

THE House of Assembly Debates

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

SECOND SESSION 1961 - 66

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(OFFICIAL REPORT) SECOND SESSION OF 1961-66

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 2nd February, 1965.

Pursuant to the adjournment, the House of Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. 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. TALMA, (Minister of Communications and Works); Hon. J. C. TUDOR. M.A., (Minister of Education); Mr. J. W. CORBIN; Hon. G. G. FERGUSON, (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries); Mr. W. R. COWARD; Mr. R. ST.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; Mr. G. V. BATSON, (Chairman of Committees); and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Development),

Prayers were read.

MINUTES

Mr. SPEAKER:

I have the honour to inform the House that the Minutes of the meetings of Tuesday, 19th and Tuesday 26th January, this year, have been duly circulated and if there is no objection, they will be confirmed. (A Pause).

There being no objection, I declare the Minutes of these meetings duly confirmed.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded to lay a Statement showing the sums advanced to the Postmaster General for the payment of Money Orders, the amounts repaid to the Accountant General, and the amounts due by the various Post Offices to 30th November, 1964.

STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER REGARDING HOSPITAL EXPENDITURE

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to make the following Statement

"I am pleased to announce that, following representation which we have made, the Government has received a telegram from the Colonial Office approving of the following additional grants from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds towards the cost of the construction of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

1. A supplementary grant for the main building

- £33,223(\$1,599,470)

2. Ambulance garages, workshop and Resident Engineer's

Office - £6,915(\$ 33,192)

3. Maternity out-patients

Centre - £7,830(\$ 37,584)

The total of these grants amounts to £347,968 (\$1,670,246), and when added to the grants we have already received from this source for the hospital, amounts to approximately \$5,000,000.

I am sure that the House will be grateful for this capital financial assistance for this outstanding project."

PAPERS LAID

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay the following documents-

An account of the transactions in Rum in the several districts of the Island for quarter ended 31st December, 1964;

Also, the Customs Duties (Machinery, Equipment, Packaging Materials and Raw Materials for the Processing and Packaging of Food Products) Order, 1965.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES Government Notices were given as follows:-

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Resolution to place the sum of \$14,150 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1964-65 No. 53 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Resolution to approve the draft Order entitled \"The Boundaries Commission Order, 1964\", which was laid before the General Assembly on 24th November. 1964.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Resolution to place the sum of \$34,000 at the disposal of the Government to supplement the Estimates 1964-65 Part I - Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimates 1964-65 No. 52 which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I am also asking for leave to deal with this Resolution in all its stages today.

NOTICE OF REPLY TO QUESTIONS

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that the Oral Reply to Parliamentary Question No. 23/1964 asked by the hon. senior member for St. Thomas is now ready.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of my intention to move the House in Committee of Supply at its next meeting, to consider the Money Resolution of which notice has been given earlier, other than the one which the Hon. Minister of Health gave notice of to be dealt with today.

QUESTIONS Mr. WEEKES:

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister

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

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

Also,

To enquire of the Appropriate Minister:

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

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

2.50 p.m.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Mr. Speaker, as I intimated earlier today, I propose making a statement concerning -

Mr. SPEAKER:

I am afraid I cannot hear the hon. member.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am advised to do it later on.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY re DEATH OF Mr. G. D.L.PILE

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to move the passing of a Resolution that the House record Its sympathy over the passing of a former member of this House in the person of Mr. George Douglas Laurie Pile. As hon. members are aware, Mr. Pile served in this Chamber with distinction for a number of years and, with his passing over the weekend, it is traditional in this parliament to move a -vote of sympathy to his relatives. The Resolution reads as follows-

BE IT RESOLVED that this House place on record its profound sympathy at the passing of George Douglas Laurie Pile, who represented the constituency of St. John in this Honourable House from 1920 to 1944, and filled the high office of Speaker in 1934 and again from 1942 to 1944.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his sorrowing relatives.

As Your Honour will recall from your own personal experience, the late Mr. Pile served in this Chamber for over 20 years - as a matter of fact, he served for a period of 24 years representing the constituency of St. John. He also served on the Vestry of the parish of St. John for an even longer period. Both as a Vestryman and as a Parliamentarian, Mr. Pile brought to his duties and his responsibilities a very high sense of duty, and according to his likes he endeavoured at all times to represent the national interest. As far as I can recall, Sir, he was a very affable

man, sincerely interested in the progress of the island, and the clashes in which he became involved in this Chamber from time to time were not so much the results of tem-permental differences with his colleagues as much as they were due to circumstances in which, in his opinion, perhaps, the country was travelling too fast in a certain direction, and power was slipping from the hands of the small coterie which he felt, perhaps, was destined always to bear this responsibility. That is why at some times he appeared to resist the times to the point where his ire arose and where he offered stern opposition to some of us who sat in here at that time. However, Sir, that is not to say that in any way, in a broad general manner, he did not have the interest of the community at heart, nor is it to say that he did not, during those times, make a specific contribution to the welfare of the community.

