

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 19th January, 1965.

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

PRESENT

His Honour J. E. T. BRANCKER, Q.C., (Speaker); Mr. L. E. SMITH, J.P.; Hon. J. C. TUDOR, M.A., (Minister of Education); Mr. S. E. SEALKY; Hon. G. G. FER-CUSSON, (Minister of Agriculture and fisheries); Mr. R. St.C. WEEKES, J.P.; Mr. W. R. LOWE; His Honour E. L. CARMICHAEL, J.P., (Deputy Speaker); Mr. G. V. BATSON, (Chairman of Committees); Mr. N. W. BOXILL and Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, (Minister of Health, Housing Local Government and Community Government);

Prayers were read.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I regret to have to inform hon. members that the Minutes of last Tuesday's meeting have not yet been received from the Government Printer.

PAPERS LAID

Hon. J. C. TUOOR:

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

The Customs Duties (Glue, raffin, paper and packing materials to be used in the manufacture of Drinking; Straws and paper Cups) Order, 1965.

Statement showing Net Customs and Excise Receipts for nine months ended 31st December, 1964.

Barbados Statistical Service Special Studies No. 8 Digest of Tourism 1963.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

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

Resolution to place the sum of \$12,000 at the disposal of the Government to Supplement the Estimates 1964-65 Part I Current as shown in the Supplementary Estimate 1964-65, No. 5I which forms the Schedule to the Resolution.

Also, on behalf of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance,

A Bill to provide for the implementation of an Agree-ment made between this Government and the Governments

of Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Saint Christopher- Nevis- Anguilla, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent for the es tablishment of a common currency and an authority to issue and manage that currency.. .

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to give notice that it is the Intention of the hon. senior member for St. Philip to move the House into Committee of Supply at its next meeting in order to deal with the money Resolution of which notice has just been given.

QUESTIONS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question standing in the name of the hon. and learned senior member for St. James relative to the few means of access open to the general public to the beach along the St. James coast.

Mr. CARMICHAEL:

Mr. 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?

Is the Minister aware that the Northern District Country 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 with-holding of such permission?

Mr. SPEAKER:

Question standing in the name of the hon. senior member for St. Thomas relative to the re-siting of houses now situated at Farmers Tenantry, St. Thomas.

Mr. BATSON:

Mr. Speaker, to enquire of the Appropriate Minister

Is the Minister aware that it is very inconvenient for the people living in Farmers Tenantry in the parish of St. Thomas to get in and out of their homes because of the swampy condition of the terrain?

2. If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister take steps to re-site the said houses at the earliest opportunity?

Mr. MOTTLEY entered the House and took his seat.

BILL READ A FIRST TIME

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that a

Bill for the implementation of an Agreement

between the Government and the Governments of

Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Christopher-Nevis-

Anguilla, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent for the establishment

of a common currency and an authority to issue and

manage that currency, but now read a first time.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that Order No. 3 be taken as the first Order of the Day.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, I am asking leave to take charge of this Order which stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Trade, who is not now in his place.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister is asking leave to take charge of this Order in the absence of the Hon. Minister of Trade. If there is no objection, such leave will be granted (After a pause.) There being no objection, leave is granted.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

I beg to move that Your Honour do now leave the Chair and the House go into Committee of Supply.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

I beg to second that.

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

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

12.25 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE 1964-65 No. 50

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, as hon. members of the Committee will clearly see, the Committee is being asked to supplement Old Age Pensions by an amount of \$12,500 to cover certain contingencies between now and the end of the financial year. An amount of \$1,284,192 was provided and the number of pensioners budgeted for has been exceeded by some sixteen per month. Weekly payments, as the Addendum states, average \$25,000, and the supplementary provision of \$12,500 is therefore required to meet payments to 31st March, 1965.

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

I beg to second that.

Mr. SEALEY:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to know from the Minister how many Old Age Pensioners there are on the list. Secondly, in view of the promises made in the past by the Government of adopting some measures of sending the money to their homes, I should like to know what is being done. I can assure you that at Welches and at Eagle Hall as late as 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock in the evening whether the rain falls or the sun shines, you can see Old Age Pensioners waiting for their pensions, and on enquiry you discover that they were there from 4 o'clock or 5 o'clock in the morning. I feel that in this modern day the time has come when a better method should be adopted in sending the money to their homes.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Chairman, I do not think any of us in this House would deny Government the increase of

\$12,500 in view of the fact that they have set out in the Addendum that the increase in pensioners is at the rate of sixteen per month. That necessitates this payment. But what the hon. member who has just sat down has drawn to the attention of the Committee is the hardy annual of those of us of the Conservative bench on this side of the Table. I have had the honour of serving on a Committee and a Report was made, and the Hon. Minister must be in a position to tell us if the Government intends to implement such a Report or what is their intention with regard to it. Whereas the Government has signified its intention of carrying out one of its promises which is a very laudable one, and that is, of bringing about a Social Security Scheme, which in itself is not a national insurance unemployment scheme, I wonder if the Government will take any steps to amend the Old Age Pensions Act, because as you will recall, it only provides for deaf and dumb persons and such persons who have been blind from birth whose parents are unable under the circumstances to help them, but they can only receive a pension from the age of sixteen years. There is, however, this question of persons who become stricken with some incurable disease and who really have nothing at all and cannot help themselves in one way or the other, and yet cannot be given an old age pension.

I raise this question, Mr. Chairman, because there is a Committee of Government Officers sitting now to make recommendations in view of the Jackson Report with respect to public assistance, and I throw this out as a hint to the Minister in charge, although this is not his portfolio that such cases must provide for persons between sixty and sixty-eight - and possibly under, with the high percentage of hypertension which medical officers have found in Barbados and indeed throughout the West Indies which cause people to be afflicted with strokes and become invalids. Government must give consideration to that, because the majority of these people are in the domestic or an agricultural class whose national income is far below \$600 per annum, and as such there would be no saving, nor is there any Blue Cross or Insurance - with the exception of Friendly Societies which are governed by the local Friendly Societies Act, and which could hardly provide for them. In the absence of any public assistance as it is so called in Barbados, whether in a parochial way or not, we of this Party would like some intimation from Government as to whether they would amend the Old Age Pensions Act to include such persons although they are not 68 years of age.

I We contend, Mr. Chairman, that the expenditure does not matter; and although this might sound like a Socialist view, there are things in which Conservatives must be humane, and we always show our humanity in this respect. We believe that people living in the tropics should draw old age pensions at 65 years of age, because if people in the United States and in England where the weather is different and does not wear you down so early can draw old age pensions at such an early age, we still maintain that it

is about that time a Socialist Government reduce the age to 65. We fully appreciate that is possibly going to cost you \$1 million or more, but there are avenues where we can afford not to spend money in order to spend it in this direction, because those persons who would benefit from this are persons who have given of their life-blood to this country in the hot sun and rain in producing the industry of this island; that is, in the sugar-cane fields. Although we vote this money today without grudging the Government this increase, we feel as a hardy annual that the time has come that the age should be reduced to 65 years. The hon. senior member for St. Michael has asked about the number of pensioners, and I am sure that the Minister will provide that information, and if he has not got it here, he will do so at the next meeting. In asking for money for an increase in pensioners, not only should you say that there is an increase by so many per month, but the Minister in charge should be in a position to say how many there are at present. If we in the municipality wanted that information, we would have to get it otherwise.

12.35 p.m.

You should be in a position to say, especially the Ministry in charge, how many they are. As far as we are concerned, we want to know these things.

The hon. senior member for St. Michael enquired whether the Government has had this Report or not. I would like to tell this Committee that I had the honour to sit on that Committee and I saw all the difficulties, and so on; I saw the expenses. What the hon. senior member for St. Michael has said is correct. At certain paying stations permanent arrangements have been made where pensioners can be sheltered from the sun and rain: but in other places, they have to line up on the streets in long rows in order to get their pensions. These people are old; therefore, something should be done about the matter. With the Report in the hands of the Government, they should be able to tell us what is their intention as regards this matter.

Sir, we are going to support this Resolution. One of the matters which have been brought to my attention is this.

There is one Paying Master at some of these stations, and

I think the Hon. Minister in charge should appreciate this.

Because of that, some pensioners who go for their pensions on a certain day cannot get it and they have to go back home and come again the next day. The reason for this is that the area which he has to pay has so many pensioners. I think the Hon. Minister will do everything possible to alleviate this hardship. Mr. Chairman, even in your own constituency

think you will observe this; therefore, I hope that you
would take this matter up with the Hon. Minister in charge
and see to it that something is done.

One other thing. I think the Hon. Minister would remember that the late Mr. Morgan Jones said that a Socialist is known by the way he treats his youth and his old people.

Mr. WEEKES:

Mr. Chairman, as I sat and listened attentively to the hon. member who spoke, I feel it is my duty to remind this Honourable House that I tabled a Resolution here as regards the payment of pensions to Old Age Pensioners at their homes, and that this Resolution was unanimously carried. As a result, a Committee was appointed to go into the matter and I was elected a member of the Committee.

The Committee sat and sent in its recommendations to the Government and I would like the Hon. Minister to explain and tell this Honourable House what steps are being taken so that these Old Age Pensioners may be given their pensions at their homes.

It is time that something should be done to alleviate the hardships of these old people. Mr. Chairman, I must let you know that it is approximately three years that this House passed that Resolution and I am pleading to the Hon. Minister in charge to do something to expedite the matter.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Chairman, I want to tell hon. members that I have noted the specific questions which they raised as regards Old Age Pensioners. I am sure that the Hon. Minister of Labour would have been only too willing to answer those questions raised, but, unfortunately, he is absent. I will not undertake to answer those questions now, but I am sure at the next meeting when the Hon. Minister will be present, hon. members will be favoured with full replies.

I would like to say, however, that the Government is aware of the problems of Old Age Pensioners arising out of those hardships which the hon. members complained of, and I think I can say on behalf of the Government that we will do all that we can to alleviate any grievances or hardships of the Old Age Pensioners.

