Let the Hon. Minister go into it and say that this equipment which is used for the same purpose at the Highways and Transport Board can be rented.

Mr. BOXILL:

Sir, what the hon. member for St. Joseph has said is quite true. But nobody in their right senses would expect each and every estate owner to get a road trailer to put a tractor on to carry it from field to field. That would be asking too much. It would create a hardship on the people who are supposed to have to tractor

for their use. However, these tractors have been doing very much damage to the roads and I am certain that all of those tractors carry shoes. These shoes. These Shoes are a kind of device to prevent the tractor from damaging the road when it has to travel on the road, All that we are attempting to do is to ask the estate owners to see to it that, they put these shoes on the tractor when it has to cross the road. It might be a possibility that the government might say to anyone desirous of renting the equipment at the Department of Highways and Transport that they can have it, but the main point is to make the owners of the tractors use the shoes provided while tractor is crossing the road. It is a matter of preventing damage to the roads. You can see the way in which these tractors dig up the roads when they do not use the shoes. Whereas, if they use the shoes they can go on any road without damaging it; at least they would not damage it noticeably. That is the reason why we have brought in this Resolution. 5.10 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If no other hon. member wants to contribute to this debate, the Hon. Minister may exercise his right of that reply.

Hon. C.E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. junior member for St. Joseph, I should like to point out that these Regulations are drafted and they are agreed to by the Cabinet and brought down here and laid on the Table of the House. These Regulations were actually laid on the Table of the House on the 16th March this year. After these Regulations are laid on the Table of this House, they are printed and duly circulated amongst hon. members, so that each and every hon. member of this House will have seen a copy of them. If the hon. member has not secured his copy of these Regulations, that is no fault of mine. It is the duty of the hon. member to read and study the Regulations; they should not come as a surprise or shock to anybody. I have reminded the hon. member with what he is dealing and I have quoted the relevant parts of the Regulations so as to refresh his memory. I repeat, sir, that these Regulations were laid on the Table of this House on 16th March this year and I have read the operative part of the Regulations. Certain concessions were granted by way of duty free exemptions for trailers which are being used for conveying these tractors from field to field so that the Government is doing everything possible to assist and relieve the owners of tractors and is, at the same time, preserving the roads as far as possible. Therefore hon. members will see that no hardship is being created on anybody.

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

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LEASE OF LAND TO THE BARBADOS MOLASSES
TERMINAL LIMITED BY THE CROWN**

Hon. C.E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of the next Order No. 10 which stands in the name of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister of Communications and Works is asking leave to take charge of this Order standing in the name of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance. Unless there is any objection, leave will be granted. (Pause). There being no objection, leave is granted.

The next Order of the Day now stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works:-

To move the passing of the following Resolution:

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 Bridgetown Harbour.

The Hon. Minister may proceed.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, as the Schedule to the Resolution sets out, there are two parcels of land, the first parcel is an area of land containing by admeasurement 33,103 square feet or thereabouts forming part of the area set aside at the Bridgetown Harbour for molasses bulk installations for the purpose of accommodating the molasses storage tanks and other bulk installation equipment which are the property of the Barbados Molasses Terminal Limited; the lease to be for a term of ninety-nine years at a yearly rental of five dollars, each party being given the right to terminate the lease at twenty-five years notice of its intention to do so;

The second parcel of land is an area of land containing by admeasurement 6,296 square feet or thereabout running parallel and adjacent to the existing Access Road to the Sugar Store at the Bridgetown Harbour for the purpose of constructing a road thereon, the construction of which to be the responsibility of the Barbados Molasses Terminal Limited.

The matter goes further and in the Addendum to the Resolution this is what is stated:-

"An area of land was specifically earmarked and facilities installed at the Bridgetown Harbour so that the bulk shipment of molasses could be undertaken through the Harbour.