He held broad acres, and his contribution in this respect to the agricultural progress of the island is by no means insignificant. He lived a very full and useful life and he was spared to live up to the very ripe years of 82 years, although he was, for the last few years, in very indifferent health. Nevertheless, we mourn the passing of a Barbadian who, for almost three quarters of a century, has ploughed the field both in commercial and public life and filled a niche in the life of the community at the time when it was expected of him to the best of his ability and according to his own conceptions and ideas. This House, will, I think, have heard of his passing with profound regret and would like, on this occasion, to join with the expressions of sympathy which will be accorded to his family. I therefore beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion for the passing of this Resolution, there is very little more that can be said of George Douglas Laurie Pile than what the Hon. Leader of the House has said, except to mention that in reading some of the old debates of this House, you will find that when Mr. Pile, who was of a family known to all of us in Barbados, first entered this Chamber, in those days people of his age were considered to be coming back from the United Kingdom as Conservatives with fresh ideas. They were not readily accepted by his own class, and with some of his very advanced ideas, he became a member of this Chamber. However, Sir, that service was broken off when he volunteered and elected to serve His Majesty the King in the Armed Forces.

3.00 p.m.

It was after his return to Barbados, as the Hon. Leader of the House has said, that he came into this House and represented the constituency of St. John, and I am happy that it has fallen the lot of the Hon. Minister of Trade, the Leader of the House, to pay tribute to a distinguished son of Barbados, because I believe he was one of the first to have entered this House and to have caused some uneasiness when Douglas Pile was a member of this House. Speaking for myself, I can testify that here was a man who was a shining example, because to whatever Party one might belong, he was never the one to listen to any news about his opponents unless he was prepared to let them know whence it came. I happened to have been a member for over thirty years of the Party of which he was a member, and I was very much impressed by the fact that when the father of democracy, Dr. O'Neale, came out to this country, despite the fact that Douglas Pile did not agree with his political philosophy, he always shew the greatest respect for a man such as Dr. O'Neale. This I speak of because I have had the opportunity of personally discussing with him Dr. O'Neale.

On the other hand, it may not be known and it might not be appreciated by the younger generation in this country what I am going to say now, but surely I believe the Socialists of today and the Trade Unionists would appreciate more than ever the act that despite the handsome prices offered to Douglas Pile who was the person in charge of the broad acres and big estates of the main industry of this island, he always advocated that he hoped they would remain in the hands of local people, because they would certainly be able to understand and get on better with the

working class people. That, Sir, has come to pass because I have got it from no other than a very distinguished Trade Union Leader and a very distinguished son of Barbados that it was as a result of the sugar estates remaining in the hands of local people that the Trade Union in Barbados was able to make such progress and keep such harmony between capital and labour.

Douglas Pile lived, Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, in his day and age; and a she was born from a very wealthy family, one would appreciate that it was difficult for him to adjust himself to the changing times; but nevertheless I remember, when I had to sit in the Gallery of this Chamber, that he occupied that very noble position which you now occupy, and he did not at any time show that he deprecated the fact that the flood gates were open and that people of the walk of life to which he did not belong would be entering here in great numbers. He set, as I said, a great standard from that Chair which you who happened to have been here for some time can follow, and those of us who have the ambition to come here can emulate.

It is indeed sad that we have to pay this tribute to the late Douglas Pile; but much as we regret his passing, we realise that his contribution to Barbados is one that will go down in history. One of the most memorable things about Douglas Pile which I remember was his contribution as Chairman of the Hospital Board. It will be recalled that he used to be in association with the Hon. Graham Year-wood, and in those days Mr. Douglas Pile became Chairman of the Hospital Board beside serving on several other Boards and in Local Government. The Hospital Board was one of his babies, and he gave unstintingly of his time. I think all of us would appreciate if we read some of the Minutes and Debates of this Chamber that at all times Douglas Pile was its staunch supporter.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, sitting in this Gallery when Douglas Pile, not then Speaker but on the floor of this House, made what I, with my limited ability to appreciate then, considered one of the most brilliant speeches I had heard from the floor of this House, and it was to bring a Radiologist to this country. In it he said that one would not have thought that this would come from a Conservative, but that Radiology would come to stay, that it was very well for people of his class, if they had to have the services of a Radiologist, to wend their way to the United States, Canada or the United Kingdom, but that the services of a Radiologist were needed at the Barbados General Hospital for the benefit of those underprivileged people who could not afford to go away. This can be testified to by looking at the debates. It was then that I was in the Lobby of this House and I heard one who is supposedly now an avowed Socialist, coming through the corridors, say that it was one of the finest speeches he had heard, but he was going inside and pick it to pieces - and indeed he tried; but thanks to the ability, the foresight and stability of hon. members of that Chamber then, he did bring a Radiologist to Barbados, and as he said, it was here to stay.