Sir, one hon. member did ask for the number of Old Age Pensioners. If you consult the Addendum to the Resolution, you would see that at the beginning of the financial year, the number of pensions budgeted for was 10,290 and the net increase has been at the rate of sixteen per month. By a process of arithmetical calculations, that is, adding sixteen per month I think the number of 10,450 may be the more accurate number now. However, I will ask the Hon. Minister in charge to supply these figures because he would have them at his fingertips.

The question that the Resolution for \$12,500 do now pass was put and resolved in the affirmative without division.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1964-65 No. 48
HEAD 27 - PUBLIC WORKS

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

Mr. Chairman, this Resolution is for the sum of \$400 to be voted to supplement the sum of \$2,432 which has been voted under this Head for a Tracer and Clerk, The Addendum sets out

"The present holder of the post of Tracer and Clerk was appointed at a salary of \$2,832.00 per annum while provision of \$2,432.00 was included in the Estimates."

The former holder of the post received a salary of \$2,432, but he has resigned and the new holder of the post was appointed at a salary of \$2,832 per annum which makes a difference of \$400. The object of this Resolution is to secure the differential between the two amounts.

I beg to move that this Resolution do now pass.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

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

On motion of Hon. J. Co TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of two Resolutions in Committee of Supply.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported act cordingly.

On separate motions of Hon. J. C. TUDOR, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA in each case, the Resolutions were read a first and second time and agreed to.

12.45 p.m.

ORDER POSTPONED

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the hon. senior member for Christ Church- To move the Third Reading of a Bill to amend the Highways Act, 1900, but that matter is still in Select Committee.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE COMPULSORY
ACQUISITION OF A PARCEL OF LAND
AT HOLETOWN**

Mr. SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day, which is Order No. 5, stands in the name of the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance- To move the passing of the following Resolution

Resolution to approve the compulsory acquisition of a parcel of land situate at Holetown, St. James for

the pro-vision of a public beach and recreational area.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Honourable and Learned Premier and Minister of Finance in whose name this Order stands, I am asking leave of the House to take charge of it.

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Hon. Minister of Education seeks the leave of the House to take charge of this Resolution standing in the name of the Hon. and Learned Premier. If there is no objection, leave will be granted. (After a pause). There being no objection, leave is granted and the Hon. Minister of Education may proceed.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

Mr. Speaker, this House is being asked to approve of this Resolution for the compulsory acquisition by the Crown in right of its government of this Island under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1949, of the land described in the Schedule to the Resolution.

The acquisition of this land when completed will be before the provision of a public beach and a recreational centre, and the details are given in the Addendum to the Resolution and in the accompanying Schedule. This parcel of land is situated at Holetown in the parish of St. James and contains by admeasurement 25.803 sq.ft. or thereabouts abutting and bounding on lands of Holetown Police Station, on the sea, on lands of Geonze Carew, on a road over which there is a right of way leading to the Public Road and on lands of one Carrington or however else the same may abut and bound,

The Addendum to the Resolution is as follows:-

"Negotiations were commenced with the owner for the

acquisition of this land but the asking price of the owner was very far in excess of the figure which Government was advised is the value of the land.

The Land Acquisition Act is being used in order that the Crown may obtain title to the land pending completion of negotiations, either by treaty or by arbitration under the Act."

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

I beg to second that.

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

Mr. CARMICHAEL:

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that too much can be said in praise of this Resolution especially since the whole island, not to mention the people of St. James, have been fearful and have been wondering what will become of the St. James Coast. This Resolution will allay the fears of the people that this Government is in any way encouraging the St. James Coast to be used as a breeding-ground for race hatred or for any form of colour or class prejudice. It is for some time now that people throughout the

island and particularly the people of St. James, the coloured people, have been finding it very difficult to get to the sea, and it would appear that people who come to this island, whether they are called tourists or not, most of them being of European descent or otherwise, seem to think that because of the money which they have spent to acquire land, they have an exclusive right not only to the land, but also to the sea which touches the land. I would like to say, Sir, that campaigns are being carried out abroad for the purpose of encouraging people to come here and settle or live, but I also say that we must carry out campaigns in order to let all persons who come here as well as those who are here, realise that they must have that spirit of sharing in common what are nature's gifts - the sea, the beach. Regardless of all the money which the tourist trade may bring to this island, if it does not bring anything else it must bring this, that people who come from abroad to settle here or otherwise must know that what is here belongs to the people first of all. (Cheers from the Opposition).

I am saying that nothing is wrong with the people who come here: but we as Barbadians, are different from the people of Jamaica and those of other West Indian islands. The people who come here and challenge the right of the ordinary decent people who go to the beach, when these same people go to Jamaica and other places, they have to learn how to share the rights with the people of those places. I make no apology for saying what I am saying. There are those who are responsible for these hotels and who make the tourists feel that they have the same right as the people here and that they must be accommodated. Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is true. There are those who occasionally ring up the police at the Hometown Station saying that there are coloured people in the sea. Last year two children were bathing in the sea and somebody rang up the Hometown Police Station so as to get these children to come out of the sea. We are not seeking to sit at table with people who come here and settle; we are not seeking to have any drink with them. We are asking for our natural rights to the beach and I say that we must share first, if not in common, with them. Every attempt is being made wherever the Government or a Council seeks an entrance to the sea - at every such attempt which is being made by the Government or a Coun-

cil, something is being done to stop it. Not long ago - as a matter of fact, right now there is an area of land at "Folke stone" which used to be used as a right of way to the beach, and it is now a period of time since that area of land has not been so used. We cannot see any clearly defined right of way there. As soon as the tourists see a means of access to the sea, they use every subtle means of getting that right of way stopped. However, Sir, this is a challenge. This area will be opened and people will walk down to the beach.

12.55 p.m.

I want the people of this island to know that regardless of their colour, means or social position, as soon as they reach that beach, every part of it and the sea belong to all. God gave it, and no person coming from abroad can be encouraged by those who pretend they are interested in the tourist trade to deny them the right of enjoying it, so that the same tourists who come here should not go away with the impression that there is prejudice and segregation in Barbados. I think I have said enough, and it is said that brevity is the soul of wit.

Mr. MOTTLEY rose and Mr. BOXILL rose,

Mr. SPEAKER:

The Leader of the Opposition caught my eye.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, the first thing I should like to say is that it would be hypocrisy in me if I did not commend the Government for attempting to acquire land on the now known Gold Coast, where, as I understand the Addendum states, the public at large might be permitted access to the beach., and therefore I take that with all sincerity. I am always reminded, however, whenever a matter of this sort comes before this Chamber, and hon. members on the other side who now form the Government should remember - that when we were both in the Opposition, I gave notice of a Resolution asking the then Government to acquire certain spots on that St. James Coast where people would have the right to enter certain known beauty spots and bathing spots. It was because of my private business as a real estate broker that I had seen what was coming, and people were beginning to value land in this area at such prices that owners could hardly resist the prices paid and offered for the land.

For some reason not known to us in the Opposition then, and I include those members who now form the Government, this was pigeon-holed and cold water was thrown on it, and the next thing we knew was that Sandy Lane was bought. Let me say here and now that I am one of those persons who have never had a chip on my shoulder, and I believe everybody in this country knows it; but I do not believe that anybody in this country, even my greatest enemy, would have the dishonesty to refer to me as an Uncle Tom. I therefore feel, Sir, that the persons who have acquired this land and built the Sandy Lane Hotel have done very much for Barbados in promoting tourism, and I shall always give them the necessary support. You will remember, Sir, that just about the time when this area was being acquired, I queried of the then Government what arrangements were being made for the inhabitants of this country to continue to use Her Majesty's beach, the foreshore, in the usual manner which you, Sir, living in that area have seen on Sunday mornings and on holidays, especially when people go on an excursion. We were told by the then Government of the day that they had seen to it that a right of way was there where persons could continue to enter on the beach. I thought myself that that was all right because there was no point in preventing people from owning land on the beach if they were not Barbadians, I felt then that it was a good gesture that this right of way was left open.

You will recall, Sir, that years passed and Sandy Lane Hotel was built. We are happy to say that the owners of this hotel did not practise any segregation or racial discrimination, so to speak, but I found as an owner of land on the beach in this area that the only time you could see a lot of black spots dotted in this area was when the orphans and people from the Salvation Army and the like enjoyed some of the blessings which God bestowed upon me.

I share it with them and not only with those from mansions and big cottages. When I found that there was really no entrance and people complained to me, although it was not my constituency, I came to this House and enquired about it, and I believe it was the hon. junior member for St. Thomas at the time who was Minister who said that he would make every effort to see that this area was left open so that people could wend their way to the beaches. I cannot take his word again because I discovered after doing some research that the Hon. Minister misled this House, and it is a serious thing for a Minister to mislead the House of Assembly when he has facts at his disposal and withholds them from members and the public. I do not now refer to the present Minister: I mean the Minister who told me so at the time, Mr. Mapp. I have since discovered by going to this area that there is only a footpath for people to gain access to the beach. I could not feel satisfied, even if Her Majesty the Queen came to Barbados and acquired land in

that area and prevented the inhabitants of this country from driving into that area. At the entrance there is a big sign instructing people to park on the other side, and that is because the Minister who has an antipathy to the truth withheld the truth from us, because we would not then have decided that only a foot-path should be allowed for the hundreds of people who frequented Sandy Lane Beach day after day. This has surprised not only the inhabitants, but people who come to this country and who cannot pay the prices at the big luxurious hotels, but who nevertheless would like to enjoy bathing in that area. You must park in the hot sun and undress in the car, unless you are a Stevenson or a Lord or a Churchill who can afford to go and pay at the Sandy Lane Hotel; but the ordinary man, I can assure you, whether white or coloured, must sit in his car and undress there.

1.05 p.m.

This is a very serious matter. As I see it, just as you can come alone and say that you are acquiring this land at Hotetown by compulsory acquisition, you can come along and say that you are acquiring the 40 feet down there for the people of this country. You are acquiring this for the Sales Clerk and the people who cannot afford to pay \$40 (U.S.) a day.