The Government has taken over the site at Needham's Point formerly occupied by the Barbados Molasses Terminal Ltd. for use in connection with the erection of the Hilton Hotel. It is therefore proposed, subject to legislative approval, to lease two portions of land totalling 39,393 sq.ft. at the Bridgetown Harbour to the Barbados Molasses Terminal Ltd. which undertakes the shipment of V. P. Molasses, for a period of ninety-nine years at a pepper corn rental of five dollars a year for the purpose of providing alternative accommodation for the company's storage tanks and other equipment. One area of 33,103 sq. ft. is for the erection of bulk loading facilities and the second area of 6,290 sq. ft. which

runs parallel and adjacent to the existing access road to the Sugar Store is for the construction by the Company of an access Road.\"

It is merely a question of the re-siting of the Head- quarters of the Barbados Molasses Terminal Ltd*, on account of the construction of the Hilton Hotel. I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

I beg to second that.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I am not opposing this Reso- lution, but I would just like to let the House know how I feel about this matter. Quite a few of these Orders were in the name of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance. I in- tended to raise this question before. The Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance sat there while other people are taking charge of these Orders of which he is in charge and he

cannot pay us

5.20 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

May I point out to the hon. junior mem- ber for St. Joseph that the House was asked to give leave to the hon. senior member for Christ Church to take charge of this Resolution. The House acquiesced in the request, and therefore \"it is too late now- and would be out of order - to raise objection to the Resolution being taken charge of by the hon. senior member for Christ Church. And it is to be assumed that the hon. senior member for Christ Church is fully briefed and in a position to answer any question or supply such information as the hon. member in whose name the matter stands would have been able to supply, had he personally taken care of it. There was no objection to leave being granted.

Mr. SMITH:

I am not objecting, but I did not hear when the House gave leave to the hon. senior member for Christ Church. If the House gave leave to the hon. senior member for Christ Church, I bow.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Mr. Clerk advises me that it is in the records, and I know that it transpired.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SENIOR MEMBER FOR ST. THOMAS

Mr. BATSON:

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order No. 64 which states that no member shall absent

himself from attendance at the House without leave of the House, I am asking for six weeks\' leave of absence from my duties as a member of this House as from next Tuesday, in order to attend the

parliamentary course at Westminster, England, of which hon. members are fully aware.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Chairman of Committees has been selected by the Barbados Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to represent us at this 14th Parliamentary Conference. Let hon. members of this Chamber take notice that the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is due to leave on Sunday from Seawell Airport. There will be no further intimation as to when the hon. member is departing, and I have no doubt that he will be accorded the customary honours at the Airport. He is leaving after Sunday School on Sunday at 6.30 p.m., that is, if Leave is granted.

The hon. senior member for St. Thomas is asking for six weeks' leave of absence from his duties as a member of this House, and accordingly as Chairman of Committees of this House as from 4th May, 1965, and if there is no objection, I shall proceed to grant the hon. member leave.

There being no objection, leave is granted the hon. member; and the fact that there is no objection to leave encourages me to tell the hon. member that he leaves with the good wishes of his colleagues in this House. And I am asked to add that the Officers of the House share the views of the members of the House that the Chairman of Committees is entitled to this leave, and has their best wishes.

Mr. BATSON:

I thank Your Honour for the kind sentiments expressed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, that concludes Government Business for today's sitting.

I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 4th May, 1965, at 2. 30 p.m.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before I put the question, as I notice the Hon. Leader of the House, the hon. senior member for St. Philip in his place - we did not expect to see him here today having regard to the grave bereavement which he has sustained - and in view of what was said by the hon. Acting Leader of the House when a motion was earlier unanimously passed, and in view of the fact that the Hon. Leader of the House is present, may I on behalf of myself and all hon. members assure him of our profound sympathy with him in respect of the great personal loss which he has sustained, and assure him that we hope our sincere wishes, very eloquently expressed this morning from all sides of the House, will in some small measure tend to fortify him in this very sad hour? Our best wishes are with him, and we cannot help but let the hon. member know that for him to come out today under these circumstances is a true indication that he regards himself, after 25 years' service here, as a servant of the House, at the beck and call of the House on every possible occasion, despite any personal considerations.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to express my very deep appreciation of the very kind sentiments which I understand were expressed this morning by hon. members and again by Your Honour just now in respect of the loss of my mother. The sympathy extended by hon. members to my family and myself will, as Your Honour has suggested, assist in fortifying us in our hour of sorrow, and it is to me a source of immense satisfaction to learn that my mother was held in similarly high esteem by my colleagues in this Chamber as we, her family, held her. I am grateful for the sympathy which has been expressed to my father and brothers and sisters and myself. 5.30 p.m.

It is a source of strength and courage to know that my colleagues in this Chamber in keeping with an enormous

number of other persons to the community have indicated their sorrow on my mother's passing and I feel strengthened to know that we have in this Island so many people to share in our deep personal loss.

The question that this House do now adjourn, until Tuesday, 4th May, 1965, at 2.30 o'clock p.m. was put and resolved in the affirmative without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

5.32 p.m.