I beg to second the motion for the passing of this Resolution to the family of the late George Douglas Laurie Pile, who will always be remembered in this island for his contribution to the various Boards and the various branches of Local Government, and above all for his contribution to the sugar industry, and again for attempting and succeeding in maintaining the sugar industry in the hands of local people so that the Government, Trade Unions and others are able to deal with people on the spot rather than having to deal with absentee proprietors. I think we all know that for years Tate and Lyle tried to get into the Barbados sugar industry, but because of the powerful interest which George Douglas Laurie Pile and his colleagues had in Barbados, they were unable.

I have much pleasure in seconding this Resolution, a copy of which will be sent to the relatives of the late George Douglas Laurie Pile.

3.10 p.m.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, the Barbadian character is neither black or white, rich nor poor; it is

neither ultra-Conservative nor extremely radical, neither is it young nor old.

I am now., Sir, as you are aware, the senior member for the parish of St. John, the parish which the late George Douglas Laurie pile represented in a similar capacity for nearly twenty-four years. Between us, there was a gulf, not so much an intellectual gulf, but a gulf of forty years\' difference. There was a difference in outlook, of seeing things from a different angle and seeing the same things from different angles and drawing different conclusions from the same set of circumstances.

Apart from doing my duly as senior member for the parish of St. John which we both have the honour to represent, I would not allow an opportunity like this to pass without placing on record that it is regrettable, no matter what is one\'s particular viewpoint or social position or political ideologies, that integrity in public life is no longer considered a necessary qualification for office; but it appears to me that the standards during the past few years, perhaps not in Barbados alone, but throughout the so-called democratic world, seem to be degenerating, although we, in this country, are doing our best to pull them back from the long slippery slopes into which they had fallen.

Alone with the hon. senior member for the parish of St. Peter and the late lamented and much beloved Mr. A. E. S. Lewis, the late Mr. G. D. L. Pile and myself were members of the Sugar Production Board; and despite the fact that we belonged on one side of the political fence and the late Mr. Douglas pile on the other, I remember an occasion of incurring the wrath of the powers-that-be, and the only members of the Sugar Production Board who took the same side as I were the hon. senior member for St, Peter, the late junior member for the City of Bridgetown and the late Senior member for St. John, Mr. George Douglas Laurie Pile. There are many persons today alive who were involved in that unsavoury dispute and as a result of the three of us, supported by Mr. Pile., being the only members to take the initiative on this matter, our membership was withdrawn. That is how corruption was dealt with in those days. The people who drew corruption to our notice were the people who were liquidated and the people who perpetrated those rather unsavoury actions against the Interest of the people were the people who were elevated to the seats of the high and mighty.

Sir, I want to place on record that Mr. George Douglas Laurie Pile, despite his social and political affinity with certain vested interests, was one who when there was corruption and things going wrong, was not afraid to open his mouth and stand up with others who saw them in the same light although he was somewhat ultra-conservative in his views. That is why I say that the Barbadian character is what it is. If you want to know the true character of the Barbadian here, you will have to get someone from outside who does not understand the nature of Barbados\' political life to come in and try to drive a wedge between one element and the other element. In other words, as the hon. senior member for St. Philip said, the late Mr. Pile made a con-triution accordingly to his likes: but a contribution none the less it was; and though it appears that contribution slowed down the wheels of progress, the fact was that the late hon. senior member for St. John, when the wheels were in motion, was not prepared to stand anymore in the way of progress.

Sir, I had the privilege to see the late senior member for St. John after he was many years in the United

Kingdom: and despite his severe affliction Just two years ago, he was able to attend a function which was for West Indians of every class and every social structure, and I think he honestly enjoyed himself and felt that he was part of this community although he was in the United Kingdom. He said to me \"I am glad to see so many Barbadians here\"; and although he was incapacitated, he put himself in the way to meet as many people as he could. That shows the deep-rooted affinity which lies between one Barbadian and the other and, therefore, having got this on record, it shows that if even amongst your political enemies there may be a combination of certain things which may not be particularly acceptable in civilised communities, it is in

that kind of crisis that the character of people would emerge, and I am very glad that I really discovered the true heart of Mr. George Douglas Laurie Pile in a moment of crisis when a common stand had to be taken on a matter. (Cheers).

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, one can only add his bit after so much has been said already in respect of the late G. D. L. Pile. I say that because the various speakers, in my opinion, have told us all about the late Mr. Douglas Pile's political and private life.