Mr. Speaker, please remember that election time has not yet come, nor do I represent the parish of St. James; but I am not a fool. Why should not our native people be allowed to bathe there? I have records in my office that just because some wealthy person has owned property alongside there, they do not like these black people dotting through the sea.

just let me tell you this. You do not have to go into a Court to study law; you do not have to go to the Inns of Court to know this. Just as you acquire this land by compulsory acquisition, you can go down there and say that you are going to acquire that entirely by compulsory acquisition. Therefore, give the inhabitants of this country the right of getting a seabath there in comfort without travelling through thorns and shrubs up to their waist. You can acquire that land and provide a good highway to the sea with a lovely bathing shed on it.

When it comes to Sandy Lane, you can invite me to

lunch or cocktail or whatever you like; it makes no differ-

ence to me: I have my views and my views are honest. The

tourists cannot afford to do into those hotels. We know that

the hotels when they are filled object to tourists coming

in because they say that their coming in to bathe means

that they must pass through their hotel and their passing

through causes some destruction; therefore, it becomes

(necessary for them to find some other place. If two tour-

1st ships come in and all the people go to the St. James

area for a bath, they could not all be accommodated.

Now that I have made this clear and now that the Gov-ernment has covered this, I must say that I was a bit sur-prised that the Hon. Minister has made enquiries into that matter. I do not know if they are only going to cut the bush and so on, so that a person can drive their cars there and have a seabath and so on. I am dealing with the area which the hon. senior member for St. James dealt with,

and that is \"Folkstone\". I remember looking at this area and I counsel this House to listen carefully to what I have to say. All is not well. \"Folkstone\" with its 4 1/2 acres of land is a wonderful place for a hotel. Dr. Gibbons who is a very humane and able man lived there. Fortunately or unfortunately, modesty would prevent me from saying the same things about him as what I have heard from persons unconnected with him. The Hon. junior member for St. James knows very well that there was such prejudice per-meating the atmosphere down there that I had a car which was one week old, and because a white man rented the house in that area, it pleased somebody to damage my car because it was down there. What happened was this. My wife was invited by a friend of mine to take dinner there, and about eleven o'clock that night I came out and found that all four tyres were cut up by a razor or a knife.

I bear no grudge for what I have said. This land has a right of way to the beach. Why was it stopped? I agree with the hon. member. If this has a right of way, why it is that children should be slopped from going there? Why was it stopped? If the people who bought the Coral Reef feel that a lot of black negro children who bathe down there would cause them to lose business, well then, let the owners of the Coral Reef pack up and leave.

I never make statements unless I have proof and foun-dation and facts to back them. I am now demanding the Hon. Minister to make an investigation. Quite recently, it was reported to me - and I do not know if a member of his Party has told it to him too - that little boys go to the sea and play there and they were asked to leave. I object strongly to that occuring. I, myself, object strongly to any of our natives going to the sea in the nude and things like that because I would not want it done before my wife, and I am sure that the Hon. Minister would not like it either; but if you go to the sea in a bath suit, there is no justifi-cation that somebody should telephone for the police. If the police were telephoned for, because of misbehaviour or for some person bathing in the nude or persons playing bat and ball in the sea, well then, it would have been all right. But the Police were telephoned for to call people out of the sea. That is the rumour which has been going the rounds in St. James. They say that the police go to the beaches and call these younesters out of the sea. They say: \"Children, come out! Tourists want to come in.\"

Mr. Speaker, you represent the constituency of St. Lucy and I represent the constituency of St. Michael. 1.15 p.m.

I remember that the now Minister without portfolio in the present Government wrote an article for the Advo-cate sayine \"The sea is the Lord's; let his people bathe therein.\" The Advocate refused to publish that article. To-day you are telling me that a policeman is clapping his hands and telling people to come out of the seal Mr. Speak-er, you represent the parish of St. Lucy but you live in St. James. Imagine my

being down there at Coral Reef and Mr. Scott or anybody else telling my people to come out of the sea. These are the people who have helped to build up the economy of this island. The hon. senior member for St. James mentioned that the Police were called to ask people to come out of the sea. I may say that these things get to my ears,

I commend the Government for acquiring this land, but neither in the Schedule nor in the Addendum to this Resolution have they said what they are acquiring this land for. The Schedule to this Resolution states this:-

"ALL THAT certain piece or parcel of land situate at Holetown in the parish of Saint James and Island of Barbados containing by admeasurement 25,803 square feet or thereabouts abutting and bounding on lands of Holetown Police Station, on the sea, on lands of George Carew, on a road over which there is a right of way leading to the Public Road and on lands of one Carrington or however else the same may abut and bound."

The Addendum to the Resolution states this:

"Negotiations were commenced with the owner for the acquisition of this land but the asking price of the owner

was very far in excess of the figure which Government was advised is the value of the land.

The Land Acquisition Act is being used in order that the Crown may obtain title to the land pending completion of negotiations, either by treaty or by arbitration under the Act."

The Hon. Minister of Education has introduced this Resolution, but it is not his portfolio. What are they buying this land for? (A pause). I will sit down if the Hon. Minister of Education is going to speak.

Hon. J. C. TUDOR:

On a point of explanation or elucidation. In the first paragraph of this Resolution it is set out that this land is required for the following purpose, that is to say, the provision of a public beach and a recreational area.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

The hon. member usually puts that information in the Addendum to the Resolution, but now he has put it in the Resolution itself. Well, Sir, I do not think that he wants to be misleading or anything of the sort. However, Sir, he has to answer a lot of questions. I want to ask whether this beach is a public beach in the true sense of the word, and I will say that if you are looking for a row and a breaking up in here. I am not afraid of that. If the hotel people say that they do not want other people to pass through this place in order to go to the sea, I say that tourism is not everything. I believe in the promotion of tourism, but tourism is not all. I want to know if this is going to be a public beach in truth and in fact and a place for recreation. If that is going to be so, well, let it be such a place. I remember when we used to go to Heywoods beach and hang out there and eat beef stew and rice. I did not always have a car; I am not like the hon. junior member for St. Thomas. I am supporting this Resolution as long as it is for the purpose of acquiring land for recreational purposes. This must not mean that when a tourist boat is in the Harbour and the little children from Sea View and Holders Hill come to the sea with their little bathing

suits, the police can come and tell them that they must not go into the sea. Mr. Speak-er, if that is so, you are looking for one stinking row. (Laughter). I mean, Sir, a row which is not sweet. Funnily enough the words \"public beach\" are used here and I am wondering why they used the term \"public beach\" because there is no such thing as a private beach in Barbados. The Hon. Minister must have had his advisers. I have a beach in St. James, and it is not a private beach of mine although I may have a private entrance to that beach.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of explanation. I would like to explain to the hon. member that the public of Barbados has the right of access to any fore-shore of this country from the high water mark to the limit of the territorial waters.

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is a point of elucidation.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Yes, Sir. I want to inform the hon. member that nobody can hold any title to land below high water mark in this country; otherwise it is all vested in the Crown.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

If the hon. member is enlightening me on a matter of navigation, then I will listen to him. If the sea throws up any land, that land is the property of the person whose land it adjoins. Anyhow, Sir, what I am say-ing is this, that all beaches are public beaches. There is no such thing as a private beach. I would prefer to hear the Hon. Leader of the House make some pronouncement on that matter.

1.25 p.m.

I do however, commend the Government for taking this stand, Mr. Speaker, although it is a rather late one. Be-sides this beach there are other areas which the Govern-ment should acquire for people when they have to go on an excursion, and I feel that they should buy Bath by public acquisition. When people go out they have to say: \"Please\" and double please and \"Sir, let me pass across here.\" Every human being is entitled after work to recreation. I

hope when you acquire this land and you are going to erect these things on it that there will not be any chance when a tourist ship is in of any policemen or any officer who is responsible to Government preventing the populace from bathing. I would not want to see people go there humbugging tourists, bathing in the nude or cursing, but they should be allowed to bathe in the sea. It is the Lord's sea; let His people bathe therein.

Mr. BOXILL:

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the rare oc-casions when I have heard quite a lot of heat being genera-ted in this. Chamber from which light also come. Mostly you get a lot of heat but not much light, but today there were both. What I want to know is how farcical can we be-come. On the St. James Coast just above Sandy Lane is a sign reading \"Entrance to Public Beach,\" but just beneath the sign are two very bip boards blocking the pathway to the beach. I do not know if anybody in his right senses could expect me to drive or walk from Dayrells Road to that beach. If I am going to the beach, it is quite obvious I

would use my car, and I feel that we in Barbados should have access to that beach, and it is about time that we stop being apologetic to those who come here to stay with us.

Another thing which I should like to draw to the attention of this Chamber that we have to be more than careful with, Mr. Speaker, is the erection of groynes. Now this can be a subtle way of trying to make a beach supposedly private. Groynes serve a useful purpose, but we have to keep our eyes open that some of these places do not erect groynes for the specific purpose of keeping a certain section of the community from beyond this area. We do need these groynes, but we have to watch and see how far over the groynes you can walk. The people who erect these groynes can argue that they are their property, and somebody might be charged for trespassing on a groyne on a beach; therefore I am admonishing not only Government but the Chamber to be more than careful and be aware that this might not be another subtle way of keeping people like myself and you, Sir, from going on these beaches.

Now the other gentlemen who spoke before me mentioned an incident which they heard took place in St. James. When I first started to address the Chamber and the Leader of the Opposition got up before me, I did think this was a very important thing which I wanted to mention. I do not know how true it is, but I believe it. It has also been told to me that some persons were bathing at a beach on the St. James Coast and a Police Officer came and told them to leave. Well, I go on the St. James Coast specifically hoping that the same policeman or another will come and tell me to leave too, because I do not know what right this policeman or any policeman for that matter has telling Barbadians that they must come out of the sea. This brines back to me. Mr. Speaker, when I was a youngster. I remember we used to bathe at a beach in Christ Church that there were two holes, one which belonged to a certain group, and the other belonged to us. and if we happened to go into the other group's hole, we would hear a clap and we had to leave, and if we did not, we would probably have been prosecuted. In this day of grace, 1965. I cannot see this thing still being perpetrated, and it is about time that we in this Chamber and in this island as a whole stop being so apologetic because our skin colour happens to be different from that of somebody else. God in His wisdom knew why He made us like this and I think we should be proud of it. I always tell people that if my skin is worrying them, it is a matter for them as it does not worry me.

We should not, Mr. Speaker, as a Government that has been given a mandate by the people sit idly by and allow these things to go on without a thorough investigation. I have been told that this incident which I mentioned of people being called from the beach will be investigated by the Northern District Council. They are awaiting some sort of report from the higher authorities, and I am keeping a watchful eye to see what will be the result of it. I do hope, however, that what I have said in here today will not fall on deaf ears, and that people will understand, as the hon. senior member for St. James has said, that we do not want to go into anybody's place who does not invite us. We are demanding what is ours as Barbadians, and we intend to

share all of the mineral resources which Barbados provides, and seabathing happens to be one.

Mr. SMITH:

Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to see that the Government is thinking of acquiring beachland for the uses, of the public. 1.35 p.m.

I hope that not only this particular site which they are going to purchase, but wheresoever they can get a bit of land on that side of the West Coast, the Government would do so, and that they would do so as

quickly as possible be-cause) we can clearly see that soon, and very soon, the people from outside will be buying that land and the people here would not be able to go anywhere near it.

Now, Sir, in St. James, it was reported to the Northern District Council that on a bank-holiday - I think it was the

one before the last - policemen went on the beach there and called people out of the sea. After it was reported to us of the Northern District Council, the Committee which was sitting at the time instructed the Clerk to write a letter to the Commissioner of Police asking him by whose authority did he allow policemen to go on the property of the Northern District Council and call people out of the sea.

The Commissioner of Police paid us such great respect and nice regards - he was so nice to us - that up to now,

we have not received one word from him. As a result, we instructed the Clerk the second time to write the Commissioner and up to the last meeting of the Committee, we have received no reply from him.

The hon. senior member for the City said that he was not going to blame the Government for the action of the Police, but I think the Police Department is a Government Department, and the Government should be responsible for the action of the Police.

Mr. Speaker, you are in the Chair now. If somebody takes up your car and goes outside and knocks down people, an action would be brought against you as owner of the vehicle. ,

Mr. SPEAKER:

If the person does it on his own, I will not be responsible.

Mr. SMITH:

All right, Sir, you say that you would not be responsible if he did it on his own. But on the top of that, here it is, we were about to develop the \"Folkestone\" area and no sooner than it was hinted, a rude letter came to us of the Council from some of the hoteliers asking us to reconsider our plans because it would interfere with their busi-ness. From that you can clearly see that these people do not want any coloured people at all to go into the sea in that area although it is not their land. Can you expect anything worse than that, especially when you consider that these people came from, where soever they came and found us here and they are not now prepared to live with us? We will have to go and make a sea somewhere else; we will have to die I hole and make a sea and leave the sea there only for those white-

skinned people.

Sir, it is time for the Government to go into this matter and to find out from the Commissioner of Police why the Northern District Council was treated with such scant courtesy by not being favoured with a reply to our letter enquiring by whose authority a policeman called people out of the sea.

Now, Sir, we are about to put street lamps in another area. It is proposed to put two lights along some house there, and because of that, another rude letter came to the Council. The letter stated that it would not be in the best interest to put lights there. I instructed the Clerk of the Council to reply stating that we are putting lights there in the interest of the public and not for any individual house owners. Now, Sir, I am keeping my eyes on "Folkestone", and also on this Government as regards what they are going to do with that place because everything is being torn down; After all, that property is the taxpayers' own and not the property of any Minister. If it is the desire of the tax-payers of the North to have "Folkestone" developed, either by turning it into a park, playing field or anything else, I

do not see why any Government should stop it from happening. You have some people who know others at a certain time, and after that time, they just cannot see others. "Folkestone" is not too far from this particular area.

I am very glad that the Government is going to buy this particular area, but I hope we will not be told that we have just bought this area for this purpose but we are going to do something else with "Folkestone". I have heard a little thing and I am keeping it quiet until the time comes for me to speak on it. It is being said that Government has bought "Folkestone" for other purposes. Most Governments believe that they buy the people and the country so long as they are in office. As I have said, a policeman went down there and called people out of the sea and we wrote the Commissioner about the matter, and up to now we have heard no word. If this Government does not try and put its feet deep down on this matter the people down there would do as they like. Just imagine that we appealed to the Commissioner of Police for protection and he failed to do so I tried to enquire who was the policeman who gave that order because I wanted to put him in Court for unlawfully trespassing on the Council's property.

1.45 p.m.

He had no right going there and calling people out of the sea. He should have walked into the sea with his boots and hat on and pushed them out of the sea. Sir, the Local Government Commissioner was nearby when this thing happened, and up to now we have not got any reply to our enquiry. Where are we heading with these people down there? All we can hear is: "Tourists! Tourists!" The present Government is bending over backwards to get the tourists here but, on the other hand, they are still telling the people that 92% of our income comes from the sugar industry. They are saying that the sugar industry is responsible for 92% of our income, but are they prepared to bend over backwards now so as to protect the sugar industry? We love to see the tourists coming in; we want them to come here and spend the dollars. We welcome them here, but do not let them believe that we have all monkeys here. If a tourist were in the sea at one of these beaches and he saw something dark in the sea and heard another dark one telling him to come out, that tourist would be obliged to think that monkeys are here. Mr. Speaker, I do not know where we are heading, but I do hope that the Government will investigate this particular case of a police-man calling people out of the sea and refusing to give members of the

Committee of the Northern District Council a reply to the letter which enquired by whose authority such a thing was done. I hope that the Government will keep their eyes and ears on the ground and will listen to what is happening. The Minister who is responsible in this matter should be careful with what he intends to do at "Folkestone". What we have heard in the North is not at all in keeping with the interest of the taxpayers down there. This property called "Folkestone" is not the property of the Government of Barbados; it is the property of the taxpayers of the Northern District Council, and anything which the Government is going to do with this property should be placed before the representatives of the people in the Northern District Council and let them give their approval to it before moving forward and committing themselves and us to doing something of which the taste would be a very bitter one.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, I believe that you know my views in relation to matters such as this, better than anyone else. Before I came into this Chamber, one of the first things I did was to support the stand which you took by writing an article on the employment of coloured Superintendents to the Police Force in Barbados. A search in the files of the Advocate will reveal that, I disagree with people on this question of colour because they do not agree in all that they say. I should like to say, Sir, that the economic position of this country is conducive to this situation. The hon. member who has just sat down spoke about the sugar industry. The sugar industry is in the hands of the white people and it is now a closed shop business. Any tourist who is coming to Barbados knows that he is going to meet not only white people but black people, but we are

now quibbling about people going to the beach. I should like to say, Sir, that you can only quibble about a beach because the white people have the money to buy the beach land. We have no land and we are now parasites waiting for money to be loaned to us to open businesses and then they clamp down on us. One of the biggest sores in this island is the position of the black man who owes white people money.

I do not agree with this hypocrisy. I hear a lot of people talking about the sugar Industry. I have nothing against a man because of the colour of his skin because I am not responsible for the colour of my skin, and no white man is responsible for the colour of his skin. If a white man thinks that I am responsible for the colour of my skin, then he is stupid. As far as this question of the tourist industry is concerned, I have strong views about it. We must have a tourist industry; that is inevitable. We do not have to put any capital investment in the sun or in the sea because the sun and the sea are there, and people from North America will come here and invest their money. I would like to see the Government keeping the beaches clean. A man can put on the flimsiest of bathing apparel and the only whole part of that apparel is down by the knees; and as to the tourist he wants to show his anatomy. If we are living in this society, we want to be abiding by the conventions which we have in this society.

Mr. Speaker, I do not subscribe to the view that there are going to be cheap hotels. If you go in for tourism you must realise that there are going to be tourists and tourists. When we come to the lawyers, some of them wear silk while the others wear cotton. Those who have been called to the inner circle are accorded different treatment from the ones who are in the outer circle. When we come to the doctors, those who have done specialised courses are paid a different fee from the others so that, Mr. Speaker, you will have all of these little prejudices in the tourist industry as well.

1.55 p.m.

I am not one of those people who subscribe to any colour prejudice, I do not believe that the tourists who come to Barbados come here to be segregated. I believe when they come to Barbados they realise they will not be segregated because it is a community that is a predominantly black community; so, as soon as a tourist comes to Barbados, he is coming to meet black people. I believe what worries them is that when they come the prejudice is being implanted here, and some of them have to do a lot to break it down. I have friends who are not Barbadians, and they do more to break down white prejudice in Barbados than some of the local whites here, and therefore this talk you hear about tourists being the enemies of the people is nonsense. Sometimes the strangers coming here do more to break down prejudice than the local whites. If you have a white friend and she is a lady friend, the local whites want to know what it is with you and this white woman, because they do not believe that a white woman can have a decent coloured man as a friend. They believe that as soon as you are her friend, you want to marry her daughter, and the average local white will drink ten doses of poison if his daughter married a black person, because she is apparently marrying a pig, and you would believe they are going to make an elephant or maybe a fowl or a bird. You would not believe that they are two common species. We do not go in for that, because that is a biological process that takes place whether you are black, blue or grey, and you do not pick out colour in this sort of business.

I would say that if tourists are going to have a prejudice, it is based on what they come here and find, because if they find no prejudice, they realise that there is no area for it. I believe that the biggest area of prejudice is in our own society, and that has to be broken down. I have a friend by the name of George Cadbury, an eminent economist who came here and spent some time in Barbados, and he and his wife were shocked to find - and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition met them at a party I gave and realises what I am talking about - that when the same whites with whom they mixed decided to have a party, they never saw any of their class Intellectually, but a lot of old trash. They

invite the Ministers to formal luncheons nowadays where they want the Ministers\' favours.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. SPEAKER:

It now being 2 o\'clock p.m., this sitting now stands suspended until 2.30 o\'clock p.m.