Now, Sir, knowing Mr. Pile in his private life, I feel that he was responsible for the lot of land owners in the parish of St. George becoming landed proprietors in this small Island of Barbados, because land in this country is so limited, and the people are so many that the few who have it try to cling to it like love vine clings to a tree, and they have no use for the poor fellow who tries to own a bit of land. But if one went to a man like Mr. G. D. L. Pile to get the necessary assistance and help to buy a piece of land in those days, one would get it. Therefore, I can only say that the late Mr. G. D. L. Pile was one who was bom from the Almighty; he was one that really had the spirit of Go[^] in his heart to help that poor class of person. 3.20 p.m.

It is very good. Sir, for one to talk about help, but when the time comes for that particular person to put his hand in his pocket, he will talk about it all the day long before his hand will be able to reach his pocket to help another person. Mr. Pile was one of those men who would always be willing to help. In his private life, I could afford to say that something happened - I will not say what happened - but it was something in which I was involved, and I never expected that anybody like Mr. Pile would have come out on my side. He did so, Sir, - not financially - and the odds were against him with his class, and, as we would say, with his colour; however, Sir, he came out on my side and that speaks well for him.

As to his political life, I can remember that there was a time when on one of the Vestries on which he served - he served on more than one Vestry - his colleagues felt that the particular Parochial Treasurer who used to be paid on a percentage basis in those days, was drawing too much money. His colleagues on the Vestry discussed the matter and they made a motion to reduce the commission which that particular Parochial Treasurer was paid and Mr. Douglas Pile fought like a good blood dog against it. After the odds were against himf I remember that Mr. Pile said: \"Gone are the days for one to think that the reduction of a man's salary or wage can exist any longer; you have to think about increases and not reductions\". Sir, we saw the writing on the wall but his colleagues failed to see it. He asked; \"How can you expect to reduce this man's commission now when the cost of living is on the way up? If you reduce it today, you will have to increase it tomorrow, and why should you give yourself the trouble to reduce it?\"

Sir, Mr. Pile did everything to stop his colleagues from interfering with the commission which was paid to that particular Parochial Treasurer, and after he saw that the odds were against him, he walked out of the Vestry room. In going out, this is what he said: "I cannot sit inside there with those hard-hearted people to take advantage of this man". In those days, you would not find so many of that class, so many in the financial position of Mr. Douglas Pile. He told his colleagues that they could not think of reducing a man's salary; they would have to think of increasing it. That will show you, Mr. Speaker, that that man was out to help those people who are really in need of help? I would say, Sir, "May he rest in peace!"

Mr. SPEAKER:

Before I put the motion for the passing of this Resolution, I would like to add my personal tribute to those which have been so eloquently paid to the late George Douglas Laurie Pile, who was a Companion of the British Empire. The Honourable Leader of the House, the hon. senior member for St. Philip, and myself, are the only

two members of this Chamber who were in this House with the late Mr. Pile and sat under his Speakership. I have no doubt that the Hon. Leader of the House will agree with me as to the fairplay and the ability together with the flexibility of mind which were displayed by Mr. Pile when he presided with dignity, as invariably he did, over the deliberations of this Chamber. I join with those who wish to express their condolences to the relatives of the deceased and, perhaps, what is appropriate is the fact that he had lived to the ripe age of eighty and two years.

In order to signify the assent of hon. members to the passage of this Resolution, and in conformity with longstanding tradition, I will now ask hon. members to Join me in observing a two minutes' silence to the memory of a former Speaker of this House, the late George Douglas Laurie Pile.

Hon. members stood in their places on the passing of the Resolution as requested by His Honour the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:

This Resolution has now been duly and unanimously passed and copies in conformity therewith will be forwarded to the sorrowing relatives of the late Mr. Pile.

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY re DEATH OF CHAPLAIN

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 at the passing of the Reverend Samuel Arthur Emanuel Coleman for 13 years. Chaplain of this Honourable House.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to his sorrowing relatives.

Mr. Speaker, I think it was only six months ago when this House was asked to grant leave of absence through illness to its Chaplain, and I believe that it was only last week that we were asked again to grant

him a further extension of leave because he had not fully recovered. It was therefore something of a shock to all of us to hear that he had not recovered and that his illness had taken a turn for the worse.

3.30 p.m.

We had been hoping that six months or as much as he wanted rest from his duties as a servant of this House would have fully restored him to his vigour. I think therefore the House today must feel sorry that he has passed from us, because he was in more respects than one a father to this House. The Rev. Coleman, Mr. Speaker, was an individualist pure and simple. This House had the honour of congratulating him on two occasions recently: the occasion, I think, of his Golden Wedding Anniversary, and also the occasion of the celebration of his fifty years as a Priest in the Church of England. Those of us who have known him outside of this House and in another capacity can bear testimony of the strength of his character and the struggles which he had in his own chosen field, and the perseverance with which he fought his own battles made a clearer path for those who succeeded him in the Ministry of this island. What I think we all remember most about him here, however, was that he was a man of great dignity, a man who so far as his work was concerned was genuinely interested in the welfare of people, particularly the poor and underprivileged, and it is no discredit to him that he did not rise to higher office in the Church, because I think he spent the most fruitful years of his life among the poor and underprivileged in the rural parishes for whom he lived and for whom he was more than a patriarch and counsellor.

This House has had the privilege of having him as its Chaplain for thirteen years, and fully half of the members of the present House have known no other Chaplain than himself. When I think it was a little more than a year ago I wrote to congratulate him on behalf of this side of the

House on his fifty years as a Priest, I quoted to him four lines of Duff Cooper's which I thought very age:

"Fear not, kind friend, if spring be past And autumn shadows fall; These years shall be, although the last. The loveliest of all"

I was convinced that his years here as a servant of this House and the years he enjoyed pleased him perhaps more than anything else in his long and very useful time as a priest. The House, I know, will want to extend to his widow its deepest and most sincere condolences, and we would like to place on record our grateful appreciation of the services rendered by this very humble and sincere Priest of the Church who walked and lived out his days in fellowship with his God

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass. Mr. MOTTLEY and Mr. HUSBANDS rose.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Leader of the Opposition caught my eye first. In a matter of this kind, one usually looks in that direction. Is he prepared to give way to the hon. Junior member for St. Peter?

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, I think it is my duty to serond the passing of a motion of condolence to the family of the Reverend Samuel Coleman. The admirable thing about the Reverend Coleman was that despite the fact

that he nearly became a martyr to the cause and for his convictions, he was not an embittered man. As the Hon. Minister of Education has said, we have known him here as Chaplain for more than twelve years. We have all been moved by his devotion to duty; but those of us who knew the Reverend Samuel Coleman before he came here as Chaplain will remember that he had a very hard time in this country. Although it may not seem appropriate to refer to these things, you will pardon me if I do, so that the youth of this country would know what they now enjoy had to be fought for.

When the Reverend Coleman came back to this country, he was denied the right of having a pulpit because he started life as a pupil teacher at the school connected with the Church where his last remains will be buried this evening. Leaving St. David's School, he journeyed to the land that offered opportunity then to people of African descent who had ambition to go on and up and further their studies. As the Hon. Mover of this Resolution has said, he graduated from a now defunct school as Bachelor of Divinity, and when he came back to his own, they received him not. It was only when the Democratic Movement started that, through the very gallant fight of a distinguished son of Barbados, Dr. O'Neale, an Act had to be passed in Parliament to allow a Minister of the Gospel in the Anglican Church to preach in Barbados or to be appointed as a Curate in this country. It is not always appropriate to refer to these things, but I take pride in doing this to let the people of this country know that what they have today had to be fought for. A challenge was even meted out in this country by the Reverend Coleman to the Canons and dignatories of the Church that there was one Church, one Faith and one Lord, and that despite the fact that he might have graduated in the United States, the Archbishop of Canterbury was still considered the head of the Anglican and Episcopal Church in the United States, and therefore Rev. Coleman became a Gentleman of the Cloth and was eventually accepted and became a Vicar of St. Simons' Church in St. Andrew.

As the Hon. Minister has said, it is nothing to his discredit that he did not rise higher, because he did not catch the eyes of the people in charge during his youth; but I always remember hearing him on his first occasion in this parish when he said to the people at the Cathedral that he had come to bring them nothing new, but that he came to preach that Christ was crucified, and asked that they go out and tell it unto the heathens that the Lord was God. I could never forget the Reverend Coleman on his first occasion at the Cathedral, because the type of evangelism and the

type of preaching which Reverend Coleman brought was something new to this country. He lived in his day and generation, and as the Hon. Minister said, he was purely an individualist.

3.40 p.m.

I happened to be in this House of Assembly when the late Rev. S. A. E. Coleman was appointed Chaplain of this House, and I think most of us were happy to have the Reverend Gentleman with us. I hope many of us would spare the opportunity to go to St. David's Church to pay our last respects to his relatives. It can truly be said that the late Rev. Coleman blazed the trail. I had a conversation with him one time in which he told me of the great fight he had to put up to preach to his people in the Anglican community, and I can only say from what he told me that the late Rev. Coleman was truly a man of courage and one who had the courage of his convictions. His life was truly an example for us to follow. He wanted something and he went after it and got it.

Mr. Speaker, I second this Resolution of sympathy and hope that it would be sent to his wife and other

relatives.

Mr. HUSBANDS:

Mr. Speaker, I think that it is incumbent on me to say a few words on the occasion of this Resolution of sympathy because our late Chaplain was a gentleman who came into rather close contact with me for many years. It was a pleasure, indeed, for him to reminisce of his past experience in the United States, in the Virgin Islands and Barbados. His life was a very colourful one as a priest and I was intrigued to see the character of the man. The late Reverend gentleman recited to me some episodes of his life which was not only very colourful but interesting.