On Resumption:

Hon. G. G. FERGUSSON:

Mr. Speaker, I observe that there is no quorum, and ask that you direct the Clerk to ring the Bell.

Mr. SPEAKER:

I thank the hon member. Let the Bell be rung.

The Bell was rung and a quorum was obtained.

QUESTION TIME

Mr. SPEAKER:

It is now Question Time, but there are no Replies which have been laid.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. SPEAKER:

Is it the desire of hon. members to proceed with Private Members' Business?

The Orders under Private Members' Business stand in the names of the hon. Junior member for Christ Church; the hon. senior member for St. Michael; the hon. senior member for St. Thomas; the hon. junior member for Bridgetown; the hon. junior member for Christ Church; the hon. Junior member for St. Peter; the hon. Junior member for St. Joseph. Of those hon. members, only one is in his place and he has not indicated that he desires to proceed with Private Members' Business. Accordingly Government Business automatically is resumed.

Before the Sitting was suspended, the Hon. senior member for St. Peter was addressing the Chair on a Resolution that the compulsory acquisition of a piece of land at Hole-town, St. James, be approved.

Mr. WALCOTT:

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, it is the basic economic position of Barbados that would lead strangers to believe that this question of segregation or distinction exists.

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

My experience, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that strangers coming here accept the community as it is, and are willing to abide by the conditions; but sometimes when they find that they are encouraged by the narrowminded ones here, they feel they can practise this thing without objection. The hon. Junior member for St. Joseph spoke about the sugar industry, but there is no better situation on this question of outlook upon colour. I am not one of those people who would sell their souls to the tourist industry nor should we sell our basic rights. I have always said that the acquisition of land in St. James is essential to the development of this community, and wherever we have access to the sea, the Government should not permit building to take place there. In my own constituency, from the market right down to Six Mens, that is the sort of boulevard I would like to see built up instead of allowing the sea to make it difficult for the residents from time to time. I hope the Government will be able to make good uses of this beach.

I think the time has come, Mr. Deputy Speaker, when instead of having these ad hoc arrangements, we should examine this question of what sort of beach facilities we want to offer. During lunch time I was discussing this matter with some members, and I would say, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that I would like to see beaches in Barbados kept cleaner not for tourists, but for ourselves, and I hope that the members of the Local Government would not regard beaches as receptacles for old tins and stuff.

2.40 p.m.

Those are the things which I do not like.

Speaking personally, I go to Shot Hall Beach for a sea bath when ever I can, and I would like to say that there are some areas for seabathing, but you do not want to bathe with horses. I do not like to be in the sea and find a horse bathing a bit close to me. I do not understand these horses bathing and human beings bathing at the same time. There is another thing. All youth must have advantages for playing, but at the same time, boys play on the sea shore with-out any feeling for older people who are bathing in the sea. If you are a tourist or any other person, you like to go to the beach without being hindered in your bath.

As regards this land which the Government is acquiring, I do not know what is the position, but you have the problem of tourists coming here and some of them wanting a sea bath. I would like to say to the Government that there should be large areas set aside for seabathing and it would be good for the tourists. Notwithstanding anything which has been said, I would say that the tourists go to the beach any day, and I think that the facilities for seabaths should be there for everybody and tourists alike. I would like a suitable beach where people can go to bathe and good bathing cubicles set up for people to undress.

I have never heard the hon. junior member for St.

Joseph say anything about this, but I was at Bathsheba and

I feel that something should be done with all the tracks lead-

ing down to the seashore. Something should be done about

that lovely beach. I feel that you should put some board walk

from there right down to the sea. I do not think that we are

conscious of our having good bathing facilities or ex-

ploting the natural resources of our beaches. I think that

we should make it more attractive. I think that every owner

of beach land should make it more attractive and beautiful.

We should also keep it very clean. A beach is something

which should be kept clean. It should be somewhere where

you can go for a sea bath in comfort.

Sir, I would like to say that the people of Barbados do not value what they have. Those of us in a position of responsibility should encourage people to value these things. I feel the time has come for the Government to set up a Standing Beach Committee to keep watch over the beaches and to make

recommendations for the development of beaches.

Now that you are acquiring this parcel of land, I do not think I would be voicing anything out of order if I say that each time I see a Resolution for the acquisition of land, it is for land in a part of the Island other than St. Peter. I wonder If land in St. Peter has become so precious that the Government is not able to acquire any. We have been waiting eighteen years for Government to acquire a bit of land in St. Peter for a playing field or something else. Eighteen years is a lone time for a representative to be waiting. As a matter of fact, I feel that any member who serves in this place for twenty years is one whom the country owes something to and should make provision for him. I feel this country owes me something, and they should give me something in my retirement so that I would not have to go on the beach when I finish up in my old age. They should allow me to spend my old age in some dignified fashion. That is by the way.

I ask: what are the practical difficulties about St. Peter that you can bring in a Resolution for land acquisition for all the other parishes and you cannot bring in one for that parish? Can you not find any to purchase for a beach where people can go or for a playing field?

Now that we are talking about beach rights and people on beaches, I would like to know what you are going to do about Heywoods. I understand that it is sold to some Canadian people. From what has happened as regards Sandy Lane, I think that you have seen enough to show people that some of this loose talk which you have heard about having a right to beaches is quite wrong, and you now find that you do not have that right. We know that all land in St. James is private land, and in order to get to the beach you have to cross private property. If you cross private property to go to the beach, you are going

to be stopped.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have found from my experience that Barbadians as a normal rule are not willing to make people inconvenient in their bathing at the various beaches. Far from that, I think that the normal tendency of the Barbadian is, if they see people congregated at a small spot to bathe, they choose another spot; therefore, I would say that tourists need not fear that the people here in Barbados would make life miserable for them. To give you an example Mr. Deputy Speaker - and I think the Hon. Minister of Trade and Development, himself, has experience in this matter. On the coast where he lives, there is a long stretch of beach. The Hon. Minister of Communications has lived in Christ Church for many years, and if you take the Rock-ley Beach as an example, he would tell you that everybody regards that as a bathing spot, but nobody leaves there and goes down to Hotel Royal to have a sea bath. I have found that it is not the general tendency of Barbadians to make it inconvenient for people to have a bath. As a matter of fact, I have found the opposite to be the case. What I have found out is that there were some people who were of a different complexion to us, when they went to a particular beach and saw people like ourselves bathing, they waited until those people came out of the sea. I do not know if they did it for religious purposes, but they waited until some of us came out. You get that tendency.

However, I believe in a general way that tourists when they come here want to see how we live. Sometimes, all these things which are happening are imposed on the tourists rather than tourists asking for them. I do not believe tourists come here with that understanding. Tourists do not come here with the tendency of not mixing with the people here.

2.50 p.m.

As the Hon. Leader of the Opposition has said, nobody is going to undress on the beach; nobody is going to make other people uncomfortable on the beach and we must not take these isolated instances of bad behaviour, because they will take place in any society. I hope that the people concerned will not pay any attention to these isolated instances. This is the first time that I have heard that policemen have asked people to come or have taken people out of the sea. I want to say that that is something atrocious, and it is not befitting the intelligence which I would associate with the members of the Police Force. I regard the Police Force today as a much more intelligent organization than that where you will get a policeman ordering people to come out of the sea. I have an extremely high regard for our Police Force. As I said before, the policeman of today is a different man from the policemen of yesterday; I say that with all due respect to those policeman who have done a good job. However, Sir, the method of recruiting policemen in these days is different from that of the past. In the past the qualification for a policeman was that he had to be big and he had to be ignorant. (Laughter). I understand that some of our young policemen are Sergeants, but it would be a dream for a young policeman to be a Sergeant in the days that have passed. In those days, for a policeman to be a Sergeant, he would have to be weighing 200 lbs and he would have to have a moustache; otherwise he could not be a Sergeant.

I am surprised to hear that people have been asked to come out of the sea and, I repeat, I hope that this is only an isolated case. I do not think that our policemen could be so indiscreet as to ask people to come out of the sea unless they had committed a crime or something like that. As I have said already, I feel that these cases are only isolated ones. I do not believe that, by and large, policemen in Barbados would be walking around the island and taking people out of the sea. I support the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in his contention about the Government acquiring beach lands whenever it is convenient to

do so. I feel that the more we do that, the more we offer facilities to our people for recreation, which is necessary. It is essential for the protection of our beach rights that we should have a Standing Committee because these things are necessary for our development. If we begin to get only winter and snow tourists, then the tourist trade will not be developed. The tourist trade, will only be developed if we get other tourists. It is not a question of our bringing in a large number of

people belonging only to one ethnic group; we do not want to do that. It is true that there are prices which keep some people out of these hotels and, on the other hand, there are those who have a mauby pocket but they want to operate in the champagne atmosphere. If you want a luxurious hotel, well then, you must be able to pay the price for such a hotel. The accommodation at these hotels must be in keeping with the price. There are luxurious hotels on the West Coast, and I do not think that the people who go to these hotels would want to go on the South side. I do not believe that those people who go to the West Coast are those who feel that the black people should not bathe in the sea in that area.

We want to welcome tourists here, and I repeat that we want to set up a Standing Beach Committee because I feel that there should be some control at these beaches. I have visited the United States of America and I can say that in that country they do not have beaches such as what we have here. You can go to the Rockaway Beach or wherever you like and you would not be made uncomfortable in any way. Some people feel that when they go to the beach and they take their children, the old fogies who are there must look for holes because they are playing cricket. That is where we want the establishment of a Standing Beach Committee. We want to have appropriate Measures passed in this connection. If that is done, then we can hope to alleviate all of these ills. If you have a public beach, then you are building it up as a public beach. If you go down to Sandy Lane Beach, there is really no public beach in the true and proper sense of the word. Barbadians go to places and bathe in such places where they are not likely to make people uncomfortable. I may say that when you go to a public beach or near a public beach where people have been accustomed to bathing for many years, you do get some restrictions Just as at the Aquatic Club to which the hon. senior member for the City has referred. You find that in some of these places wired fencing has been erected. 3.00 p.m.