The late Rev. S. A. E. Coleman lived a long life and certainly was able to reflect on the very many trials of this world which he managed to survive. He has lived to a ripe age - the age of 82 years. I have spent a reasonable time in this Chamber with him as Chaplain, and though he was not a politician, there were times when he even risked to offer me advice. I was always appreciative of his suggestions, and I always looked forward to the old man whose counsel I always heeded.

This evening, we are mourning his loss and I feel very certain Mr. Speaker, that you would place on record the sympathy of us all to his wife and closest relatives. You cannot do less than that. I feel, myself, as one who was closely associated with him, that he was truly a man of God. I can appreciate all that has been said about him by the Hon. Minister of Education, and the hon. senior member for the City of Bridgetown, who, I hope, did not intend to speak in any apologetic fashion, because the trials of the late Rev. S. A. E. Coleman were things which make good history. There are some things which the younger generation and in particular the younger coloured Reverend gentlemen should certainly emulate. What they enjoy now is in a large measure due to their solute courage and integrity of the late Samuel Arthur Emmanuel Coleman. May He Rest in Peace.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks which has been said in respect to the late Rev. Samuel A. E. Coleman. I came into contact with the Reverend gentleman approximately six years ago and I found him a faithful and conscientious priest. As you know, Sir, he was Chaplain of the Southern District Council, and I must admit that he was always punctual and did his utmost to see that councillors got along well.

It is said, Sir, that death is the gateway of a new life. If we accept this, I am sure that the late Rev. Coleman has left this world to enter a new life. I have no doubt that all who came into contact with the late Rev. Coleman, must feel the sadness of this occasion.

Sir, I express my sincere sympathy to the relatives of the late Rev. S. A. E. Coleman.

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to associate myself with all hon. members who paid tribute to the passing of the late Rev. Samuel A. E. Coleman. I can assure you, Sir, that he was a very faithful man, I knew him from the time when I was a boy because he was sent to my parish to take care of the flock there. He was very faithful to the people in my parish. During the time he was priest at St. Simon's, he walked through the villages, and he preached and helped the destitute and did everything he could for the welfare of the poor people of St. Andrew.

I remember during his several visits to people in my parish, that there were occasions when he came across some who were not living the sort of life which he would like. He went into their homes and asked them to get married, and he told them that he would marry them for nothing so that they may go and lead a decent life. I know many occasions after he married couples that he took them into his home - some of them were even barefooted - and served them with lunch. This is a man who would be remembered for many generations to come, and anyone who serves the community a good deed would be remembered for many generations to come.

The late Rev. S. A. E. Coleman was a very great man of valour. He did his duty night and day. Regardless of whatsoever direction you wanted him in, he would come and assist you. I came into this House and found the late Rev. Coleman reading the prayers and lessons.

3.50 p.m.

For many days I have taken service under him, and it blessed my heart to sit and listen to him at all times. Now it has pleased the Most High God to take him away from us. Many will mourn for him, but we can remember these blessed words: \"Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.\" I pray that God will comfort his widow and keep her in perfect peace. He will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed on him. I pray that He will keep her in perfect peace until He is pleased to call her to a higher order.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for your patient hearing.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, there is very little more which could be said now about the late Reverend Coleman, but on behalf of myself and my Party I should like to say something, be it ever so short. I can say that I was one of those who supported Reverend Coleman by way of giving him my vote to become the Chaplain of this House. From the time that Reverend Coleman entered this House, he was always very strict. He would talk to hon. members in such a way that if they did not know him, they would be very unpopular with him, because he used to talk in a very straightforward manner. I believe that that is one of the things which made him unpopular in his profession. He was not one of those men who would know that you were wrong and would still tell you that you were right; he was one of the old-time types of disciplinarians. He was very fair and string. I can remember an occasion when I was Deputy Speaker of this House and I had to act as Speaker. No sooner than I got in the Lobby, I met the Reverend Coleman and this is what he told me; \"Mr. Smith, do not forget to say Amen\" to my prayers.\" If I did not take that in the spirit in which it was given, Rev. Coleman would have been very unpopular with me too. I did not think he thought of me that I was such a heathen that I would not have known to say \"Amen\" to his prayers, but I felt he thought it his duty to see that if the members on the floor of the House did not say \"Amen\" to the prayers, at least the Speaker should do that. Another person would not mind whether you said \"Amen\" to the prayers or not, but the Reverend Coleman tried to make sure that at least the Speaker would say \"Amen\" to the prayers.

Sir, if you did not understand Reverend Coleman's ways, you would be on the other side of the fence with him. He had the interest of the people at heart and he also had the interest of this House at heart. There was a time when he spent nearly half an hour on the stairs on his way to this House. I could sec

that he was practically dragging

his way up the stairs to get in here. I do not think that the little pittance which he was getting caused him to come up here; it was because of the interest of the community which he had at heart. \"May he rest in peace.\"

Mr. SPEAKER:

Again, before I put the motion for the passing of this Resolution, may I say how sincerely I agree with the sentiments which have been so well expressed in relation to the now deceased Chaplain of this House? I am sure we will miss his presence in here. It is a curious coincidence that the two gentlemen whose passing we mourn this afternoon - the late Mr. Douglas Pile, a former Speaker of this House, and the late Reverend Coleman, the former Chaplain - died within almost a day or two of each other and both of them in their eighty-second year. That is a most remarkable coincidence. I will ask hon. members to signify their assent to the passing of this Resolution by standing in their places for a period of two minutes.

Hon. members stood in their places for a period of two minutes according to the request of His Honour the Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now Private Member's Business.

MOTION FOR THE SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, you will remember that earlier in the sitting today the Hon. Minister of Health gave notice of a Resolution and he said that he would ask leave to deal with it in all of its stages today. Hon. members will, of course, desire to attend the funeral of the late Chaplain, and it is therefore the intention of this House to proceed with this Resolution of which the hon. member has given notice as expeditiously as possible, so that hon. members on both sides of the House would be able to leave. We propose, therefore, to move the adjournment of the House as soon as we have finished with this Resolution.

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

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that. Mr. SMITH rose to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Acting Leader of the House is seeking the passing of this motion for the specific purpose which he has said. I gather that that is the only matter which it is thought he would deal with at this stage.

4.00 p.m.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I am in order, but I am objecting to leave being granted. I was told that the House would be adjourned at 4 o'clock to give hon. members opportunity to go to the funeral. The funeral is at 4.30 p.m. and it is all the way in Christ Church, and if you go on with more business, it may not end until 4.15 p.m., and if we are going to pay our last respects to the old gentleman, we should arrive early. I do not think this Resolution is so urgent. If it must be done urgently, I do not mind coming back on Thursday or some time during the week. You have the numbers and will be able to carry on with all the business on the Order Paper, but surely you should give members on this side who want to go to the funeral a chance to pay their last respects. Last Tuesday the House passed a Resolution in connection with the death of Sir Winston Churchill and then adjourned; could it not be done with our own? I am sure it can be done.

The question that the Standing Orders be now suspended was put and resolved in the affirmative, the House dividing as follows;

AYES:

Mr. BAT SON; Hon. E. W. BARROW; Mr. BOX-ILL; Hon. C. E. TALMA; Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON, Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS; Hon. J. C. TUDOR; Mr. CORBIN; Mr. LOWE; Mr. CARMICHAEL; Mr. WALCOTT; Mr. COWARD; Mr. LYNCH and Mr. MOTTLEY - 14.

NOES:

Mr. HOLDER and Mr. SMITH - 2,

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker. I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee on this Resolution.

Mr. W ALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is out of order, because there is nothing for the House to go into Committee on.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

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

Mr. W ALCOTT:

Again, Mr. Speaker, that has already been exempted. I want to know what the hon. member is dealing with. The hon. member has to ask leave to deal with this Resolution of which notice was given, and I am serving notice that I am opposing it.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave of the House to deal with the Resolution of which I gave notice earlier today.

Mr. W ALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I am objecting to this Resolution being dealt with in all its stages today, and I will give many reasons for my objection. I am not doing anything with the time; it is the Government's business to set

the time of the House to suit all these emergencies. If you want to pay respect to the gentleman, adjourn the House for two hours and let those of us who want to go to the funeral do so and come back at 6 o'clock. Some of you feel that we come here at your convenience every Tuesday, but I am going to talk out the time if you do not accede to what I say.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I take it the hon. member is addressing the Chair.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, but a loud remark came from over there, and I took the opportunity to reply to it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Rather too loudly, I almost heard it.

Mr. WALCOTT:

The House passed a Resolution on the last occasion to which I objected, but unfortunately I was not available, when the Resolution was dealt with, and subsequent events have taken place which will make a Hospital vote in this House the subject of a proper debate on issues which are likely to arise and which should be clarified. There is no point, therefore, in asking us to deal with this Resolution for \$34,000 for the Hospital dealing with the substitution of staff when there are problems that are going to arise and some have already arisen.