I would like to say that I had a stranger with me and he remarked that he had seen some barbed wire on the side of the street, and wondered whether there were no laws in Barbados to preclude people from putting barbed wire as a fence on a street, because in his country you could not put that up because it was dangerous. This could easily prove dangerous to a child riding a bicycle. This could not take place in his country, and one would have to put up something that could not cut. These are things that we have to grow up with and try and chancre. If there is any question whatsoever in people's minds that Barbados is a place that wants to show distinction to people of substance who want to live here, we have to put our foot down, and I feel we have to put our foot down with our own local people first. It is true that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition leads a Party that regards itself as a Conservative Party - not that the hon. member subscribes to this part of Conservatism, because I often say that he is a radical when it comes to these things - but on the question of preserving the status quo in so far as any white supremacy is concerned, we cannot tolerate that. Our people in the majority are going to be the poorer section; we are going to get the roughest behaviour from them, but we are not here to encourage that. We are here to lead and guide them, and I feel that as lone as our people react properly to law and order, the Government is bound to give the encouragement that it should.

My final and last plea, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is this: I reiterate that I know the Government has made a

study of this beach question, but I would like to see a permanent Beach Committee set up in this island with powers vested in it to give Barbados the sort of beaches that this island is entitled to right around the island. We are now building the East Coast Road, and we are going to have new beaches growing up along it. There will be miles and miles of beach. I drove along the East Coast Road last Sunday, and I will say that you are going to have a long stretch of beach which for practical purposes may become, from the point of view of mileage, the longest beach in the whole island; so you will have to watch it and not allow erosion to take place and push the sand on the road. You will therefore need a per-

manent Beach Committee and not allow these things to go abegging. I support the views of those Hon. members who feel that any rights or facilities the Government offers to people with beaches should be covered by having a Standing Committee in order that you would not have these abuses that members spoke about.

Mr. LYNCH:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I too would like to speak in support of the Resolution for the acquisition of this land, provided it is going to be used for the purpose which we understand has been set out. It is unfortunate that this incident did occur of people being called out of the sea by a policeman - a Corporal, I understand it was from an eye witness - but some of these will be intelligent, some will not be so intelligent and some will be stupid. I have a healthy opinion of the members of the Police Force in the aggregate. I would have to, because an increasing percentage of these members of the Force is drawn from my own school; so from the point of view of intelligence, I would be the last to attack them. Now and again, however, you will find one who is not so intelligent as the others, and perhaps this one was used on a particular occasion - one who has achieved the rank of Corporal - to call these bathers out of the sea.

We do hope, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the strictures which have been passed in this House today will reach the ears of those who are in command, and there will be no further lamentable Incidents of that nature. I would like at this point to commend once again to Government certain measures by which we might make more capital from the presence of the tourists in our midst. We can take example from no less a community than Puerto Rico where there is a ten per cent charge on the cost of each tourist bed per night. This money amounted in 1962 to \$850,000 which was used to buy land near the sea, and on this land there has been built various edifices where people may change their clothes, others who do not want to go into the sea may picnic and on the whole there are very attractive sites where the people of Puerto Rico may go on Sundays and holidays and recreate themselves. It is only a pig-headed Government which would avoid following an example of that nature year after year when we realise that through \"Operation Boot Strap\" Puerto Rico has become an example to the whole world in what can be done to raise the living standard of a nation if some imagination is employed.

There is another method by which money can be collected for use in the colony instead of raising the already high incidence of taxation, and that is by the imposition of a poll tax on people coming into the island. It is done almost everywhere one goes except in Barbados. Before you leave London Airport, you have to pay 12/6 before you depart. In Trinidad you pay \$1.00. In Caracas, Venezuela, I remember I was there on one occasion getting ready to leave and very short of money, the plane landed and each of us had to pay before we were allowed to leave. These places, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are wealthy countries, and if they can adopt such a procedure, who are we in this poverty-stricken area to pretend that we can do without it? It has not scared away any of the tourists from the countries that have been

mentioned, and I do think that Government should take a very serious look once again at this method of collecting revenue, rather than raising taxes all the time on people who are least able to bear it.

Mr. CORBIN:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very glad that this Resolution has come to the House today. After reading it, it has inspired me to most things. This little island of Barbados, which is the head of the Caribbean Islands, is becoming one of the greatest resort spots in the whole world.

3.10 p.m.

This is what I want you to realise, and the Government has thought it fit to provide bathing spots around the beaches for the Inhabitants of this Island, and we are giving approval to this Resolution for the Government to acquire land around the Island, so that the people of Barbados would have the same facilities as the people from other countries come here for and obtain.

When you look around this Island from Sam Lord's Castle right down to the South, to the West, and back to the North, you can, lift up your eyes and see that foreigners have come to this Island and have purchased all the beauty spots. They have purchased all the beauty spots because they have the money but, Mr. Deputy Speaker, money is pleasure; money is not life. However, we should try to obtain some of our own land for this purpose. Therefore, when the Government brings down a Resolution of this nature to purchase spots around the Island to provide beaches for the poor people so that they may have a sea bath too on occasions, that is a consolation to the poor people of this Island. If we do not try and purchase some of these beauty spots for ourselves, the foreigners will purchase all. If the Government allows them to purchase all these beauty spots, then our inhabitants would have to bathe in ponds and still waters; they would not have recourse to the various beaches.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would say at this stage that the Government is trying its best to protect some of these spots for the inhabitants of this Island, and I think this Resolution is a necessity and I will vote one hundred per cent for the Government on its action.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I can tell you that if you took up

a map of the world, you would see those isolated places where some people live and where snow is trying to freeze those people; therefore, they come here to get sunshine and sea-baths. But if we allow them to take over all our country, What are we going to do? I shall give you an illustration. There was a time when an Arab from one of the eastern countries was travelling, and after travelling a long journey had to pitch a tent so that he could rest a while the night. After he had turned in, the camel came and asked the Arab to allow him to put in his head as it was very cold outside. The Arab allowed him to put in his head and later in the night, the camel asked him to allow him to put in his body. When the camel put in his whole body, there was no more room left in the tent and the Arab had to go outside. Therefore, if you allow foreigners to come here and purchase all the beauty spots, to whom would we go?

Sir, this is one of the most useful Resolutions which the

Government has brought in my time. We are showing the

people that we are not using partiality. We are just as

Willing to help our own as we help others. The home drum

beats first.

I will give another illustration, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We have a place called Walkers Bay, St. Andrew, which comprises of about 400 acres of land. It is a place where the soldiers or the volunteers go for training. There is no other place in the Island where you can train soldiers or volunteers other than Walkers Bay. I would be glad if the Government would acquire that portion of land because in my early days, horse-racing used to be carried on there. It would mean that we would have another race pasture if the Government purchased it and, as a result, you would have horse racing part of the season at the Garrison and part of it at Walkers Bay.

I would like to see the Government look around the whole. Island and purchase all the places which they find suitable. This Resolution is to approve of land being purchased under the Land Acquisition Act. Lots of people are asking why. Government is purchasing it to enable the inhabitants to get some spot for bathing facilities instead of allowing the foreigners to purchase all. I wholeheartedly support a Resolution of this nature. I support it one hundred per cent. I am glad to see it. I thank you, Sir, for your patient hearing.

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think one, of the significant things about this Resolution is that its coming on this occasion shows that the Government, itself, is trying its best to obtain land for the purpose of providing public beaches for the people as well as for other uses. In this area, we are acquiring this land for the purpose of providing facilities for passengers of tourist ships and the general public as well. In other words, the policy of the Government is to acquire land wherever it can acquire it

for this purpose, whether it is at Silver Sands, at Martins Bay, at Bathsheba or in St. Philip, St. Lucy and other parts of the Island, so as to provide amenities for the people. Therefore, it is passing strange that hon. members like the hon. junior member for St. Joseph and the hon. senior member for the City should be attempting to criticise the Government for doing what we are really doing.

This Resolution is to enable this land to be acquired as it sets out either by treaty or by arbitration under the Land Acquisition Act, and hon. members are fully aware for what purpose it is to be done. Therefore, for hon. members to say that we are not mindful of the necessity to provide beach facilities for the public is completely contrary to the Government's policy and to what we are doing today.

This rumour about policemen actually calling people out of the sea, I regret to say, is completely new to every member of this House. I have never heard it myself at all, and I have spoken to other Ministers about it and they say that they never heard of it. However, hon. members can be assured that investigations will be made and steps would be taken to ensure that nothing like this, if it happened, occurs again.

3.20 p.m.

The Government has demonstrated in no uncertain terms, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that if there is one thing of which we are mindful, it is the necessity for enabling the general public of this island to enjoy the beach facilities with which nature has endowed this country. (Mr. MOTT-LEY: Well, open the road at Sandy Land) The hon. member has asked us to open the road at Sandy Lane. I want to say here, Sir, that I was rather surprised to hear the hon. junior member for St. Joseph join this chorus of criticism when the former Government to which he belongs or of which he was a party member, was responsible for diverting the road which, in itself, was calculated to prohibit the public from enjoying a freer access to the beach. We were also asked to divert a road for people interested in Heywoods Plantation In St. Peter, similarly as at Sandy Lane, and we absolutely refused to do it. Now, we are putting up public bathing sheds for the enjoyment of the people. Nobody who is in his right senses could refuse the Government permission for providing beach facilities for the use of the people of this island.

I agree that in the development of the tourist trade we want to see that the ugly cancer of racial prejudice will not spread over the island. In so far as that matter is concerned, what I can say is that while we are expanding the tourist trade, we are saying definitely to any tourists with opinions of racial superiority that we do not want them at all, and the Government itself will not tolerate any demonstration of racial prejudice on the part of anybody who is connected with the tourist industry in this island. It is just the other day that I gave a lecture to the Tourist Board and we were using for publicity purposes a film which, in my opinion, does not at all present an accurate picture of the colony. We have some fishermen and a few hawkers, and that does not represent a true picture of the island at all. I have said that a new film must be made showing that the position of importance enjoyed by people of colour in this island must be protected. We are not in any way condoning any attempt at strengthening or supporting any racial superiority in this island. The Government has had to take the step of acquiring this beach for the purpose which I have mentioned, because many people have refused to cater to people coming to this island. We have been Informed of the scandalous behaviour of the Hoteliers in this island and it seems to me that the Government will have to take steps to bring things to a head. I saw where one of the biggest hotels in this island had a rope placed across the entrance in order to tell people that that particular hotel had been filled. The attitude of some of the hoteliers in different parts : of the island is inimical to the best interest of the tourist industry which we are trying to develop. On the other hand, we have rumours of the behaviour of passengers from cruise ships, many of which rumours I do not believe; but I think that people are left with an impression different from that which we want to create, and this sort of behaviour does no credit to the island as a whole.

Sir, I think that some course will have to be taken as to the behaviour of hoteliers towards cruise passengers. Anyhow, Sir, during my time in this House I have not seen any Government take any steps for the accommodation of the general public with regard to the provision of bathing facilities at public beaches, so that much of the hot air which has been emitted today is just a question of betraying a woeful lack of understanding of the Government's policy, and an absolute ignorance of the matter which is before the House; further, it is a complete misinterpretation of what the Government's policy is in this matter. I do not think that there is a single member in this Chamber - or anybody outside of it - who would believe that this Government,, constituted as it is, could countenance any behaviour which is calculated to foster racial discrimination in this island, One simple attitude on the part of the Government of Barbados has shown up the Government of Jamaica in this matter, and I want to assure hon. members - and I say it without ear of any contradiction - that we will not all into many of the pitfalls into which the Government of Jamaica has fallen in this matter. The island of Jamaica has had some of its best beaches allocated entirely to the promotion of the tourist trade, and the public had been

completely prohibited from participating in them.

3.30 p.m.

We are not allowing any part of this island or any beach in this island which is being developed for tourism to be earmarked completely for the enjoyment of foreigners. Not one single beach in this island is going to be private, and we are not upholding any tourist venture or any hotelier in prohibiting of the public from enjoying the full rights of the beaches, and we are prepared to take any steps necessary to ensure that this policy is carried out.

With regard to the practice of racial discrimination in the country, the Government is not unmindful of the necessity to keep a watchful eye on the situation, and I agree with the hon. senior member for St. Peter that in many cases many of the people coming to the country demonstrate a more liberal attitude than some of the people who live here. As a matter of fact, I myself have known of cases in which visitors to the country have been told by some of the less cultured and less uneducated people of this island that the right thing to do is to practice a certain amount of racial discrimination, and I think, Sir, that people who have been considering the Government's policy in many respects can see that, far from not paying appropriate attention to this, matter, we have done just the opposite, and that in so far as our regime is concerned, the rights and privileges of all sections of the community will be better enjoyed, and that a more correct sense is engendered on the part of the different races of the community than has ever been in the reign of any Government.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RE-ALLOCATION OF VOTE FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

Order No. 6 stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the sum of \$15,000 was included in the Estimates of 1964-65 under Head 24, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Item 121, Irrigation Equipment, to replace obsolete pipelines at Battens Agricultural Station. It was intended that the amount should cover replacements at Bullens, Jerusalem, The Home and Codrington Agricultural Station, and this Resolution seeks to rectify the position.

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

I beg to second that.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a few weeks ago we noticed in sections of the Press that there was some misunderstanding at Codrington Agricultural Station. I was very happy to learn that the Hon. Minister immediately

took some steps to assure the agricultural and other workers there that Government was giving consideration to their claim. I am sure the Minister would be in a position to tell us today what has been done to assure these people.

I have raised this question because, as the Hon. Minister knows, I am but a stone's throw away from Codrington, and therefore it is expected that people who work in this district will come to see me, as other people do when they have a grievance. I gave the assurance at the time that from my knowledge of the Minister he would give a fair and square deal to all concerned. Do not think I say these things to the Minister because I want any favours done; I say these things because that is how I conscientiously feel about the Minister. I will counsel the Minister to go very carefully into what I am going to say now. There is a further complaint at Codrington to the effect that the statements being made by those in authority for the beans, tomatoes, carrots etc. being grown show a price that is too cheap, and therefore there would be no point in sending them to the Marketing Corporation. I do not just come to this House to make wild statements that people bring to me. When statements come to me I make it my business to verify them, as it had been said that the price could not fetch sufficient to pay for growing them. I said I could not believe such a stupid statement unless it was determined to undermine the Ministry, but on enquiry I found that the statement was made by a person over whom the Ministry would have no control, but who worked in conjunction with the Agricultural Department.

Furthermore, I have been told, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that when you have a glut of this type of stuff, instead of giving an opportunity to the labourers who have given their services in planting these vegetables to buy them, they are put back into the ground. There may be some scientific reason which I do not know of for moulding certain vegetables into the ground, but there can be no justification for using all that material which can be used by the poorer class, especially those who have had to bear the heat of the day in planting these things. I do not want to go further into this matter, but I do not think myself that it has been brought to the Minister's attention.

3.40 p.m.

I suggested to the small delegation which waited upon me to discuss the matter with the Minister so that he should be acquainted with the facts and I was absolutely sure that he would make a strong statement.

When I make this statement in here, do not just enquire of the particular Department as to whether what the Leader of the Opposition said was true. When I make a statement in here, I can verify it. That is why I said that I am not accusing the particular officer. I say that the statement has been made. I suggest to the Minister that he should not only enquire from the particular officer, but there are others and he should enquire from all of them. Do not make the mistake and enquire from him only, and not from all the others, because he can fire them all the next day. I do hope that the Hon. Minister would enquire.

There is another thing. I was told that they resented it very much, and as a result you got a "go slow" programme, and they were anxious to see the Minister come up. The Minister will, I know, make enquiries into the statement which I made and would go into the matter.

I will say now that I am not condemning the Government for not giving a full five days a week because I know it is a difficult thing to do. What is not difficult and should cause no worry is that

something which was sold at 72 cents, because it dropped 14 cents, cannot be sold to the people. There is no reason why the people who worked with it should not get off five cents a pound, The Minister should go into this. There is seldom smoke without fire.

Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the Resolution. I want an enquiry to be made into this matter. All the scientific degrees you get, all the degree men whom you have at Codrington and at Bullens, not one of them handles

a hoe or a fork, and it is much your duty to keep this type of people satisfied and see that they get a fair break.

Hon. G. G. FERGUSON:

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to assure the hon. senior member for the City that the statement which he made is beyond my knowledge. I will carefully investigate and go into it. I agree with him, and I consider it rather inhuman when he said that they threw; back the stuff into the earth. Even if it was valuable fertiliser, instead of throwing it back into the earth, they should not stop the people who reaped it from receiving the benefit. Those people would be hardly in the position to purchase that commodity. I would have rather seen them making use of it than to throw it back into the earth even if it was valuable fertiliser. I will investigate the matter.

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

THE BARBADOS GENERAL HOSPITAL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1965

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:

The next Order of the Day stands in the name of the Hon. Minister of Health and Community Development Second reading of a Bill to amend the Barbados General Hospital Act, 1947.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Deputy, Speaker, the object of this Bill is to amend the Barbados General Hospital Act, 1947, so as to enable regulations to be made under section 17 apply with respect to any hospital which, pursuant to Section 5 of the Act is under the direction and management of the Cabinet.

Section 17 of the Barbados General Hospital Act, 1947, as amended by the Executive Committee Act states that the Cabinet may make regulations for the management and conduct of the Hospital and may in such regulations pro-vide for the fees to be chargeable for the services provided at the Hospital and the terms and conditions if any on which such fees shall be paid.

It is reasonable to expect, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that with the standard of service which we hope to give at the New Hospital, especially when the cost of that hospital is taken into consideration and when you consider the fact that some of the fees now charged at the General Hospital were fixed over 30 years ago, that there will be a revision of the fees charged at the Hospital. In order to revise the fees, it is necessary to chance the regulations or to draft new regulations.

As the Act now stands, there is no provision for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Accordingly, the definition of "Hospital" in section 2 has been extended to include "Any hospital which, pursuant to section 5 is under the direction and management of the Cabinet."

The new regulations which we are making now are not only for the Barbados General Hospital; they are made for any hospital which is not under the management of the Cabinet and in this category, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital falls.

If we were to introduce these regulations and do not change this section of the Act, those regulations will not be made for the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital but only for the Barbados General Hospital. Hence the fees would not be chargeable at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

This Bill further seeks to place responsibility of what was known in the establishment as "Medical Superintendent" into hands of the "Hospital Director."

3.50 p.m.