Apart from having to go to the funeral, I would object to dealing with this in all its stages today, because on the last occasion I said I required information dealing with such matters, and as a member of Parliament, I do not want to be treated contemptuously by the Minister, because one expects him to have all the relevant information available before he proceeds to come to the House with a Resolution. I consider that I have a right as one of the trustees of the people's money in this country to have this information, and we are not here only to rubber-stamp the approval of money. This is so vital to the structure of our democracy that I should be given an opportunity to discuss this matter with other people to let me know what are their views, because I have extremely strong and opposite views to those expressed by the Minister in so far as the Doctors and Specialists in this country are concerned, and there can be no threat or serving of notice to Doctors in this country in this summary and preremptory manner as if they are people taking dung in some baskets on a plantation in St. John or St. Andrew. I object to that sort of behaviour. I hold no brief for doctors or for the BMA, but I am not going to sit here and when some issue arises and I ask for information, I do not get the right answer. When I returned on the last occasion, the Resolution was passed and I made a speech subsequently, and now today I have a lot to say on this vote, and I do not see why we should sit here today and agree to the passing of this Resolution in

all its stages before we pass the one dealing with \$12,000. I want to know more about this Resolution before I give my approval, because Parliament has not reached the stage at which we only approve, but we do not know anything about what we are approving. This is not a routine matter; it is very fundamental.

Mr. Speaker, I am dressed to go to the funeral; but if the House is meeting and I am not permitted to go, I will not go. I put Parliament first. I walked around this country and asked people to elect me to

come back heret and I am not going to treat people as though it is a nuisance for me to come here.

4.30 p.m.

I am not going to treat this House like some hon. members who only remember the voter s when they want to come in here. Those who regard coming in here as a nuisance, I will tell them that they are wasting their time. I do not regard it in that way. I have asked the people to send me here and I come here to debate public issues before anything else.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if you are a party in this matter; I do not know how you feel about it, but I am opposed to this principle. This is a Resolution for the sum of \$24,000 and it should not be expected of us to deal with it in all its stages in this short space of time because it is a very important Resolution. It is a Resolution on a very topical issue and we cannot finish it, anyhow, today. If there is an attempt to do it now, it would not be passed; therefore, you could as well allow commonsense to prevail. I have found no substitute for commonsense.

Hon. E. W. BARROW:

Mr. Speaker, I think that during the course of a debate, a member should not mention anything extraneous to it; he should only speak on anything germane to the issue. By so doing, I am merely reiterating what the Standing Orders of this Chamber or any Legislative chamber sets out.

The hon. senior member for St. Peter has served notice that he intends to range far and wide on this matter. The only reason why the Hon. Minister asked leave to suspend the Standing Orders to deal with this one Resolution which is comparatively simple - and the Hon. senior member for St. Peter who is the only practising Trade Unionist in the House is objecting to the House dealing with the matter today - is because it contains proposals for paying, not Doctors and Specialists, but rank and file workers. If it is not dealt with today, it would mean that people will have to go without their salaries. As far as I am informed, there are people who have not been paid yet and, as far as I know, it is not through a matter of administration, but due to extraordinary circumstances.

Having put on record the Government\'s motive for wanting this matter discussed today and that this is for lowly-paid employees of the Public Service, such as the scrubbers, and so on, who have not yet received their salary through no fault of the Ministry, so as to accommodate the hon. senior member for St. Peter who is the only practising Trade Unionist in this House who is opposed to its being dealt with today because he wishes to debate this matter, I am asking the Hon. Minister to withdraw his motion that leave be granted, and I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 9th February, at 12 o\'clock (noon).

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, you should not permit the hon. member to use those remarks because one cannot speak in reply. The Hon. Premier said that I objected to this Resolution being dealt with today because I wanted to defend certain people.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The hon. member can speak on a point of elucidation.

Mr. WALCOTT:

It is not fair for the hon. member to make the structure of his speech such that you cannot reply

to it - unless Your Honour feels what he is saying is right, I said nothing of the kind which the Hon. Premier stated that these people could not be paid because I wanted to debate the Resolution. I said that I objected to it being put through all its stages today.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The elucidation has been duly made by the hon. senior member for St. Peter.

The motion to which the hon. member referred is the motion that Government Business be now taken.

Mr. WALCOTT:

I agreed to the motion that Public Business be now taken, but I said that the Resolution with respect to the General Hospital being put through all its stages today was a different thing from doing Government Business.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Then, you were out of order. There would have to be a subsequent motion after the motion that Government Business be now taken. There would have to be a subsequent motion so that this Item with respect to the General Hospital be the first or last Order for the Day.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member said that this Item would be the only business to be dealt with today and then there would be the adjournment.

Mr. SPEAKER:

There would still have to be another motion by the hon. member in order that we would be able to deal with the matter.

However, the Hon Mover of the motion is asking the leave of the Chamber with the permission of the Seconder of the motion to withdraw it.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, as has been said, and inasmuch as I would like, when this matters to be discussed, the hon. senior member for St. Peter to say whatever he wishes to say on the current running of the Hospital and because I, myself, have a lot to say, I beg to withdraw my motion.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister of Health is asking leave to withdraw his motion and if there is no objection, leave

will be granted. (A PAUSE).

Hearing no objection, leave is granted and the motion is accordingly withdrawn.

THE ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until next Tuesday, 9th February, 1965, at 12.00 (noon).

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I beg to second that.

The question was put and resolved in the affirm a-live without division, and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

4.20 p.m.