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

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Now, Mr. Speaker, it must be remembered that in a recent Civil Establishment Order - that Order was No. 7/1964 - there was a compre-

hensive addition of staff to the General Hospital. That Civil Establishment Order, when it was proclaimed, abolished the post of Medical Superintendent; hence, as the Act placed the responsibility for collecting fees and suing in the Law Courts in order to recover fees from defaulters - the Act placed that responsibility in the hands of the Medical Superintendent - and if this Bill was not implemented, there would be no legal authority for collecting the fees, because there would be no such post on the Establishment as the Medical Superintendent. Therefore, Sir, this Bill seeks to place the responsibility which was formerly vested in the hands of the Medical Superintendent in the hands of the Hospital Director or such person for the time being carrying out the functions of the Hospital Director. This, Sir, is a very short amendment and I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that,

Mr. YEARWOOD:

Mr. Speaker, before you put the question, I would like to enquire something of the Hon. Minister. I have seen in one of our daily newspapers an article dealing with the position of the B.M.A. in relation to the question of the Registrars at the General Hospital. I am wondering if the Hon. Minister could shed any light on the question of the Registrars having consulting status.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

Mr. Speaker, this is really a short amendment to the General Hospital Act and it makes sense. There is no more any Medical Superintendent, thank God, but there will be a Hospital Director. I hope that this Hospital Director will not be a doctor. I will repeat that. I hope that the Hon. Minister will assure us

today that this Hospital Director will not be a doctor. He should be no more a doctor than the Hon. Minister of Health should be a doctor. On the other hand, I want to say that the hon. member who has just sat down has asked a question - and I hope that the Hon. Minister will answer it in-as-much as I intended to ask the same question myself. I notice that all the questions are brooded over, and so on. The Hon. Minister has told us that it is the intention of the Government to have the Hospital administered by a Board and a Director. I would like to know when they intend to appoint this Board and what is the delay in appointing that Board. I am not just picking at the Hospital. During my period of membership in this House, I have been a severe critic of the Hospital. I stand shy of the Hospital when I get a headache, but there is still a lot of bickering going on up there. I have this praise to shower on the Minister. Whenever I have some worn-out, depressed old man or woman or somebody with a half-blind or half-dumb child, if I leave a telephone message for the Minister, I will get a most respectable reply in writing saying that the Minister has investigated the matter and that the child has been taken in or will be taken in the next day or in the next week, and that the child will not suffer in any way. The Hon. Minister is a small man, but he is a lot of man. I have given a Minister of Health or Ministers of Health so much trouble in here that they were on the border of having strokes. I challenge any one of them to know more about hospitals and about public health than I know.

I should like to know what they propose to do about this Board and what is the Director's position in this respect. Mr. Speaker, I do not want to call any names, but there is still a lot of bickering going on. A lot of doctors are not speaking to each other, people are suffering and I say; let us stop all of this bickering which is going on. Let them get busy with the new hospital and try and get something working. I was in Trinidad, and somebody told me that when a Trinidad Specialist came to the Hospital, when the Minister gave instructions for instruments to be used in connection with a person at 9 o'clock, at 3 o'clock the man was kept suffering. I say: "Man, proud man, dressed in brief authority." (Pause). They do not own any tools at the Hospital and I will get very hot on this hospital matter, but I am awaiting a reply.

4.00 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER:

If there is no other hon. member who desires to speak on this matter, the hon. junior member for St. Andrew who introduced the Resolution may exercise his right of final reply.

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the hon. Junior member for St. John raised this question, because it gives me an opportunity to clear the air and let the community of Barbados know that people who pretend to have the interest of this community at heart are only selfish and egotistic.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

On a point of order, I do not believe the hon. member means me

Mr. SPEAKER:

That is hardly a point of order.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

When the hon. member says he is replying to me

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

I said I was glad the hon. Junior member for St. John raised the question.

Mr. MOTTLEY:

I am sorry, because if the hon. member said that I was selfish, I would take this House for a ride now,

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. junior member for St. John queried the report of some member of the B.M.A. which came out in the Press criticising the Government's action for giving Registrars with Specialists qualifications Consultant status at the Hospital, and I am glad that I got the opportunity to clear the air. It is just out of selfishness and a question of wanting to receive all the fees payable in Barbados that they are getting on this way. A Specialist actually represented to me that it was merely a question of fees. I cannot understand how in one breath they come to you and say they want more Specialists, and now that you give Registrars with Specialist qualifications the right to practise under the directions of the Senior Specialists, they are objecting to that simply because they do not want anybody to come in the Hospital and share fees with them or go outside and share fees. I had to let them know, and they can know from the floor of the House, that the B.M.A. does not run this country. It does not run the Ministry of Health, and if they want to run it, let them go on a political platform. My primary interest is in the people of Barbados and not the five or six Specialists who are there and would like to receive all the fees in this country because they have the qualifications.

Certain members of the B.M.A., Mr. Speaker, said that the Ministry did not consult them. The Ministry is under no obligation to consult them. Any consultation is done at the discretion of the Minister. The Medical Staff Committee is the only recognised body, as far as I am concerned. The B.M.A. is concerned with medical affairs generally, but not necessarily with Hospital affairs, and we do not have to consult them. My Senior Consultant and Chief Adviser to the Ministry is the person we have to take advice from, and the Minister accepts or rejects his advice. In reply to the hon. junior member for St. John, therefore, and to get the record straight, I want to say that I am under no obligation to the B.M.A. and never was, and if they want to run this Ministry, let them come and contest my seat.

Now the Hon. Leader of the Opposition asked whether this Hospital Director would be a medical man or a layman, I should like to say that the provision is for a layman. If we wanted a medical man, we would not have changed the office of Medical Superintendent. I may point out that there are some Specialists at the Hospital today who resent taking instructions from the Acting Hospital Director, but the Hospital Director is still Head of the Department and to give me my own way, I would ask some of them to leave, but it is not easy. We have a Public Service Commission; let them play the fool with the Hospital Board. The hon. member asked what is the position with the Hospital Board. Legislation is being prepared for the Hospital Board, but there are certain technicalities where the question of establishment is concerned, and we are presently trying to iron out these difficulties, I am hoping that legislation for the establishment of the Hospital Board will be introduced in the Legislature some time in February.

Getting back to the question of uneasiness which the hon. senior member for Bridgetown spoke about at the Hospital, I know there is uneasiness at the Hospital, but again the uneasiness emanates from the selfish attitude of certain people who are supposed to be in responsible positions at the Hospital and are

not conscious of the fact that the ethics of their profession should come first rather than their personal attitude. There are members of the Staff of the Hospital - I can call names but it is not necessary to do so - who, since there have been certain changes made at the Hospital, have done everything possible to cause this Government embarrassment. In ten days no fewer than five members of the Junior Staff reported ill, and this nonsense was condoned by a more senior member of the Staff. One of the junior members who was sent home went to the Hospital Director and said he was willing to come out to work, but that he would have to consult this senior doctor, - a very top man at the Hospital - who refused to give the Hospital Director any advice. When this doctor was really interested in coming out to work, this Senior Specialist said that the doctor was on indefinite leave, as the doctor had come to him two or three days before not feeling well.

4.10 p.m.

In order to sabotage or to embarrass the Government, this very senior officer at the Hospital refused to give a doctor's certificate to the doctor and refused to let the Hospital Director know when it was possible for the doctor to come back to work, although the Junior doctor was willing to come to work. The junior doctor wanted to come to work on Friday, but he only came out on Monday. This was done contrary to the wishes of the senior doctor.

On the other hand, it is a strange coincidence that within the space of ten days five Junior doctors were encouraged to go on leave. This was a deliberate attempt to embarrass the Government. Some of the senior doctors at the Hospital disagreed with the attitude of this officer or officers, and they were engineering this attitude to embarrass the Government. If I had my own way, there are a lot of them or a few of them - who would be asked to go because they are endangering the lives of the community. If they keep mashing my toes, I will tell the public who are endangering the lives of the people of Barbados. You are doing that because of the fact that you do not have things as you would like. Because things are not what you like, you are endangering the lives of a quarter of a million people. I would see to it that that person be put in his place and when I have finished with him or her, let them walk down the streets.

Mr. Speaker, despite their attempt to embarrass the Government, I can assure you that I had a talk with the junior medical officers and I made certain arrangements with them which they consider to be satisfactory, and despite the forces which they get from the top since there was the appointment of an Acting Hospital Director, despite that pressure which comes from the top, the junior officers have agreed to co-operate as far as humanly possible with the Government.

This was a result of a meeting which I had yesterday - a meeting which lasted for over two hours - with the junior members of the staff of the Barbados General Hospital. I cannot overemphasise that there is this very subtle attempt by a certain individual or individuals to embarrass this Government. I am serving notice now on them that if they do not want to do what the Government says, well then, get out. If they do not like what is done by this Government, let them get out. They cannot remain there much longer and embarrass the Government. If they continue to do so, they would be out as soon as March. Either they get out or I get out.

Sir, I hope that my explanation has satisfied the two hon. members and if they want any further information, I would be pleased to give them.

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

On motion of Hon. A DaC. EDWARDS, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA, Mr. SPEAKER left the Chair and the House went into Committee on the Bill, Mr. BATSON in the Chair.

Clause I was called and passed.

Clause 2 was called. It reads as follows:-

2. Section 2 of the Barbados General Hospital Act, 1947 (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the principal Act) is amended by deleting therefrom the definitions of the expressions "\\Hospital\\" and "\\Medical Superintendent\\" and substituting therefor the following definitions -

"\\Hospital\\" means the Barbados General Hospital and includes any other hospital which, pursuant to section 5 of this Act, is under the direction and management of the Cabinet;

"\\Hospital Director\\" means the Hospital Director approved in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949."

Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS:

In Clause 2, paragraph 3 should read" "\\Hospital Director\\" means the Hospital Director appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Establishment Act, 1949."

The word "\\appointed\\" is substituted for the word "\\approved\\".

I, therefore be to move that Clause 2 as amended, stand part.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

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

Clauses 3, 4 and 5 were called separately and passed.

On motion of Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA. Mr. CHAIRMAN reported the passing of one Bill in Committee with an amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On, separate motions of Hon. A. DaC. EDWARDS, seconded by Hon. C. E. TALMA in each case, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

4.20 p.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS CONCLUDED

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, Government Business has come to an end. I am going to move the adjournment, but I am informed that the hon. Junior member for St. John wants to ask leave of the House to give notice of a question.

QUESTION

Mr. SPEAKER:

Through an oversight there was a Question which the hon. junior member for St. John did not have the opportunity to give notice of at the appropriate time, and I have no objection to the hon. member giving notice of that Question now.

Mr. YEARWOOD:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask leave to give notice of a Question.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Let the hon. member proceed.

Mr. YEARWOOD:

Mr. Speaker- To enquire of the appropriate Minister-

Will Government explore the possibility of installing television sets at the various social centres in the island for the benefit of the general public?

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. W. A. CRAWFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 26th January, 1965, at 2.30 p.m. of the clock.

Hon. C. E. TALMA:

I beg to second that.

The question that this House do now adjourn until Tuesday next, 26th January, 1965, at 2.30 p.m., of the clock, was put and resolved in the affirmative without

division and Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House accordingly.

4.24 p.m.

